Spire
The Beacon on the Seine
May 2017

The American Church in Paris www.acparis.org 65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris
In this issue

Thoughts from The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr 3
Paris-Roubaix, by Rev. Tim Vance 5
Bible readings for May 6
Retreating (advancing) at a Benedictine abbey, by Rev. Jeff Powell 7
Amazing Grace, by Patti Lafage 8
Easter in prison? by Carolyn Bouazouni 8
Youth & Young Adults at ACP, by Revs. Doug and Jodi Fondell 9
Sunday concert series 10
Family: Young Adults and Table Talks, by Emily Chesley 11
Events at American Library in Paris, by Charlie Gay 12
Thurber Lecture: Rabbi Tom Cohen 12
What’s up in Paris: May event listings, by Karen Albrecht 13
Short trips for long weekends, by Rebecca Brite 14-15
Excellence Computer Technology Center, by Destiny Ansah 17
Praying the labyrinth, by TL Valluy 19
Life at Deep Griha, by Pascal Deforge 20
Spring cleaning: Giving new life, by Ashleigh Searle 21
ACP Youth Music Program, by Sara Barton 23
Serenissima, by Karen Marin 25
May ACP calendar, by John Newman 26-27

Please help recycle this publication. When you’re through reading it, instead of tossing it in the bin, return it to the Welcome desk or Foyer.
Thoughts from
The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

*Sabbatical* - saˈbətək(ə), noun. def.: a period of paid leave granted to a worker for study or travel, from the Latin (*sabbaticus*), the Greek (*sabbatikos*) and Hebrew - Sabbath, rest). The heart of דבShabbat (Sabbath) is דבShahBH (to return, to sit).

First of all, let me say how very thankful I am to have the privilege of a sabbatical. Thank you to the AFCU, the ACP Council, and to you the congregation for allowing me this gift! As of 1 May, I will be out of the office until the rentrée in September. From 1-8 May, Kim and I will be traveling to Vienna and Bratislova, joining the Vances and Fondells to participate in the Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East (AICEME) annual conference. This is a time to meet friends and colleagues for fellowship and worship together...

From 11-14 May, I will return to Vienna with Julia Kung, the ACP Treasurer and Chair of the Finance, Stewardship and Development Committee, and William Johnston, Chair of the ACP Property Committee, to attend and make presentations at the annual general and development meetings of the American Foreign Christian Union (AFCU).

On 15 May, then, I will officially begin my sabbatical by traveling to Cambridge, England. I will spend a month enjoying reading, reflection, and discussions on Karl Barth. My main purpose of digging into Barth is to explore what the great Swiss theologian means by being “in Christ.” Then I will take a month to walk the Camino Santiago, beginning in St. Jean Pied de Port and arriving in Santiago, Spain hopefully in mid-July. I'll then take the remaining part of the summer to see friends and family in North Carolina and Oregon, and be back to prepare for the rentrée late August.

More than repose and returning home, a sabbatical for me is returning to the wellspring of life in Christ, to be intellectually, spiritually, physically, and familial renewed. Isaiah 30:15 says “This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: ‘In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength...’” As I have served the ACP for the past nine years it seems good to take a break to experience rest, reflection, and refreshment in Christ. Also, 21 June will be the 30th anniversary of my ordination. I want to reflect on what “repentance and rest,” and “quietness and trust” look like in the way I live and lead for the years to come.

I invite your prayers for me and my family while I am away, that the Holy Spirit will do a new thing in me to restore and refresh, and give me renovation and reformation that will allow me to be the leader that allows for the new thing God wants to do in and through us.

While I am away, I will be out of contact. That may be difficult for all of us at times. But fear not! You will be well taken care of by the Rev. Dr. Jeff Powell, who will be acting head of staff, and who along with Rev. Tim Vance, and Revs. Doug and Jodi Fondell, will offer excellent vision and pastoral care for you while I am away.

Again, thank you for allowing me this gift. I appreciate your prayers and support for me, my family, and the rest of the pastoral team who are taking on extra work. I trust that God will use my sabbatical time to open up new ideas and visions for me, and also for the ministry and mission of our congregation! You will be in my prayers and I’ll look forward to seeing you again, and sharing with you some of my adventures in September.

Until then, as always, grace and peace to you. I remain sincerely yours.

In Christ,

\[
\text{In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength}
\]
But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

- Jeremiah 29:7

The American Church in Paris and the Guatemalan Embassy in Paris are joining forces to support the association “A Latin American in Paris,” which brings promising young violinists from Guatemala to Paris for study.

A gala concert will be given in the American Church sanctuary on Friday evening, 26 May at 20h, by Survier Flores (violin) and Laetitia Federici (piano).

The concert is free with a free-will offering taken to support this wonderful initiative. Come enjoy some brilliant music and help make the difference in the future of several gifted young musicians.
I bounced off the road into the grass hoping it would be less turbulent, but alas the side of the road had ruts and rocks and hidden holes. So oddly enough riding my bike as fast as I could down the center of these old cobbled farm roads in northern France was the smoothest option (although clearly not smooth at all). I've been watching the Paris-Roubaix bike race (nicknamed “The Hell of the North”) online for the last 10 years. I would wake up early in the morning (in the United States) to watch a fuzzy live video streaming from somewhere in Europe. So on my first Paris-Roubaix Sunday here in France I ran up to our apartment, grabbed my computer and sat at our dinner table to watch a skipping and blurry video of the race. It was exciting to imagine the professional cyclists racing just north of us here in France. Then I realized that I wasn’t in the United States anymore. I was in France! Maybe, just maybe... I turned the television on to find a crystal clear, live broadcast of the race. It was amazing!

