## In this issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thoughts from the Rev. Dr. Scott Herr</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You’re not a wizard! by the Rev. Tim Vance</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual spring retreat, by the Rev. Jim Lockwood-Stewart</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stories and The Story, by Billy Roberts</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two facts and a wish, by the Rev. Jim Lockwood-Stewart</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother’s Day: Returning to roots, by the Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body of Christ: What’s up in Paris, by MaryClaire King</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s up in Paris: May event listings, by Karen Albrecht</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sotto Voce concert</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother’s Day far away from Mom, by Ashleigh Searle Picq</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat for Humanity fundraiser concert</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Raleigh Ringers concert</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Concert Series</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pentecost Sunday: Language Choir, by Fred Gramann</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACP Youth and Family concert</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A welcome basket for the Vance family</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit to our missionary in Ghana</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACP human resources committee</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible readings for May</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The douanier Rousseau, by Karen Marin</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Significant Marriage workshop</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloom Where You’re Planted</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May ACP calendar, by Justi Sianturi</td>
<td>26-27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**On the cover:**

Photo by Kai-Marcel Grunert
Taken from inside the courtyard
Dear members and Friends of the ACP,

I recently spoke at a gathering of the Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East meeting with the United Nations Christian Association at the UN in Geneva. As we approach the American Memorial Day holiday weekend this month, I would like to share my notes with you

Any talk on peace is going to raise more questions than answers, if we are honest. There are some strong biblical theological indicatives about peace: Paul writes in Ephesians 2: “He is our peace...” And in Galatians 5, “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...” Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God”(Matthew 5:9).

There are also some strong biblical ethical imperatives: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.” - Colossians 3:15. One of the key verses for our ministry is the famous command from Jeremiah, "But seek the peace of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its peace you will find your peace” (Jeremiah 29:7). And of course the most distinctive Christian ethical imperative, in Matthew 5:44, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."

But I can't help but also think of some practical interrogatives: What does it mean to let Christ rule in my heart? What does it mean to be "peacemakers," to "seek the peace of the city," really? Honestly, I struggle with peacemaking for a number of reasons.

First of all, our historical context is complex. We live in a post-Holocaust Europe. In the 20th century alone tens of millions people lost their lives to human aggression...and at least six million Jews died at the hands of a so-called "Christian nation." It was because of the sacrifice of thousands of lives that the war was brought to an end.

Recently, I attended a centennial commemoration of the formation of the Escadrille Lafayette, the American volunteers who helped fight alongside France in WWI. I met a 4-star general who, when he learned I was a pastor, said earnestly, "Remember to pray for us...". If there hadn’t been military intervention in either of the "world wars," we’d very likely be speaking German in Paris today. It is sobering to remember that there are more Americans buried in France than anywhere outside the United States...

Secondly, our contemporary context is sobering. The UN reports there are 60 million refugees in the world right now, largely due to warfare or the threat of war. And there are even more people living in poverty in the world. What many of us don’t realize is that poverty is directly linked to an absence of peace.

Gary Haugen recalls the sobering fact of the Rwandan genocide that was carried out by Christians against Christians. Over a million people were slaughtered, mostly by machetes, in a 10-week period.

What eventually emerged for me, and changed me, was a point of simple clarity about the nature of violence and the poor. What was so clear to me was the way these very impoverished Rwandans at their point of most desperate need, huddled against those advancing machetes in that church, did not need someone to bring them a sermon, or food, or a doctor, or a teacher, or a micro-loan. They needed someone to restrain the hand with the machete— and nothing else would do.*

Thirdly, our worship context causes me to struggle with what it means to be peacemakers. Every Sunday, we light the candle for God’s global vision of compassion, justice and peace. But then right next to the reformers in our stained glass windows (Martin Luther, John Calvin, Thomas Cranmer, and John Knox) we have a window honoring General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette.

Fourthly, I struggle with peacemaking because of diverging traditional streams in Christianity. I am an ordained Presbyterian pastor and most mainline Protestant traditions adhere to the “just war” theory. But my family’s ancestors are Mennonite. Hans Herr was the first Mennonite bishop in America. He was born in Zürich, and my family was banished from Switzerland because they were pacifists.

Last year during the season of Advent, Tim Dearborn, Director of the Brehman Institute at Fuller Theological Seminary, drafted an Advent Declaration against Gun Violence. I was invited to help edit the draft and participated in a conference call with other leaders on how to roll it out. It’s hardly a perfect document but we are thankful that theologians like Walter Brueggeman and Stanley Hauerwas were signatories.

What struck me on the editing call was the fact that...
there were American pastors who said they had colleagues who were carrying weapons as they sat at their church office desks! They said they bought handguns “to protect their flock.” And what really hit me hard was that two seminary presidents, friends and thoughtful Christian leaders, said they would not sign the document because it was “too pacifist.” I am still wondering, “What is too pacifist for a Christian?”

The Hebrew word for peace, shalom, can be translated as “flourishing,” and I also appreciate Neil Plantinga’s definition of shalom as simply “the way it’s supposed to be.” But at a minimum, I hope that all Christians can agree that making peace means restraining, if not eliminating, violence.

Did you know that a majority of countries in the world are involved with all-out war or proxy wars of some kind right now? As an American, I am troubled by the fact that the US supplies over half of all the weapons produced in the world. War is big business. President Eisenhower in his farewell speech as President on 17 January 1961, warned against the Military Industrial Complex, but it has only gotten bigger and more profitable since the 1950’s when he coined the phrase.

The recent terrorist attacks in Paris has sensitized us to the plight of millions. We have learned even in a small way what violence does to a community. Hopefully we can better sympathize with what people in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, South Sudan, and other places around the world are experiencing on a daily basis.

How do we as Christians respond to the seeming ubiquity of violence in our world?

This question causes me great tension. Part of me is upset that there is such violence in the world, and that seemingly someone needs to fight to protect the innocent. Something in me resonates with the Bonhoeffer reasoning that sometimes violence is required to stop more violence. In other words, violence is always evil, but in some cases it is the lesser of two evils. But another part of me senses that we as Christians, followers of the Prince of Peace, have lost our moral bearings when we take up arms or even utter the words “Too Pacifist.”

Karl Barth once said, “To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.” Perhaps the first thing we need to do is be more disciplined and devoted to prayer for peace. We constantly need to pray for those impacted and engaged in violence around the world, and to pray for God’s peace to come. We need to realize more clearly that we are praying for the grace to be peacemakers whenever we pray “Thy Kingdom come...Thy will be done.”

There are three dimensions in which we need to be praying for peace and thinking about how we can be making peace. There is the intra-personal, the interpersonal, and the social dimensions of reality that need peace. We are called to be peacemakers in all dimensions of life. And no, it will not be easy, because peacemaking goes against the culture of power and domination in which we live. But we are called to pick up our cross and follow Jesus. I am becoming more and more convinced that following Jesus means pursuing the path of non-violence. Daniel Berrigan, the famous peace activist in Washington D.C., once said dryly that, “If you’re going to follow Jesus, you better look good on wood!”

If we are to follow in the way of Jesus, we are called not to the ministry of domination, but the ministry of reconciliation. The text from which this comes is II Corinthians 5. And the punchline there is amazing, that “God made him who knew no sin to become sin so that we might become the righteousness of God.” That always been a perplexing text, unless you understand the basic truth, that self-sacrifice in the name of love has a powerfully transforming effect on others. In other words, if the ministry of reconciliation is a part of peacemaking, then it may indeed mean that we cannot come out alive, but that our very lives may be required to give witness to the gospel.

"For," as the writer of Ephesians says, "Our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places“ (Ephesians 6:12).

So are you called to be a peacemaker? Will you pray for God to give you grace to be a peacemaker and proclaim the gospel of peace? I think 60 million refugees will appreciate us taking Jesus’ commands a little more seriously. What it will look like for you in your context I do not know. But will there be enough evidence to convict you of being a peacemaker today, of actually loving your enemy? Will your life choices reflect the fact that you have yielded your life to the Prince of Peace? May we all clasp our hands together in prayer to rise up against the disorder of our world. Seeking energy, intelligence, imagination, and love as we pursue peace in our own hearts, our relationships, and in our world.

In Christ,

You’re not a wizard!

The Rev. Tim Vance
Associate Pastor

Several years ago I was putting on my long black pastor’s robe to get ready for a Sunday morning worship service. Just then a young kid walking past, looked up at me and said, “Why do you wear that?” I was surprised by the question and really didn’t have a good answer. Unsatisfied, he turned and walked away. A few seconds later he turned and yelled, "Hey! You’re not a wizard!"

For those of you who don’t know, Harry Potter and all his friends, in the books by J.K. Rowling, wear robes similar to the ones that we pastors wear at the 9:00 and 11:00 worship services. I like the Harry Potter books, so this made me laugh, but what I love most about this encounter is that this boy asked a question! This is one of the great gifts that kids give to us. They ask the questions that we all have, but for some reason have stopped articulating. And when they ask questions it gives us all an opportunity to learn and grow.

Let me pause for a moment to say that if you want to hear some good questions and insights about life and faith, then join our Vacation Bible School team (22–26 August). Contact our children’s director, Allison Wheeler, for info on how to get involved. End of commercial.

Before I continue, let me assure you that I don’t want to change our robe-wearing practices here at ACP. I have a friend who once upon a time stopped wearing robes at his church and he now refers to that season of his church’s life as ROBE-AGEDDON (as in the end of the world).

Instead I want us to follow in the small footsteps of our children by continually asking the question “why?” Why do we do the things we do? This is not a critical question, as if something is wrong and needs to change. It’s a question that can help us discover the great stories and deep meaning behind what we do. So using these robes as an example, here are some reflections that were sparked by this boy’s question.

First, we are physical beings and it’s important for us to demonstrate what we think, believe, and feel in tangible ways. So for many of us the robe implies a level of respect. Respect for God certainly, but also a level of respect for the task of the pastor in his or her job of proclaiming and retelling God’s story through teaching the Bible and administering the sacraments (two other physical signs that demonstrate what we believe to be real, yet at times unseen). The same thing is at work when we see a police officer or fire fighter in uniform. We may or may not respect the individual wearing the uniform, but we respect the task that the uniform represents.

Also, in some contexts the robe serves to remove distraction. You may otherwise be sitting in church thinking, “did he choose that outfit in the dark this morning? Does he realize that he has toothpaste on his tie?” A simple robe covers up all of my poor clothing choices and food stains that can distract from the hearing of God’s voice.

At the Contemporary Worship Service we don’t wear robes. What does that mean? First of all it means that I am significantly colder in the sanctuary. Wool Robes – 1, No-Robes – 0. Aside from that, I don’t think that not wearing robes shows any less respect for the Word of God. Instead I believe that it has its own significant meaning. “Not wearing robes” demonstrates the belief that the pastor is no better or special than the rest of the congregation. For many people who have not been raised in the church, a robe is a sign of arrogance and aloofness rather than respect. “Not wearing robes” for many people avoids that distraction while positively demonstrating the belief that the pastor is a sinner saved by grace just like everyone else.

There are, of course, other meanings for the robe and for the lack of robes. I’d be curious to hear your thoughts. Even more, I’d be curious to hear your questions. What else do we do that doesn’t seem to make sense? Since it has been pointed out that I am not a great and powerful wizard, there is a really good chance that I have a lot to learn from your questions.
On **10-12 June** we will be returning to the Abbaye-Fleury, an historic Benedictine monastery on the banks of the Loire about two hours from Paris. The theme of the retreat will be "Come to the Waters," and will be led by ACP’s Visiting Pastors Jim and Odette Lockwood-Stewart. “Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters!” These words from the prophet Isaiah (55:1) are words of invitation and of assurance for each of us. “Come to the Waters” assures us that God’s living waters flow. They will never fail.

The primary focus of the retreat will be restorative and contemplative, in keeping with the Monastery’s stated purpose: *The monastery welcomes those in search of silence to recover in the presence of God, find themselves, listen to God’s words, living in the community and at their own pace, in a climate of recollection. All will be encouraged to take part in the daily prayer “Offices” of the monks of the Abbaye.*

There will also be some optional time for shared reflection, scheduled so as not to conflict with the services of the Abbaye, and to allow ample free time. The cost is 115€ per person for those making reservations by the 31 May deadline. The retreat is limited to a maximum of 36 people, with 12 single rooms and 12 rooms with two beds. If there is space available after 31 May, the cost will be 125€. This includes two nights lodging and six meals (Friday dinner through Sunday lunch).

For further information, contact Sue Orsoni at susanorsoni@gmail.com, visit the sign-up table in the Theater during coffee hour after services, or see the ACP website for updated information.

---

**40 cakes for 40 years - for Fred!**

**Saturday 4 June, 18h30**

Yes, we’re going to count each and every one of the 40 years that Fred Gramann has been the ACP music director, and we’re doing it with cakes! Would you like to contribute a cake to the champagne reception on Saturday 4 June, after the gala concert? Send an email to Spire@acparis.org and tell us which year you would like to claim for your cake, then bring it along to the church on Friday evening, 3 June, or on Saturday before 19h. Let him eat cake!

---

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”  
*Colossians 3:16-17*
Recently at one of our young adult gatherings we discussed the relevance of the Bible in the 21st century. Another way to put it is what does this ancient text have to do with today and how in the world are we supposed to understand it?

And naturally, as you do, we started off by talking about *Harry Potter*.

I love *Harry Potter* because I think it’s a really good story. It’s entertaining, the characters are well developed, I can find myself in this story, and I want to know what happens next. I’m invested. And also who wouldn’t want to be able to fly on broomsticks and for Quidditch to be a real sport?

Good stories point past themselves to a larger reference point. They show us something about reality and often teach us about life. They scratch at things underneath the surface. Things maybe we didn’t know were there.