When it comes to a love and appreciation for cycling, moving to France has been like moving to a new world. This is the place of the greatest bike races on the planet. This is the place of history and legend and yet it’s funny how much of my old-world mentality is still alive in this place. Instead of watching in high definition, I was still sitting at the dinner table squinting at a blurry online video.

And this year I realized, “Wait, I live in France!” Forget watching on TV. Why don’t I go and ride the same roads and try my luck at the pavés of Paris-Roubaix. After all these years of watching and reading about this race, I experienced a piece of it for myself and it was far worse and far better than I ever could have imagined.

The story of Easter is that a whole new world is breaking forth right in the middle of the old. Creation is starting all over again through the resurrection of Jesus. And we are invited to join him in experiencing this new world right here, right now. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Are we aware of this new reality? Is our experience of faith or God like staring at a fuzzy online streaming video when high definition is available? Or is our experience of faith like watching high definition television when we have been invited to be active participants?

Becoming a participant in God’s Kingdom come will be a little bit like riding a bike on cobbled roads. It can be rather bumpy and quite a bit more dangerous than being a spectator. But at the same time participation makes our experience much more vivid and alive.

Footnote: To be clear I am not a professional cyclist and did not participate in the actual race. I rode 70 kilometers of the Paris-Roubaix course the day before the race, while the professionals raced over 257 kilometers. They are truly crazy!

---

Corporate Prayer Meeting: Saturdays at 15h
Meet to pray for the world on Saturdays from 15h-16h at ACP in room G7. Contact Selen Flores via the secretary at secretary@acparis.org. All are invited!
Bible readings for May

7 May  Fourth Sunday of Easter
Psalm 146
Ruth 1:8-10, 16-18, 3:1-5, 4:13-17
Mark 12:38-44
1 Timothy 6:17-19

14 May  Fifth Sunday of Easter White
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Acts 7:55-60
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

21 May  Sixth Sunday of Easter
Psalm 66:8-20
Acts 17:22-31
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

25 May  Ascension of the Lord
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:15-23

28 May  Seventh Sunday of Easter
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
Acts 1:6-14
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

Ensemble Lumina – Chamber Choir

Ensemble Lumina, the American Church’s wonderful chamber choir under the direction of Caroline Drury, will present a free concert in the ACP sanctuary on **Saturday 13 May at 20h**. Come enjoy a variety of compositions, from Schütz and Palestrina, from Mendelssohn to Rheinberger, from lush contemporary works to Spirituals. The concert is free with a free-will offering.
Retreating (advancing) at a Benedictine abbey

By the Rev. Dr. Jeff Powell
Visiting Pastor

"All guests are welcomed as Christ." The Rule of Benedict

For over 40 years I have been spiritually refreshed and enriched by taking retreats at St. Andrew's Abbey, in the high Mohave Desert north of Los Angeles, California. I first went there for a week in the summer of 1976 to pray, reflect on Scripture, journal, and participate in the life of the monastic community, as I sought to discern where God was calling me to serve in my first ordained pastoral call. Brother Francis, the young guest master, was most helpful in welcoming and orienting me. As a Protestant Christian, I was not so aware of the rhythm of life in a Roman Catholic monastic community. I had to recalibrate some of my expectations as I began a self-directed, rather God-directed, retreat.

Abbot Francis, and now that he has gone to be with the Lord in heaven, Abbot Francis Emeritus. I have visited St. Andrew's Abbey many times during my ministry, more so when I served churches in Southern California than when I served international congregations on three continents. St. Andrew's Abbey has provided a community of peace and stability for me amid all the changes in my life.

During my initial stay at St. Andrew’s Abbey I participated in the three disciplines of the Rule of Saint Benedict: Liturgical prayer, lectio divina and manual labor.

**Liturgical Prayer:** The central focus of liturgical prayer is the Psalms. The book of Psalms is comprised of hymns of praise and worship; prayers for guidance and protection; pleas for forgiveness; petitions for life’s needs; and songs of thanksgiving for God’s blessings. The Psalms were the prayers of Jesus and they also contain, in the depths of their meanings, the breadth of Scripture. These are the daily prayers of the monks and are typically chanted at St. Andrew's Abbey in English but still in a Gregorian modality. Additionally, the Eucharist (Mass) is offered daily and all guests are invited to attend the service. Unfortunately, the table at that time was not open for non-Roman Catholic Christians to receive.

**Lectio Divina:** This second Benedictine monastic discipline literally means “divine reading.” A more accurate understanding of this practice, however, is listening to “the word that comes from the mouth of God.”

It is a flexible rhythm of prayer, a loving communion with God through a text that a person hears or reads. The practice begins with seeking out a quiet place where one is free from all distractions, taking a few moments to be still, calming the restlessness that comes from worries and the day's activities, and finally, raising the heart and mind to God in prayer seeking to be fully present to God. Once centered in God, a reading from Scripture is chosen.