Eugene Peterson says it like this, “Stories don’t just tell us something and leave it there. Stories invite our participation. We feel the emotions, get caught up in the drama, identify with the characters, see into nooks and crannies of life that we had overlooked, realize there is more to this business of being human than we had yet explored. If the storyteller is good, doors and windows open.”

Among some philosophical, biblical, and theological scholars there is a growing recognition that a story is the best way of talking about the way the world actually is. Because whether or not we are aware of it, each of us is living out some particularly story. This story is foundational for our view of the world and the decisions we make.

This of course brings us back to the question, how then should we read the Bible?

NT Wright says, “The whole point of Christianity is that it offers a story, which is the story of the whole world. It is public truth.”

The story of the whole world. People throughout time and space from every nation, every tribe, every background and experience. The story we have in the Bible, the point of Christianity, is that it offers a story, which is the story of the entire world. The entire cosmos.

Somewhere along the way we’ve turned the Bible – this grand, sweeping narrative of God and God’s interaction with the world – into a rulebook full of propositions. We’ve turned the Bible into a book whose primary role is to tell us what and what not to do. Quite simply, we’ve turned the Bible into something it was never meant to be.

As author Christian Smith writes, “The Bible is not a ‘how to’ book. It is a ‘HERE IS WHO!’ book. First and foremost, it tells everyone: Here is who Jesus Christ is and therefore here is who you are and need to become in relation to him.”

This grand narrative about God’s interaction with humanity is a story that we can participate in. God wants us to participate in this story of redemption and rescue.

What you see throughout scripture is God using people – broken, bruised, and sometimes afraid people – to get caught up in his project for creation that is redeeming the world and giving them new life through Jesus. God wants us to be a part of what God is doing.

What is the reason that God gives us scripture? Is it so that we have “Basic Instructions before Leaving Earth?” Is it so we have a handbook for how to live and conduct business and dating relationships in a Biblical manner?

In 2 Timothy chapter 3, Paul tells Timothy (and us) why God has given us scripture. It’s good for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character. But he doesn’t stop there. In verse 17 he gets to the point, “so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good.”

That’s the point. In other words, the Bible isn’t there simply to be an accurate reference point for people who want to look things up and be sure they’ve got them right.

That’s not to say that Christians will never have theologically informed moral and practical views on things from...
THE ACP WEDDING MINISTRY
Two facts and a wish
By Visiting Pastor Jim Lockwood-Stewart

One fact that has been clear from before our arrival in Paris is that the number of weddings taking place at ACP has dropped significantly since the terrorist attacks in Paris in January and again in November of 2015. By the time we leave on 5 July, I will have officiated at 76 wedding blessing ceremonies. This compares with 115 for the same period in 2015 and 133 in 2014. According to ACP’s Wedding Coordinator Keiko Matsushima, 40 previously booked weddings were cancelled after the 13 November attacks.

Another fact to which I can testify and for which I give thanks to God is that the power of the ministry is strong and abiding. In addition to the majority of weddings that are arranged through the cooperation of Japanese and Chinese agencies, I have officiated at eight weddings privately arranged by couples from Finland, Australia, the UK, and the US. In each case, whether arranged through an agency or through personal inquiry usually sparked by a visit to the ACP website, I have had the privilege of welcoming couples, and sometimes family members and friends, to the American Church in the spirit of the love of God which we know in Christ Jesus.

I wish you could join me, Fred, Peter, Mark, and Keiko to witness the intense meaning that this ministry of blessing has for couples who have received the extravagant hospitality of Christ in this special place for their deeply personal moment. At each wedding blessing I feel the privilege of sharing such a time with people committing their lives to each other.

I will always be grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful ministry of the American Church in Paris.

business to relationships to gender identity to romance to war and peace, and everything in between. We will surely have views that are and should be informed by scripture, but not by simply looking up a specific text to affirm what we already suspected.

We will discover those views by forming a relationship with the God of the Bible who has shown us the one true story of the world. A story of God who created out of pleasure and rescues us from our own sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus, who laid down his life that we might have a life without end.

And this story equips us to partner with the God of the cosmos to redeem and restore this world until heaven and earth are joined at last. And isn’t that, as they say, the greatest story ever told?

Stallo and The Story,

Dedicated to...

Pastors Larry Kalajainen and Scott Herr, with the plaque for the ACP library. The Larry R. Kalajainen Library was dedicated on Sunday 24 January, and was made possible thanks to a generous donation by Karl Dasher. (Photo: Mark Primmer)
Returning to roots this Mother’s Day
By Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart

The second Sunday in May is celebrated as Mother’s Day in the US, Zimbabwe, Canada, Turkey, Italy, Finland, Denmark, Japan, and a number of other nations. In Britain, Nigeria, Panama, and much of the Arab world it is celebrated in March. In France, Sweden, and Cameroon it is the end of May. And in Mexico, Hong Kong, India, Singapore, and Saudi Arabia it is 10 May.

In the US, Mother’s Day now is focused upon mothers of individual families. Billions and billions of dollars are spent each year on flowers, cards, and gifts as expressions of respect and affection. And Mother’s Day is the third largest US retail sales day of the year.

While Mother’s Day evokes sentiments of deep gratitude and love, it can also evoke sadness. If you are grieving the death of a mother, grandmothers, mentors, those who have mothered you, if you are estranged, if you have lost a child, if you have no children, if you are struggling with parenting, or if you are a mother who is not remembered, even church celebrations can be poignant.

Perhaps if we remember and reclaim roots of this holiday and return to these roots in our celebrations, we can expand our vision for family and deepen our Christian faith.

In the 1850s, Ann Jarvis of West Virginia had lost 8 of her 12 children before they reached the age of 7 years. She organized other mourning women into Mother’s Day Work Clubs to work to improve public health and reduce infant mortality.

Then, in the 1860s, Ann Jarvis formed Mother Friendship Clubs in which mothers on both sides of the Civil War, joined in standing together for peace and in nursing soldiers from both sides. She recognized the love at the heart of deep grief, and was moved to help others recognize that all children are our children.

Ann’s daughter, Anna Jarvis, later started a celebration with her Methodist Episcopal church in Grafton, West Virginia, “A day to honor all mothers, and also a day to remember the work of peacemaking, reconciliation, and social action against poverty, started by her mother.”

In 1908, in memory of Ann and all women who give birth and life in many ways, and all who recognize that the household of God is far larger than the nuclear family, Anna Jarvis began the campaign for a nationwide observance of Mother’s Day.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed the bill recognizing Mother’s Day as a national U.S. holiday.

Anna Jarvis never had children, and by the time of her death in 1948, she spent her life and money trying to return the day to its roots, honoring:

- women who give birth and life
- peacemakers
- those who work for reconciliation
- those engaged in social action against poverty

that all God’s children may live.