What follows is *meditatio,* or inner listening. It has also been described as “chewing” on the text and letting the savor of its meaning and the implications sink into the soul and heart of the one meditating. It is a time for being, rather than a time for analytical reflection. The reader simply invites God’s word to manifest itself in her or his own heart at that given moment of their life. Often this manifestation of the sacred in your heart will lead you to make special petitions (*oratio*) to God for others and their needs, as well as yourself. Articulate these to God in silence, knowing that these humble requests are heard and will be answered in love.

Next, while remaining centered in God, the reader is often drawn into a deeper union with God, a state of *contemplatio* or contemplation, a state without thought or word, a state of being united with God’s presence within.

**Manual Labor:** The final monastic disciple is manual labor. This discipline has both a practical and spiritual discipline. From a practical vantage point, a community can only function efficiently when every member is contributing to its needs and demands. St. Andrew’s Abbey is famous for its handmade ceramics. The guests at the monastery may, if they wish, participate in a variety of types of labor to assist the community. I offered to help renovate the youth retreat center, which two years later I used for a retreat with my Presbyterian youth group.

Just as I have had a special relationship with St. Andrew's Abbey in California, the American Church in Paris has had a special relationship with Abbaye-Fleury at Saint-Benoit-sur-Loire. For years the Spring Retreat for adults has been celebrated there and ACP retreat participants have been blessed by this monastic community. I heartily invite you to participate in this year’s retreat, 16-18 June. Please see the announcement in the May Spire and ACP website and contact me or Sue Orsoni for more details.

See www.saintAndrewsabbey.com
Dear ACP friends,

As many of you know, I’m recuperating in Paris after knee replacement surgery. Prayer, reassurance from people who had had success with this surgery, as well as the certainty that the time had come made the decision easy. My Rafiki management encouraged me to do it NOW, to have the hope of more years of service at Rafiki Village Uganda. The children and staff held a surprise musical good-bye fest before I left.

A few blessed vacation days with each of my two children’s families, a week of tests while staying with excellent friends in Paris, joyful worship at ACP, and I was ready.

Fast forward: waking up in the recovery room. NO PAIN! The overwhelming sense that I was being prayed for and that God was right there with me. Often, when I feel challenged physically, I “reach out” spiritually for Jesus’s hand. He was there, too. I knew I was being lifted up in prayer.

Six days in the hospital (grudgingly accorded by the US insurance company) and the discovery that I’m still covered by French Sécurité Sociale. Wonderful care; competent, friendly, attentive staff; lots of visitors, letters and notes from my African kids...NO PAIN! No pain at all. Thank you, Lord!

And now in the rehab center, same as above. A blessed feeling of being loved, cared for and, especially, receiving God’s grace in overdose. Why am I the one he has chosen to suffer not at all? Only he knows.

May his blessings rain abundantly on each of you.

Chocolate Easter eggs, cakes and soft drinks – along with lots of good conversation. Sound like a warm Easter gathering? It was! That’s how we celebrated Easter in several of the prisons, following the spirit-filled worship services, complete with singing, prayers, readings from the scriptures, a sermon and holy communion.

It was wonderful. A men’s choir joined us in one of the prisons, and a guest speaker gave her testimony in another, adding to the special Easter services.

One of the chaplains preached about Jesus’ appearance after his resurrection to two of his followers on the road to Emmaus, where they did not recognize Jesus as he walked with them and explained what the scriptures said about himself – although their hearts burned within them! The chaplain reminded us that Jesus may also come walk beside us at times, to talk with us and teach us, but we don’t recognize him. A powerful message!

We are now visiting four prisons around Paris: two men’s prisons, one women’s prison and a juvenile prison, with ACP members attending services regularly in three of the prisons. The inmates and chaplains very much appreciate our presence – they thank us often for coming.

Since we attend regularly, we have come to feel that we have friends behind the bars now. Friends who are going through a terribly difficult time in their lives, but whose burdens are lightened as we turn together to God and spend time with Him. They return to their cells with renewed hope for their future, uplifted and blessed by the Good News they have heard and the love they have felt. Those of us who leave, walk out feeling doubly blessed.
Youth & Young Adults at ACP
By Revs. Doug and Jodi Fondell
Youth and Young Adult Ministry

We’ve logged two months of living in France and here are our continued impressions. There are way too many delicious things to eat at any given moment. How does everyone stay so slim? Nothing really happens quickly in France and every piece of business usually takes several times to get it right. French is a hard language to learn, ai-je raison? ACP is an amazing church, filled with fantastically engaged laity and a staff that is a joy to be a part of. We thank God daily for his goodness to us in bringing us here for this season of ministry.

YOUTH
Our Collège and Lycée groups are in the home stretch now before our Sunday afternoons go on summer break. We will continue to meet on Sunday afternoons from 15h-17h to play games, enjoy snacks and learn from God’s word.

Collège will be working through the book of Esther, taking a look at this unique and fascinating book from the Old Testament. Lycée will be tackling the often misunderstood and hard to understand book of Revelation, as requested by several of the students. We look forward to the rich conversations that we know will ensue from these study times.

Note one change in the schedule for May: On 21 May there will only be one service, at 11h, in order to make space for ACP congregational meeting. Youth group will meet during the meeting, and we will seek to get started by about 12h30.

13 May, special event: Make your own pizza and parlor games extraordinaire. Start time and location at church will follow. Cost will be €5.