Youth@Noon

Every second Sunday of the month, 12h15-13h15 in G2

Are you a youth (ages 11-18) who is unable to attend other youth group events or are you looking for another chance to hang out and grow in faith? Join us for a time of fellowship once a month to discuss everything from the week’s scripture lessons to current events, and how they relate to you! French and English speakers welcome. Lunch will be provided. For more information, email youthpastor@acparis.org.
Body of Christ: What’s up in

A selection of interesting events for Christians in and around Paris in May. All events are in French.

6th annual Salon of Solidarity

Because the world needs you, because everyone can make a difference, and because together we can effectively and sustainably build a better world: From 19-21 May, the Paris Expo Porte de Versailles will host NGOs, companies, institutions, international solidarity of professionals, conference facilities, workshops, training, entertainment, etc. at the Salon des Solidarités.

**19-21 May, Parc des expositions de Paris, Porte de Versailles - Hall 2.1. For more information:** www.salondessolidarites.org/l-evenement.

At the Edge of the Abyss: God and Evil

Without defeatism or resignation, philosophy has the task of thinking the unthinkable, of reaching the limits of thought. In partnership with the University of Geneva and the University of Lorraine, the Institut Catholique hosts a daylong conference on the question of God and evil. Can God remain outside of the question of evil? Is there a "logic of evil" unfolding in the world?

**Tuesday, 10 May, from 9h-18h, at the Institut Catholique de Paris, 21, rue d’Assas, 75006 Paris. For security reasons, registration is required at the web site of the Institute: www.icp.fr/a-propos-de-l-icp under Agenda.**

Biblical Greek for beginners!

Have you ever been tempted to dive into God’s word in the original? The Oratoire du Louvre is offering an introductory course on Biblical Greek.

**Tuesday, 10 May, from 19h30-21h. Oratoire du Louvre, 145 rue St. Honoré, 75001 Paris.**

Spiritual preparation for birth

A spiritual journey in three evenings open to all expectant parents, whether or not they already have children:

- **Pregnancy: A time of waiting and trust. Wednesday, 11 May, 20h45-22h15**
- **Becoming Parents: A vocation. Wednesday, 18 May, 20h45-22h15**
- **Constituting Our Family. Wednesday, 24 May, 20h45-22h15**

What’s up in Paris

May event listings

By Karen Albrecht

The Velvet Underground - New York Extravaganza

The Paris Philharmonie’s suitably hyped multimedia tribute to the larger-than-life 1960s New York ensemble will reach a crescendo on 21-22 May, with a La Monte Young tribute performance and previously unscreened films by Andy Warhol, who famously designed the peel-off cover of the Underground's legendary "Banana Album."

Until 21 August, philharmoniedeparis.fr

Seydou Keïta

Malian photographer Seydou Keïta (1921-2001) was justly sought after for the elegant black-and-white portraits shot in his Bamako studio. The elaborate hairdos, traditional costumes and multigenerational family groupings captured by Keïta's expert lens are stiff and stylized yet strangely intimate, offering a unique glimpse into the fashions, faces and the aspirations of the country’s postcolonial period.


The French Connection Concert & Sing-along

This friendly, participative event by jazz singer Keri Chryst explores the fertile cross-pollination between American and French music since the 1940s. A chance to belt out some well-loved tunes in both languages, and to trace some amusing twists and turns in the decades-long love affair between jazz and chanson.

7 May, 14h15-16h30 at Pavé d’Orsay, 48 rue de Lille, 7th; kcj-thefrenchconnection.webs.com

Picasso. Sculptures

Newly renovated within its superb 17th-century stone mansion, the Picasso Museum is featuring sculptures that display the full range of the master's long and varied career. Big or small, graceful or clunky, colorful or monochromatic, all share the Spaniard's impeccable eye for intriguing shapes and volumes and his irrepressible, often ribald wit.


The Douanier Rousseau: Archaic Candor

Dubbed "Le Douanier" because of his day-job as a toll-collector, Henri Rousseau (1840-1910) was entirely self-taught as a painter. His exuberant canvases are instantly recognizable for their lusciously vibrant colors and the idealized tropical vegetation peopled with lions, tigers and mysterious female figures.

Until 17 July, www.musee-orsay.fr (Read a full review on page 23.)

Rigoletto

Its uber-famous aria "La donna è mobile" may be light-hearted, but Giuseppe Verdi’s 1851 opera spins a darkly tragic tale. The Opera Bastille's production plays up the starker side of this tears-of-a-clown melodrama, in which the beautiful daughter of hunchback jester Rigoletto perishes after being seduced Rigoletto’s master, the lecherous Duke of Mantua.


©Hervé Gloaguen / Chambre Noire

©Monika Rittershaus
The Movie Discussion Group
Thursday 19 May - 19h30 – G2
This month’s movie listings: Trumbo by Jay Roach, Mr Holmes by Bill Condon, Dough by John Goldschmidt, and Café Society by Woody Allen. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion. Contact: movies@acparis.org
In the flourishing springtime of May, children will purposefully string together macaroni on colorful ribbons, pick a dandelion bouquet, scheme a surprise breakfast, write a card, pick up the phone to say, “Thank you, Mom. I love you, Mom.” For many living in France, with family in the US, the celebration will be double. In the United States Mother’s Day is celebrated this year on 8 May and in France on 29 May. In both countries, Mother’s day usually involves spending time with Mom, presenting gifts, flowers, cards. If Mom is particularly lucky, it could also mean a day off when the rest of the family makes a special effort to take over household chores or cooking. Statistics show more phone calls are made on Mother’s day than any other day of the year.

What I would do to be able to pick up the phone and call Mom!

On 12 February 2015, my Mom died unexpectedly following complications from spinal surgery. She was 62 years old. She was adamant about having this surgery to relieve her of chronic back pain. She wanted to be able to lift up her grandchildren. She wanted to be able to run up the stairs in Montmartre, climb to the top of the Eiffel Tower, stroll along the Seine on her trips to Paris. She wanted to cycle through Provence and go on a motorcycle tour of Italy! So much more to life to live!

I flew from Paris to Atlanta for her last few hours among us and was there to hold her hand, sing, pray, and weep with my family. My brother and sister and I had a common refrain - Thank you, Mom. We love you so much, Mom. We’ll see you in heaven, Mom. When the oxygen tubes were removed, we held each other in shock and sorrow, wondering how on earth we would ever be able to manage without our mother.

Last year celebrating Mother’s Day was very hard – twice. On American Mother’s Day, I felt miserable scrolling through social media pictures of my friends celebrating with 3 generations of their families. On French Mother’s Day, I could not hold back the tears as my children recited their poems and presented me with their colorful crafts made with such love and careful application in Maternelle and at the Halte-garderie. It was very difficult to let them celebrate me as their Mom when I still felt like a lost and broken daughter. I had not yet been able to gain comfort from the fact that Mom is in heaven, made-new and pain-free, rejoicing in the presence of our God.

During my grieving, a good friend of mine who lost her husband tragically advised me that I would see my mother from time to time. She was right. This is how the Holy Spirit fills the empty spaces and soothes my aching heart. I see my Mom in my daughter's sense of humour, in my aunt’s watchfulness and empathy, in my niece’s generosity, in my friends’ love of reading, in my son’s curiosity, in my love of entertaining. I feel her outside my immediate circle, too – in the voice singing the alto harmony behind me in church in Sunday, in the delight of a tourist experiencing her first French outdoor market, in the tulips that decorate the jardins, and in every incident and example of resilience that I come across.

As a child of God, I can celebrate Mother’s Day far away from Mom – twice. Through the Grace of God, she remains close and present. While I cannot send a card, or pick up the phone, on 8 May and again on 29 May, I will find a moment to whisper my prayer of recognition, gratitude and love for the Mom I knew and the Mom “made new.”

Bloom Where You’re Planted Planning Team
The next Bloom Where You’re Planted Program will be held on 8 October. We are looking for volunteers who would like to help organize this well-known, ground-breaking program that helps Anglophone newcomers settle into their new life in Paris. If you’d like to find out more about how you can help, please contact Kim at bloom.acparis@gmail.com.
Habitat for Humanity fundraiser concert — Friday 20 May 20h

Come with your friends for an evening of music, inspiration and fun and help us raise funds for the Habitat for Humanity program! This summer a group of all ages will travel to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and work from end-July until 8 August.

In order to fund this program, we are organizing our annual fundraiser concert. Sponsored for the 8th consecutive year by the Rotary Club Paris Champs-Elysées, the event features prized piano soloist Nathalia Romanenko with her new program “Extraordinaria Classica,” accompanied by bass player Stanislas Kuchinski. Directed by Stéphane Marais, they will perform music by Massenet, Koussevitski, JS Bach, Black-eyed Peas, Rheinhold Glière, Eminem, and Bottesini.

The Habitat for Humanity program is one of the longstanding missions of the ACP, each year sending a group of volunteers to build a house for a needy family. Help us reach H4H’s goal to change the lives of another one million people by 2018. Come to the concert, enjoy the music, and find out more about our H4H mission. It is followed by a cocktail reception. Buy your tickets after church, at the Habitat for Humanity table.

Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity

Founded in 1976, Habitat for Humanity has built or renovated more than 800,000 homes around the world, providing more than 4 million people with safe, decent, affordable shelter. Anyone who can hold a hammer or a paint brush is welcome to the work of Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers provide manpower that allows the building of homes or making renovations at considerably lower costs.

More importantly, the volunteering experience transforms lives: both for the volunteers who work alongside Habitat homeowners and for partner families who see people who care enough to help them break the cycle of poverty.

The American Church in Paris is organizing a Habitat for Humanity trip for August 2016. If you're interested in joining the Habitat trip to Kyrgyzstan this summer (end-July to 8 August), please contact the Habitat leader Kaï-Marcel Grunert via email: awaiting_further_informations@yahoo.com or have a look at the information on the ACP website. Note: Volunteers must be 16 years old or older.
Sunday Women’s Gathering, 15 May
12h15-13h30, Thurber Room

Please join us for a time of fellowship followed by a discussion with Odette Lockwood-Stewart on Holy Reading... *the Word Reading the World Reading the World Reading the World*...

Reading stories of Jesus or from our own lives we can engage in Holy Reading. Whether reading Scripture, the newspaper, a poem, a novel or ourselves, the Spirit gives wisdom and vision. Odette will share forms of this spiritual practice with stories from her life, and stories from Christian women in history. Note: Childcare is provided in G1.

Fred Gramann directing the Capital Area Festival in Raleigh, organized by the Raleigh Ringers

For more details on Fred’s 40th anniversary celebrations, check the back page of the Spire.

Sunday 5 June, ACP

One of the highlights of Fred’s 40th anniversary weekend will be a program on Sunday evening, 5 June at 18h, by the internationally acclaimed community handbell choir, The Raleigh Ringers. Based in Raleigh, North Carolina, the group was founded in 1990 under the direction of David Harris. They have released six CDs and two DVDs, and have the reputation of being the top handbell choir in the US.

Fred Gramann is the Honorary Associate Director of the Raleigh Ringers and has had the honor of coaching them on numerous occasions, serving as guest director three times for the Capital Area Festival which they organize, and he has composed numerous works expressly for them.

The atelier concert on 5 June will include music by Mozart, Rimski-Korsakoff, Vierne, Stravinsky, Anderson, Buckwalter, Confrey, Randolphe, and of course several works by Fred. They perform on multiple sets of handbells and chimes, including large aluminum bells that will be new to most at our church.

The concert will be preceded by a wine and cheese reception in the theatre at 17h. The concert is free, with a free-will offering taken at the exit.

*ACP Spire, May 2016 15*
Originating in Left Bank studios in 1895, the Atelier Concert Series became part of the cultural activities at the American Church in Paris during the early 1930s. These concerts provide a performance opportunity in Paris for talented musicians of all nationalities.

A different program is offered each Sunday evening at 17h00, September through November and January through June. There is no admission fee, but a free-will offering is taken at the door to support the series. For the schedule of concerts, see http://acparis.org

Sunday Concert Series

Sunday 8 May 17h00
DUO CARRIERE
Jacqueline and Jean-Pierre CARRIÈRE
Two pianos

Sunday 15 May 17h00
Min KWON - piano

Sunday 29 May 17h00
Nicole HANIG - soprano
Allen SAUNDERS - bass
Jeffrey PETERSON - piano
Alpha is back!

By Lisa Prevett

The Alpha Course runs weekly from **Thursday 12 May** with a meal at 19h00, followed by a video talk and small group discussions. We’ll be watching the brand new talks, just released in the last few weeks by Alpha International, featuring the course’s creator, Rev. Nick Gumbel, and Bear Grylls, Jackie Pullinger and Father Raniero Cantalamessa, among others. The video talks will take us on a journey around the globe as we explore the meaning of life and ask challenging questions about the Christian faith.

The course is open to everyone and is a great opportunity to ask questions about the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and friendly environment. It is also perfect to invite friends, family, neighbours and colleagues to.

**How can I support the course?**

There are many ways that you can be involved with Alpha. The first and most important way is through **prayer**. We welcome your prayer support throughout the course. There are also many other ways that you can help, for example, by volunteering to serve as part of the kitchen team preparing the meal. Invite people along - a **personal invite** is most effective, so take the plunge and ask a friend if he/she would like to accompany you to the Launch Party.

Is there more to life than this? Come and join us at the free Launch Party on 3 May at 19h30 and let’s find out together. Over 22.5 million people around the world have done Alpha – have you?

For more information, contact **secretary@acparis.org**.

Details about the Launch Party and the course are available via the website at acparis.org and our social media channels.

---

Pentecost Sunday

Would you like to dedicate a red flowering plant in honor or memory of someone for Pentecost Sunday?

Look for the order form in the bulletin or talk to the receptionist. Cost is 15 euros, and afterward the plants will be used to decorate the church courtyard.