Special events: We’re still working on a date to go to an amusement park. Details to follow.

SAVE THE DATE
From 10-13 July it will be Serve the City Week at ACP. Plan to be a part of this great week, when we will join together to give back to our community and serve those most in need.

YOUNG ADULTS
We are working through a new series, called “A Major Word from the Minor Prophets.” These oft-neglected Old Testament texts have a wealth of relevancy for our modern era and we’ll be digging in to see what these prophets of old have to say to us today. We begin at 19h30 every Tuesday evening in the Catacombs.

The last Tuesday in May, we will have our final Table Talks of the season, and we are thrilled to welcome Sciences Po President Frédéric Mion to come and share with us about his life and faith.

We are looking to build a summer leadership team! If you are going to be in Paris for the summer, please let Emily, Jodi or Doug know.

We look forward to the many good times we will share before it is time to start saying goodbye to some in our groups. In the meantime, let’s get together and learn and grow and enjoy one another’s company!

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. - 2 Corinthians 4:18

Would you like to organize Bloom Where You're Planted this year?
Planning will begin soon for the 2017 event. If you are interested in taking lead or helping out, please contact Pastor Tim at associatepastor@acparis.org.

ACP Spire, May 2017
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 7 May 17h00**

*Dieuwke DAVYDOV – cello*

*Diana FANNING – piano*

**Sunday 14 May 17h00**

*Harry NOWAKOWSKI-FOX – piano*

Beethoven
Sonate No. 14 in C sharp minor « Sonate au clair de lune »
Chopin
Fantaisie en la mineur, Op 49
Schumann
Kontakta Opus 14

**Sunday 21 May 17h00**

*Pamela HOWLAND – piano*

Chopin meets The Beatles

**Sunday 28 May 17h00**

*Tien HSIEH – piano*

*BACH-LISZT*
Prélude et Fugue en la mineur, BWV 543

*LISZT*
Trois ledes de Chopin, Schubert et Schumann transcrits pour piano
Après une lecture du Doute : Fantaisie quai sonata

*SCHUBERT*
Fantaisie en ut majeur, op. 15, D. 760 « Wanderer »

*SCRIABINE*
Douze Préludes Op. 11
Family: Young Adults and Table Talks

By Emily Chesley
Youth and Young Adult Intern

“Ohana means family. Family means no one gets left behind or forgotten.” This quote from Disney’s Lilo & Stitch, about a Hawaiian girl and her alien pet, was the motto of the international student ministry I served with in college. It has also become a ministry motto of a sort, a phrase that cycles through my head and reflects my philosophy of ministry. The church is the family of God – we are family – and our ministries should feel like it.

Come to a Young Adults event at ACP and you will be struck by how vibrant and varied the community is. Like the wider church body, the young adults are striking in their diversity. They hail from six continents and 26 countries, represent all three major strands of Christianity – Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox – and speak over 15 languages between them. They are an ever-shifting group of students and young professionals. And yet despite their multiplicity they are a community united by faith and life stage, creating ohana together.

Family means fun. We have gone on hikes, had board game nights, and gone out for dinner together. Family also means empathy, being concerned about the details of each other's lives. Every Tuesday night we spend time in prayer, listening to joys and concerns, and then taking them to the Lord. Family means listening, seeking to hear one another’s ideas and opinions. Whether in Pub Theology discussions or during Tuesday Bible studies, we listen to each other’s perspectives and learn from them. Listening is the first part of loving.

Of course, the Young Adults ministry is not simply about creating a safe, comfortable space, but also about challenging each other to grow closer to Christ and to deepen our understanding of His world. One of the ways we do that is through our Table Talks series, a monthly event where we share a home-cooked meal and invite a guest speaker. Over the past year, we have had the privilege of hearing from a wide diversity of speakers: From Miss Rwanda 2014 who shared information about her foundation for genocide survivors, to an American diplomat in Paris with a passion for missions, to a French couple who serve the persecuted church through the organization Open Doors, and many others, we have seen what faith looks like in action. “Family means no one gets left behind or forgotten.”

Our last Table Talks of the programming year will be on 30 May, when we look forward to welcoming Frédéric Mion, President of Sciences Po. Sciences Po, or the Institut d'études politiques de Paris, is a premier French university and has educated the last four presidents and 13 prime ministers. Mr. Mion has been the president of Sciences Po since 2013. Christ has followers at all levels of business and education, and we are extremely honored that Mr. Mion has agreed to come speak to the Young Adults. He will share his personal story and talk about how his Christian faith has impacted his vocation. We invite all 18 to 30-year-olds to join us on Tuesday, 30 May at 19h30, for one of our last family events of the year!

Ohana means family.
And family means there is always room for one more.

Prayer Chain Team

Do you have a prayer request for our Prayer Team?
If so, please forward your prayer by e-mail to prayerrequests@acparis.org.
Your prayer request will remain strictly private and confidential.
Prayer is powerful. We are here for you.

If you would like someone to pray with you after services, a Prayer Team member is available.
Meet in the chapel next to the theater.
From pre-revolutionary Russia to the city of Detroit, and Daphne du Maurier to the city of Detroit, the adult programs at The American Library in Paris during May offer a wide variety of subjects for discussion. All of the following programs begin at 19h30 at the library at 10 rue du Général Camou, 75007 Paris.