Language Choir

15 May

A Pentecost Sunday tradition at the American Church is a Language Choir. No, they don’t sing. Rather they read the Acts text simultaneously while surrounding the congregation, each one in a different language. If you speak a language other than English, please consider being part of the Language Choir. You would be reading Acts 2: 5-13 simultaneously with many others, each reading in a different language.

If you would like to participate, send Fred an email stating the language you would be able to read. You will receive all the instructions and have a chance to rehearse on the morning of 15 June just prior to the 11H00 service. You may choose an attire typical of your home country, or else simply wear red. Help us set the congregation on fire with the Holy Spirit as expressed through the gift of language! Email **music@acparis.org**
The ACP Youth and Family Concert

An evening of favorite anthems and extended selections from well-loved musical theatre.

Directed by Sara Barton

Saturday 28 Mai 2016 at 19h00

Mark your calendars for the Youth and Family Concert here at ACP on Saturday, May 28. This promises to be an evening of well-loved joyous music sung by all the children in the Music program with the added bonus of some great adult singers! On the program are both sacred anthems and fun-filled musical theatre numbers that are sure to have you singing along!

At the American Church in Paris
65, quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris
Métros: Invalides, Alma-Marceau
Free Admission – Free-will offering

Serve the City Mission Project

The Serve the City Mission Project is distributing food donated by Prêt à Manger to the needy. There are now nearly 20 American Church volunteers serving up to 150 meals five days a week to the less fortunate in and around Paris. Additional volunteers are needed to help pick up sandwiches from the Prêt à Manger’s Neuilly-sur-Seine shop at 8h and distribute them to homeless people. Come join the team and help us Serve the City! Contact parisservethecity@gmail.com.
Let’s welcome Tim, Maija, Noah, Sophia, and Ezra to Paris, a new culture, and to their new ACP community. You’re all invited to bring a welcoming note, a recommendation, a suggestion, and/or a small gift to fill up a welcome basket on Sunday 22 May, after each service.

This will be one way we can help the Vance family settle in and to get to know you, the members of our community, better. For instance, a recommendation or suggestion could take the form of:

- Addresses for family-friendly outings in the Paris area (puppet shows, children-friendly parks, etc.).
- Addresses of favorite ’off-beat eating places, concert venues, museums, etc., in the Paris area
- Websites which would be helpful with language acquisition or other services
- A favorite French recipe or adaptation of an American recipe

A thoughtful gift might include:

- A French product with an explanation why you chose this particular item for them
- A book related to French culture or French cuisine for the children and/or the parents
- A voucher for a gift of time, whether for babysitting or a meal together, or simply to take a walk with them in your neighborhood or around other interesting places
- An invitation for a cup of coffee

Please bring your contribution to put in the welcome basket on 22 May. We’ll have a special table set up for this in the theater, or you may leave it at the reception clearly labeled: Vance family. With all contributions please remember to include your name and contact information so that the Vance family can get to know their new ACP neighbors and congregants personally.

---

**A visit from the Cameroonian Church**

Our contact person in Cameroon, Marie Antoinette Ebene Ebene, was at the ACP on Sunday 10 April, attending the Mission Outreach meeting, where she presented the life of the Cameroonian Presbyterian Church. She talked about the spiritual challenges, its members and the ongoing progress of building its church.

The Cameroonian Presbyterian Church will be celebrating its 20th anniversary the entire week of 9 May, culminating in a huge ceremony on Sunday, 15 May. The members are presently busy making last-minute building improvements for the big day. The Cameroonian Presbyterian Church is one of the ministries the ACP has been supporting through prayers and financial gifts.”
Our missionary in Ghana, Anna Cobbina of The Living Truth Foundations Ministries, is truly amazing. Every single day of the week she preaches in the prisons, hospital, and schools in southern Ghana, sometimes taking buses for several hours to reach her destinations.

Tina Blair, former ACP Associate Pastor, joined me to visit Anna in March. This was Tina’s first visit to Ghana and her first visit inside prisons.

The primary purpose of our visit was to attend the graduation ceremonies at four prisons for prisoners who have been taking the year-long Disciple Bible Study program that the ACP sponsors.

We had the honor of presenting completion certificates to 63 prisoners, including one class of 12 prisoners at the Maximum Security Prison near Cape Coast. The prison ceremonies were very moving, with music provided by the prison bands and choirs, dancing by all, preaching, with the graduates reciting a “memory verse” they had each selected from the Bible, and ending with communion being served.

After the graduations, there were inauguration ceremonies for new classes which will begin this spring at each of these four prisons plus at two other prisons that have also requested the Disciple program. In all, we enrolled 97 prisoners into the 2016-17 program.

Anna and her late husband, Francis, started the prison Bible study program in 2008 with 12 students in one prison. Today, with the program having grown to 97 students in six prisons, we are humbled to see how the Holy Spirit is at work in Ghana.

As one of the prison officers said to me, “God is here.” He is indeed.

Although Anna normally preaches, Pastor Tina was asked to preach at most of the graduation ceremonies as well as at two schools, and at the Cape Coast hospital in the reception lobby and in the AIDS department. We were warmly welcomed everywhere we went.

Anna, Tina and I agreed that one of our most memorable moments was at the Women’s Prison in Sekondi, where
there were 27 women inmates. After Tina preached, we spent time talking with the women and praying for them. It was a very special moment for all of us.

From the large prisons at Kumasi and Koforidua, to the Maximum Security Prison, to the small Women’s Prison, each prison was different. But the desire of inmates to seek God was present in all of the prisons. The singing, dancing, and praying all came from the prisoners’ hearts. God is present – and moving – in Ghana.

Please pray for Anna and the other members of The Living Truth Foundation Ministries as they continue to work to spread the good news of the Gospel in Ghana.

Thank you for your support of this ministry!

If you would like to make a donation to this ministry to buy bibles, food or soap for the prisoners, please contact missionoutreach@acparis.org

Human resources committee of ACP

When it’s time for a transition of personnel at the American Church in Paris, a group of knowledgeable volunteers goes to work behind the scenes to make sure the changeover happens smoothly and carefully.

The ACP’s Human Resources Committee, bringing together a group of people whose professional backgrounds include experience in personnel, law and team-leading, deals with any human resource issue involving paid staff. Lately there’s been no down-time for the committee, which meets monthly year-round.

Just in the last year, the committee has dealt with replacing a longtime night receptionist as well as a youth pastor and an associate pastor, and now it’s involved in finding a new daytime receptionist. The only time it isn’t involved in a transition of paid staff is when the senior pastor leaves, which is handled by the American and Foreign Christian Union’s human resources team to form a Search Committee made up of members from both the AFCU and the ACP.

The current committee includes chair Pierre Lisbonis, vice-chair Lela Losq, and members Daniel Grout and Valentina Lana. Two others in the hardworking group are taking brief sabbaticals, and Senior Pastor Scott Herr serves as the pastoral liaison.

“All members of the HR Committee are active members of the church and have a deep commitment to it,” Lela said. “Some have ‘corporate memory,’ since they have been members for over 20 years, and others are actively involved in a variety of missions of the church.” Pierre has been involved with the ACP for more than a decade and a member since 2007, Lela joined in 1983, Daniel in 2005, and Valentina in 2012.

The group exhibits the same national diversity as the ACP at large; Pierre and Daniel are French, Lela is American, and Valentina hails from Italy.

The committee drafts contracts (job descriptions, work schedules, and compensation) for all of the staff, making sure that French labor laws are respected. It also determines what kind of contract best fits the needs of the employee and the church. It drafts the announcements for staff positions when one is open.

“It ensures that all transitions take place in a smooth and intelligent way,” Pierre explained.

The committee is accountable to the ACP Executive Committee and Church Council. The chair and vice-chair are elected by the congregation; the chair sits on both the Executive Committee and Church Council, and the vice-chair also is an active member of the Church Council.

When a search committee is looking for an associate pastor or an associate youth pastor, the chair and/or vice chair of the HR Committee interview potential

Continued on next page ...
candidates after the search committee has narrowed its field to two or three finalists. In that capacity, the chair and vice-chair serve as an advisory board to the search committee and meet with the candidates to answer nitty-gritty HR questions.

In this support role, the HR Committee provides human resources expertise but does not hire. It is ultimately up to the congregation to call an associate pastor as recommended by a search committee and the Church Council, and it’s the business administrator’s responsibility to hire a receptionist or other non-pastoral staff member after a recommendation from the HR Committee.

Visiting pastors, those ministers who serve on six-month rotations to help with the wedding blessings ministry, are selected by the senior pastor and approved by the Council. The HR Committee is not involved in that process except for helping the business administrator with visa and travel questions.

If you are an HR or law professional and would be interested in serving on the HR Committee, please feel free to contact Pierre Lisbonis or a member of the Nominating Committee.

Bible readings for May

1 May Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

8 May Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

15 May Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9
Psalm 104:25-35, 37
Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21
John 14:8-17, [25-27]

22 May Trinity Sunday 1st Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 8:1-14, 22-31
Psalm 8;
Romans 5:1-5; Heritage Sunday
John 16:12-15

29 May Second Sunday after Pentecost
1 Kings 18:20-39;
Psalm 96;
Galatians 1:1-12;
Luke 7:1-10
Henri Rousseau is a painter who is at once familiar and yet unknown. A key influencer on his contemporaries, he is considered the great “naïve” painter of the late 19th century and one of the founding fathers of modern art. The Musée d’Orsay presents many of his major works, plus those of artists he inspired, in the temporary exhibit entitled “Le Douanier Rousseau, Archaic Candour.”

Rousseau was nicknamed “le Douanier” because of his regular job as a low-level clerk at the Paris City Customs (Douane is the French word for Customs). He never received any formal training in painting, but rather spent a lot of his free time roaming the galleries of the Louvre, where he took note of Renaissance composition and the use of color. He was inspired by illustrated children’s books. He was also a frequent visitor to the Jardin des Plantes and the Menagerie, where he could see flora and fauna, both of which are signature elements of his work. But it wasn’t until his late 40s that he was able to devote himself to painting, developing his seemingly simple, childlike, primitive style.

Rousseau often painted from photographs and consequently he depicts people in very rigid, stiff positions. His “Wedding Party” is such a work. He’s taken a formal portrait and placed it in an unruly garden setting. There is the illusion of depth, but the scale is completely off. The bride appears to hover above the ground, floating into the grandmother figure. The dog in the foreground is disproportionately large. And yet with all its flaws, the painting is charming.

Similarly, in his “Myself, Portrait-Landscape” he places himself in the center of the picture – and the painting is clearly all about him! Everything else is downplayed, little, a small detail. Does this indicate how serious he was about art or was he a narcissist?

“War” is a deeply disturbing and extremely familiar painting. This painting won high praise when it was shown at the Salon des Independents in 1894. It stands out from the rest of his work due to the vibrant, “angry” color palette, the devastated terrain used as a background, and the overall underlying message. Many symbols and codes are present, the most significant being the flying horse, seen in Medieval art, and the female figure as allegory of war. More of a young girl than a woman, she is wild, holding a sword in one hand and a flaming torch in the other. She soars over the battleground strewn with “uniformless” bodies, wreaking havoc. It’s not clear if Rousseau was referring to a specific war or if his intent was to comment on the general destruction that war brings.

In contrast, his “Snake Charmer,” another very famous painting, takes place in a lush, green, tropical jungle. It is a tranquil nocturnal setting with a full moon that shines brightly on the luxuriant vegetation. A mysterious woman – could it be Eve? – plays a flute and enchants both bird and serpent.

The exhibit concludes with a room dedicated to many of the jungle scenes iconic to Rousseau. There is much more than meets the eye in many of these paintings, whether it is silly monkeys playing, oblivious to the snake lurking in the trees, or a flat-out battle where one animal becomes dinner for its opponent. Rousseau claimed to have been inspired by what he saw during a military expedition to Mexico.....except he never left France! His vivid imagination is present in his work and makes this exhibit a pleasant urban escape.

Through 17 July, Musée d'Orsay, 75007
CALLING ALL ACP MEMBERS: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, 29 MAY

Our semi-annual meeting to elect Council leadership will be held on Sunday, 29 May, immediately after the 11h service. Members, if you are going to be out of town, please fill in a proxy and leave it at reception (forms at reception & the Welcome Table). Please watch for more details in the Sunday worship bulletins.

New Member Orientation

8 May, 12h15-13h30 in the Library

Please save the date to attend the class if you are interested in becoming a member of the ACP.

RSVP to communitylife@acparis.org.

Parlez-vous English?

The mairie du 7ème is holding a family event to promote the English language, tapping the arrondissement’s huge English-speaking community, including the American Church. There are a number of workshops, including a Sing-and-Play Surprise for 5-10 year-olds, and a quiz on English culture, with prizes. The Institut de l’Alma will sing English songs at 15h15, and the American Church is giving a concert from 18h-19h. Stop by and practice your franglais!

The mairie is at 116 rue de Grenelle, 7ème.

Reserve now: Inscriptions aux animations et ateliers au 01.53.58.75.60 ou rachida.dati@paris.fr
Bloom Where You’re Planted
How to Live in France

9h30 -18h00, Saturday 8 October 2016

An orientation program for English-speaking newcomers to Paris
For English-speaking newcomers navigating the wonderful but
sometimes perplexing French culture

Something for Everyone:

- Male or Female
- Employee
- Student
- Retiree
- Trailing Spouse
- Long Time Residents
- Kids 4-12
- Nursery and Toddlers

Learn about: French cooking and how to adapt your home recipes to French ingredients; Where Parisians shop for clothes and home items; Where to go for entertainment in the City of Light; About red tape for taxes and real estate; The key to thriving in the French workplace and how to stay healthy in Paris; Transitioning to a new culture; The education system and school options; plus, history, architecture and culture of Paris. Then join us for the Wine Down, introducing you to wines and cheeses from five different regions of France. Relax, make a toast with new friends to celebrate the incredible adventure in your new Parisian home.