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Will Englund, who has spent 12 years reporting from Russia, will discuss his book, *March 1917: On the Brink of War and Revolution*, on Tuesday, 2 May. The book looks at Russia 100 years ago and connects it to today’s intrigue and geopolitics.

Documentary filmmaker and Detroit native Steve Faigenbaum will screen his film, *City of Dreams*, about the rise and fall of Detroit as one of the great industrial cities of the United States, on Wednesday, 3 May. A question-and-answer period with Faigenbaum will follow the screening.

Art professor Emmanuelle Day will present a talk and slide presentation on the show, *Rodin: The Centennial Exhibition*, on Tuesday, 9 May. The exhibition is on display through 31 July at the Grand Palais and looks at Rodin as a visionary and a precursor to the modern art movements.

Lindsey Tramuta, in a conversation with *New Yorker* writer Lauren Collins, will discuss her first book, *The New Paris: The People, Places and Ideas Fueling a Movement*, on Wednesday, 10 May. The book looks at the ways Paris is changing in foods savory and sweet, in wine, coffee, pastries, design and more, and the people who are changing the image of the city. Tramuta has lived in Paris for 10 years.

Tatiana de Rosnay, author of 11 novels, will discuss her first foray into nonfiction, *Manderley Forever*, on Wednesday, 17 May. It is her biography of Daphne du Maurier, an exploration of the life of the famed English novelist and playwright, best known for the novel *Rebecca*.

Journalist and author James Kirchick will discuss his new book, *The End of Europe: Dictators, Demagogues and the Coming Dark Age*, on Tuesday, 30 May.

More information about the programs and authors is available on-line at [www.americanlibraryinparis.org](http://www.americanlibraryinparis.org).

---

**17 May Thurber Lecture**

**Shalom: Judaism & Peace**

Rabbi Tom Cohen has been Rabbi of Kehilat Gesher synagogue since 1993. From Portland, Oregon, he lives in Paris with his wife and four children. Kehilat Gesher is the only progressive, bilingual synagogue in the Paris region, offering all services in English, French, and Hebrew.

19h00: Dinner in the Thurber room

19h45-21h15: Presentation, then Q&A

All are welcome.

If dining, please bring a donation to offset costs.
Out of the shadows
The unsung genius of sculptor Camille Claudel (1864-1943) is coming into the limelight at last. Far from the current blockbuster at the Grand Palais showcasing Auguste Rodin, Claudel's mentor, lover (and nemesis), a museum dedicated to Claudel's life and work has just opened in her family's former home in Nogent-sur-Seine, 100km east of Paris. Tortured by the obsession that Rodin was out to steal her ideas, Claudel was committed to an asylum, where she died 34 years later. The new museum houses the largest collection anywhere of her poignant and powerful sculptures, some of which were actually cast only after her death. Open Tuesday-Sunday, www.museecamilleclaudel.fr

Life's little ironies in black and white
The Centre Pompidou is hosting a major retrospective of the seminal American photographer Walker Evans (1903-1975). Justly famous for his haunting, monochromatic portraits from 1930s depression and dust bowl America, Evans was also a master of tongue-in-cheek urban and roadside scenes. His eloquent, black-and-white compositions often feature disembodied commercial messages, which punctuate the rhythms of daily living to evoke an emphatic, stranger-than-fiction reality. Until 14 August, www.centrepompidou.fr

Beyond black and white
The Centre Pompidou is hosting a major retrospective of the seminal American photographer Walker Evans (1903-1975). Justly famous for his haunting, monochromatic portraits from 1930s depression and dust bowl America, Evans was also a master of tongue-in-cheek urban and roadside scenes. His eloquent, black-and-white compositions often feature disembodied commercial messages, which punctuate the rhythms of daily living to evoke an emphatic, stranger-than-fiction reality. Until 14 August, www.centrepompidou.fr

Stark contrasts
Over 100 vintage prints by photographer and cinemato-grapher Eli Lotar (1905-1969) display the Romanian-born Parisian's unerring sense of composition and his eye for quirky and often disturbing detail. His work in crisp black and white captures the living geometry of man and machine, the poetry of flesh and steel. Perhaps most striking are Lotar's photographs of the La Villette slaughterhouses, full of starkly graphic details that lend a strangely serene beauty to eminently brutal subject matter. Until 28 May 2017, www.jeudepaume.org

Dark stars
The Musée d'Orsay's arresting show "Beyond the Stars. The Mystical Landscape from Monet to Kandinsky" explores the otherworldly inspiration underlying the paintings of European greats such as Paul Gauguin, Maurice Denis and Vincent Van Gogh, and North American luminaries Georgia O'Keeffe and Emily Carr. From swirling night skies to brutal battlefields, via preternatural light-effects and ghostly figures galore, the show detects and amplifies the intimations of immortality, with cosmic reverberations echoing eerily from one canvas to another. Until 25 June, www.musee-orsay.fr

After dark in the city of light
The annual "Nuit des musées" is now a national and even a trans-European affair, but Paris remains one of the very best places to make the most of the nocturnal arts orgy. Dozens of museums both great and small stay open, free of charge, well into the night, with concerts, dance, light shows and revelry of all kinds. The Louvre will be free and open until midnight, you can explore the medieval and Roman ruins under Notre Dame until 10pm, and the home of the legendary night owl Honoré de Balzac is open until 11pm. Saturday 20 May, nuitdesmusees.culturecommunication.gouv.fr
It’s May, otherwise known in France as “a month of Sundays,” with two 3-day weekends (the holidays of 1 and 8 May) and, for those who take the pont (“bridge”), one 4-day one (25 May holiday, Ascension Thursday). To help you decide what to do on all those weekends, here are some lesser-known destinations for trips from Paris, adapted from the ACP’s 2014 *Bloom Where You’re Planted* book. The destinations are listed in order from nearest to farthest from Paris.

**Vallée de Chevreuse** – Situated in the heart of this valley, about 35 km southwest of Paris, the private Château de Breteuil features recreations of some important events that took place there, using wax mannequins of 50 historical figures. Children, cat-lovers and fans of Perrault’s fairy tales will enjoy its many exquisitely designed cat mannequins and marionettes on the daily afternoon tours.

Chateau and gardens open daily 10am to 8pm. www.breteuil.fr

**Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte** – About 50 km southeast of Paris, this superb château was the inspiration and partial model for Versailles. King Louis XIV so admired the château and became so jealous of its owner, Nicolas Fouquet, that he had him thrown into prison and decided to build an even bigger, better and more beautiful château at Versailles. Vaux is one of the largest private properties in France, and its splendid gardens cover more than 50 ha.

Open daily 25 March to 5 November, 10am to 7pm, candlelight tour Saturday evenings 6 May to 7 October. Train from Gare de l’Est to Verneuil l’Etang, then shuttle. www.vaux-le-vicomte.com

**Château de Courances** – A private estate some 50km south of Paris, dating from the 16th century, the château was largely rebuilt in the 17th century, when the formal gardens – among the most beautiful in France – were laid out. The Ecole River skirts its western boundary and provides the water for the moat and a large canal. Water is also harnessed for decorative purposes all over the garden, feeding many springs and two ornamental lakes, which lead to a lovely Japanese garden. A box *parterre de broderie* lies below the southern facade of the château. Open weekends and holidays 1 April to 1 November, 2pm to 6pm (château closes July and August but gardens stay open). RER D to Boutigny then a 14-km taxi ride. www.courances.net

Two nearby places of interest: *Milly-la-Forêt*, a charming village dear to Jean Cocteau, who decorated a chapel there where he is now buried, and whose home can be visited; and *Soisy-sur-Ecole*, with a glass factory where one can watch glassblowers at work and browse in the shop. www.verrerie-soisy.fr
long weekends

By Rebecca Brite

Gerberoy – With its roses, cobbled streets and time-honored architecture, this ancient village a little over 100km northeast of Paris is classified among the most beautiful in France. Wander the ramparts, visit the collégiale and enjoy a French country meal in one of the two restaurants. Guided tours are available March to October www.gerberoy.net
Gerberoy makes a good stopping off place if one is driving to Amiens to see its 13th-century cathedral, France’s largest.

Verdun – About 260km east of Paris, reachable in an hour and 40 minutes by train and bus, is Verdun with its somber reminders of World War I: nearly 15,000 American war graves, a memorial tower, cloisters, an ossuary and the Bayonet Trench Memorial. The Unknown Soldier who lies under the Arc de Triomphe in Paris was chosen from among the dead of Verdun. By train: TGV from Gare de l’Est to Meuse TGV station, then regional bus. www.verdun-tourisme.com
On the way by car is Reims, famous for its Gothic cathedral and its Champagne.

Mirecourt – Located about 350km east of Paris, this town is historically famous for its stringed instrument and lace-makers. Violinists and cellists from around the world still travel to Mirecourt to buy their instruments. The mairie, a beautiful 16th-century building, has a violin museum. The other great achievement of Mirecourt is its lace and embroidery work, renowned outside Lorraine as early as the 16th century. The advent of lace-making machines dealt a blow to this craft but it is still practiced for luxury items.
Other buildings of interest include the Chapelle de la Oultre (11th to 16th centuries); the Église Notre-Dame, founded in 1303 and enlarged in the 17th century, with exhibits from Lorraine artists; and Les Grandes Halles (fairs and markets), built in 1618. Three hours by train: TGV from Gare de l’Est to Nancy, then local train.
SAUMÉDI 13 MAI 2017, 20H

A CAPPPELLA CHAMBER CHOIR OF THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS
CHOEUR DE CHAMBRE À CAPPPELLA DE L'ÉGLISE AMÉRICaine À PARIS

directed by Caroline Drury

JEILIO MENDLSJOHN HOGAN
BIEBL KUTEV MAkArOFF
RUNESTAD PALESTRINA
ESENVALDS

ENSEMBLE LUMINA

The American Church in Paris
65 QUAI D'ORSAY, 75007 PARIS
€€€ Invalides €€€ ALMA-MARCEAU
ENTREE LIBRE (PARTICIPATION AUX FRAIS) FREE ADMISSION (FREE-WILL OFFERING)
The new and improved
Excellence Computer Technology Center

By Destiny Ansah

ACP Missionary
I am proud to say that I am your missionary. Volunteered with Habitat for Humanity to build and renovate homes for the needy three years straight in Poland, Portugal and Hungary. Took two missionary trips to Elmina, Ghana to support ACP’s missionary there with his ministry. Partnered to organized a wonderful Soulz Musical Fundraiser which raised $2,500 for him and his family. While in Ghana, not only did I fall in love with the country and its people, but I noticed a serious lack of resources for children to learn computer skills.