PURCHASE TICKETS ON LINE  http://bloom.acparis.org
Take advantage of the Early Bird Pricing before 1 September!

Multicultural Couples BBQ Afternoon

Saturday 28 May - 12 noon
Calling all multicultural couples. You are warmly invited to come spend an afternoon in the Parisian banlieue. Come enjoy a BBQ and croquet and a walk in the woods. Bring a dish to share and join the fun.

For more information contact multicultural@acparis.org

Did you know you can follow the American Church of Paris on social media?

@AmChurchParis /AmericanChurchParis
## ACP Spire Diary – May 2016

Events, meetings and concerts

(please check [www.acparis.org/whatson](http://www.acparis.org/whatson) for updates and weekly schedules)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Gregory THOMPSON, piano</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 1 May</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 2 May</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio</td>
<td>Fréquence Protestante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alpha Course - Launch Party</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday 3 May</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and friendly way. The 10 week course will run each Thursday, 12 May - 7 July.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>@acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ascension Day / Ascension</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 5 May</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church house and office closed for public holiday.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Breakfast Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Fri, 6 May</td>
<td>19h00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jurie Ane Feleo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation: Friday 19h00, meet at ACP Reception</td>
<td>Sat, 7 May</td>
<td>8h00</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:parisservethecity@gmail.com">parisservethecity@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution: Saturday 08h00, meet at ACP Reception</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother’s Day (United States)</strong></td>
<td>Sun 8 May</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Member Orientation</strong> - All are welcome! Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:communitylife@acparis.org">communitylife@acparis.org</a> to join the class.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Communitylife@acparis.org">Communitylife@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth@Noon</strong> A time of fellowship for youth (ages 11-18) unable to attend other youth group events or looking for another chance to hang out and grow in faith. French and English speakers welcome. Lunch provided.</td>
<td>Sunday 8 May</td>
<td>12h15 - 13h15</td>
<td>G2</td>
<td>Billy Roberts <a href="mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org">youthpastor@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - DUO CARRIERE</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 8 May</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline and Jean-Pierre CARRIÈRE - two pianos</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alpha Course</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 12 May</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and friendly way. The 10 week course will run each Thursday, 12 May - 7 July.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>@acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP MOPS (mothers of children ages newborn-6)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 13 May</td>
<td>10h00 - 12h00</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mops@acparis.org">mops@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare available. Come “flourish fiercely” with us.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 13 May</td>
<td>10h00 - 14h00</td>
<td>The American Cathedral</td>
<td>If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel <a href="mailto:fridaymissionlunch@acparis.org">fridaymissionlunch@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every Friday a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. ACP is responsible for the meal on the second Friday of each month, but we are grateful for help with cooking, serving, and cleaning up every Friday.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writers’ Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 14 May</td>
<td>14h30 - 16h30</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td>Tendayi Chirawu <a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pentecost / Pentecôte</strong></td>
<td>Sun, 15 May</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women’s Gathering - Odette Lockwood-Stewart</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 15 May</td>
<td>12h15 - 13h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Kim Herr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Holy Reading...the Word Reading the World, Reading the Word...” A time of fellowship and a discussion. Childcare will be available in room G1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Min KWON - piano</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 15 May</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# ACP Spire Diary – May 2016

**Events, meetings and concerts**

(please check [www.acparis.org/whatson](http://www.acparis.org/whatson) for updates and weekly schedules)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Whit Monday / Lundi de Pentecôte</strong></td>
<td>Monday 16 May, all day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church house and office closed for public holiday.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 16 May, 20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 19 May, 19h30</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite <a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This month’s movie listings: <em>Trumbo</em> by Jay Roach, <em>Mr Holmes</em> by Bill Condon, <em>Dough</em> by John Goldschmidt and <em>Café Society</em> by Woody Allen. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sandwich Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Friday 20 May, 19h00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jurie Ane Feleo <a href="mailto:parisservethecity@gmail.com">parisservethecity@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation: Friday 19h00, meet at ACP Reception.</td>
<td>Sat 21 May, 13h30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution: Saturday 13h30, meet at ACP Reception.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Habitat for Humanity benefit concert - Nathalia Romanenko</strong></td>
<td>Friday 20 May, 20h00 Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An evening of music, inspiration and fun to raise funds for the Habitat for Humanity mission. Prized piano soloist Nathalia Romanenko will present her new program &quot;Extraordinaria Classica&quot; accompanied by bass player Stanislas Kuchinski.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Sotto Voce Children’s Choir Concert</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 21 May, 19h30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission is free.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Elisa DOUGHTY - soprano; Lauren VAN KEMPEN - cello; Pauline HAUSWIRTH - violin; Ruta LENCIAUSKAITE - piano</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 22 May, 17h00 Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Significant Marriage seminar - led by Konnie and Klaus Labecki</strong></td>
<td>Weekend 27-29 May</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.acparis.org">www.acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekend seminar that will teach couples to be intentional in creating a plan together to become all God has created them to be as a couple.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Youth and Family Concert</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 28 May, 19h00 Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sara Barton <a href="mailto:ymusic@acparis.org">ymusic@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An evening of well-loved joyous music sung by all the children in the ACP music program, w/the added bonus of some great adult singers! Free admission, with free-will offering.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 28 May, 20h00 At a private residence</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monica Basset &amp; Anja Wyss multicultural @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship and discussion on topics such as raising bicultural/bilingual children and cultural differences. Bring a dish to share.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Nicole HANIG - soprano; Allen SAUNDERS - bass; Jeffrey PETERSON - piano</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 29 May, 17h00 Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Free Gala Concert in celebration of Fred Gramann’s 40 Years of Music Ministry at the ACP</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 4 June, 19h30 Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A champagne reception with “40 Cakes for 40 Years” to follow.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You’re Invited to a Special Celebration
40 Years of Music Ministry at the American Church

In June 2016 Fred Gramann will have served for four decades as the Director of Music at the American Church in Paris. We are marking this milestone by celebrating the importance of music ministry to this congregation and to the larger community.

What will be happening?

On Friday 3 June at 17h30 there will be a “Meet and Greet” evening reception for the many out-of-town guests who will be present.

On Saturday 4 June there will be free gala concert at 19h30, followed by a champagne reception with “40 Cakes for Forty Years”.

On Sunday 5 June there will be special music at the 11h worship service.

On Sunday 5 June at 17h there will be wine and cheese reception prior to the special Atelier Concert at 18h.

On Sunday 5 June at 18h the Raleigh Ringers from Raleigh, North Carolina will thrill us with their music.

How can you help?

Many volunteers will be needed, from decorating, ushering or preparing food, to donating a cake or being a server at a reception. You’ll find a complete list of needs on the ACP website under “Fred’s 40th” or by requesting a list from music@acparis.org.