One day a few months later, I felt the calling to step up and fill the technology gap! In 2012, I invested every penny I owned into moving to Ghana to create a computer center. Filling the need of the Afrangua community, a very small village of 1,000 people, for a place where kids could learn computer education hands-on.

At the Excellence Computer Technology Center (Foundation), we created a place where students can take computer classes, coding workshops, and art classes during school vacations, fostering both practical skills and creative mindsets.

I can confidently say it was an amazing grace! The classes are still going strong and we even created a nursery program in English for the toddlers.

Our vision is to continue to create a community of educated, creative, and innovative children and youth by providing a safe environment to develop skills through nursery classes in English, technology, and the arts. We have established the center in Ghana, offered computer classes since 2012 and the nursery classes since 2013. It’s time to update our center and we need your support!

What We Need
1. Funding to relocate the computer classroom to the Afrangua Primary School land, opening the opportunity for the students to learn more often. The ECTF Center’s current location is a few minutes’ walk from the school so the students need to leave the school, come to us at the computer center and return to the school after the lesson.

2. The primary school does not have room to host the computer classroom so we are going to purchase a 40ft shipping container and create a portable computer classroom. The idea was created by a company in South Africa.

3. Our 18 computers were purchased used in 2012 and we are thankful that 12 are still working. It’s time to replace them for a newer ‘used’ set of computers. Windows Vista cannot even be installed on them. The students deserve to learn on a newer system and software applications. Also, we will purchase additional classroom desks, chairs and a printer.

4. The nursery class, children 2 to 5 years old, will move into the old computer classroom at the EDTF center. Bright fresh paint, beautiful alphabet and numbering posters and wall décor will be purchased to enhance their learning experience. Our nursery class is the FIRST in the village outside of the primary school. We set our standards high so the students will be more than ready for kindergarten.

5. ECTF has five faithful employees making our classes run smoothly! It would not be possible without these Ghanaian ladies. They have married and started families throughout the years, but have never left my side. The volunteer salary is not enough at this point. They deserve and need to receive at least minimum wage to support their families. Your donations will go to THEM!

The Impact
Ghana has been independent for over 60 years but the government rarely distributes funding to the schools, especially to the village schools like this one. While public education is improving, there are very few resources available. This especially

Continued.../...
applies to kids who are interested in the arts or hands-on computer classes, neither of which is generally offered in public schools in Ghana. Computer skills are becoming increasingly important in the modern workplace everywhere.

Above all, we want to foster creativity as well as to provide the tangible benefits of technology and nursery classes, thus creating a community of driven, educated, creative children and youth. The community in Afrangua has loved the ECTF Center from day one and continues their enthusiasm towards our classes.

**Update: Renovations for the lift**

On 20 May, the masonry work is expected to be done. The platform will be set up in July, soon after the schools take a break for the summer on 8 July. We will take advantage of the school break to do the main work on the project. It will take about eight weeks for the platform to be completed.

By 14 July, the lift should be in place and working, although some minor adjustments may be needed. Hopefully, the project will be completed by the end of July.

- Daniel Grout, property committee

**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.

**Other Ways You Can Help**

Every little bit counts especially since a dollar goes much farther in Ghana than you’d expect. But even if you can’t contribute, we’d love for you to support us in other ways! We’re always looking for people to help contribute ideas, spread the word, encourage donors, and support our movement in any way.

May God richly bless you!

*Please note that donations to this ministry can be made here: [www.gofundme.com/ECTFRevival](http://www.gofundme.com/ECTFRevival)*

---

**The Movie Discussion Group**

19h30, Thursday 18 May, room G2

This month’s movies to see beforehand: *Après la tempête* by Hirokazu Koreeda, *A Quiet Passion* by Terence Davies, *I Am Not Your Negro* by Raoul Peck, and *The Idol (Le Chanteur de Gaza)* by Hany Abu-Assad. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion. Contact: movies@acparis.org
"It was like emptying myself and receiving from Him." That's how ACP member Buki Kogbe describes this year’s women's retreat. The retreat focused on Christ's love and getting closer to Him through the prayer tool of the labyrinth. Rev. Jill Geoffrion led the women in a day of labyrinth walks, fellowship, and prayer, Saturday 22 April.

Of the 60 women in attendance, fewer than five had ever walked a labyrinth in prayer before. The women came open, ready to learn, and God responded. Labyrinths had been set up at five spots around the church, and women got over two hours of quiet time with Him alone. During the day, Jill noted, “God is really at work here. God is speaking to each person in a way that they need. The women are open-hearted and receptive to each other and God.”

Many women did not know what to expect with the labyrinth tool, but everyone seemed pleasantly surprised. ACP member and labyrinth-walker Ashleigh Searle-Picq said, "Every time you brushed shoulders with someone, you felt solidarity. It's a God thing." Mei Lun Xue, who also attended the retreat, called it "a rare time to slow down and learn from God."

Aside from learning about and walking the labyrinths, the women ate, talked, sang, and prayed together. At the day’s end, the women gathered together in a circle and shared their experiences and thoughts. Some women cried; some women laughed; all women gave praise and thanks to Christ.

Many, many people worked in various ways to make the retreat a success. Friends and members of ACP served, cleaned, taught children, cooked food, moved tables, made programs, reserved rooms, photocopied, traveled, prayed,Shopped, and organized. All in all, this year's women's retreat was a glorious time, a time when women were blessed with much help from many people, as well as teaching from Jill, fellowship with each other, and quiet time with our Lord. All praise and thanks to Jesus!

For more information about the ACP women's ministry, visit the women's ministry page on ACP’s website, www.acparis.org or email us at women@acparis.org.

Sunday Women’s Fellowship
Sunday, 14 May
12h15-13h30, Thurber Room

Sunday 14 May, ACP Young Adults intern Emily Chesley will speak on Christian ascetics known as the Desert Fathers. Emily will highlight some major themes from these teachings and discuss how they can help us glean insights for our own lives of faith. Emily is a Master of Divinity student at Princeton Theological Seminary and has focused her studies on early church history and monasticism.

All women are welcome. Coffee and tea are provided, and free childcare is available on the basement level.

Would you like to propose articles, write, proofread, do layout or take photos? Contact Alison Benney at Spire@acparis.org. Note: Deadline for the June Spire is Friday, 19 May.
Life at Deep Griha

By Pascale Deforge

The Deep Griha Society (DGS) is an independent charitable organization that focuses on nutrition and education programs, including: Child, Youth & Women Empowerment; Medical & Health Care; Disha (HIV/AIDS awareness); and Rural Empowerment. It works to better the lives of people living in the slums of Pune, India’s seventh largest city, situated about 160km from Mumbai. For more information, see the ACP website: acparis.org/deep-griha-society or www.deepgriha.org.

Do you know the story of these little sewing machines?

Three years ago I met a man during a Blablacar trip and talked with him about Deep Griha sewing projects. Afterward, he gave me four small sewing machines!

At the airport check-in, my luggage with these machines was too heavy! I prayed to God, asking him to do something if he wanted these machines to be in Pune.

I do not know what happened but the lady at the check-in counter told me that it was OK and that the luggage was going directly to Pune! Without charging me anything...

This year, finally we brought them by rickshaw to the slum and we use them for our training!

Every day Sunita from the DGS staff reads the Bible in Marathi for the group. Sometimes I pray in English but usually Sunita prays in Marathi. The women ask her to pray in their language.

Every morning, we (Sunita and Kusum from Deep Griha NGO, and myself) go by rickshaw to the slum of Bibvewad.

The Deep Griha center at Bibvewadi is very small: one room down and one room up (but with no windows). We eat every day while the babies at the crèches are sleeping.

Every day, Sonalie keeps my lunch box in her fridge because there is no other fridge in the community... And you know what? I found out that Sonalie happens to be Christian! God has an angel for us.
As the weather warms, the days lengthen – the annual spring rite of cleaning house and home beckons! It is a desire to do away with dust and cobwebs, to bring in freshness and space to our interiors. More than just tidying up, spring cleaning evokes cathartic cleansing.

In the 19th century families took advantage of improved weather to empty their homes of all furniture and belongings to scrub away all of the soot and grime from the walls left after heating a home with whale oil, coal or wood. A necessary purification, indeed!

The origins of spring cleaning may relate back even further to the Jewish custom of cleaning house before Passover. Passover marks the beginning of a seven-day observance of the Days of Unleavened Bread, in remembrance of Israelites flight from captivity in Egypt. During this time Jews eat unleavened bread – matzah – to remember the bread they ate as slaves in Egypt. Eating bread or food prepared with yeast, even keeping it in your home, is considered an affront. To prepare for this sacred observance, the Jewish tradition is to undergo a deep cleaning of the home and ensure that not even a crumb of leavened bread is found.

Spring cleaning may start by tracking down crumbs and lead to a top-to-bottom dusting, spritzing, and wiping down every surface of your home! It is also a time to sort, organize and get rid of belongings that may no longer be of need or use in your home. After your purge, rather than leave piles of unwanted stuff out on the curb – taking away from the beauty of the City of Light and putting yourself at risk of a hefty fine - consider donating your used clothes, toys, and electronics.

Here are some organizations that collect, sort, recycle, and give new life to donations from individuals in Paris.

**CLOTHES**

Le Relais
http://www.lerelais.org
Tel: 03 21 01 77 66
Le Relais, a member of Emmaüs France, has containers throughout France where you can deposit clothes and linens, shoes, small leather goods (handbags, belts). Your items must be placed in small (50L max), tightly closed bags to avoid the items getting lost or dirty. Shoes should be attached. If possible separate linens from clothes to help the sorters. Six percent of clothing collected is resold in one of the 73 Dring Fring clothing shops in France. A large portion is sent to Africa and the rest is used to make eco-friendly insulation.

**TOYS**

Rejoué
http://rejoue.asso.fr
Tel: 01 40 52 54 15
Launched in 2012, Rejoué is an association that collects toys from individuals and companies, sorts them, cleans them, then packages them to sell at low prices in Rejoué stores. They hire a team of 52 people in difficulty to help sort and clean the toys and manage the store located in the Centre commercial Galerie Gaité in the 14th. You can bring your toys to the Rejoué Workshop, 14 rue du Général Humbert 75014.

**ELECTRONICS**

Ecodair
01.44.65.07.77
http://www.ordinateur-occasion.com/
Laptops computers and other IT material can be donated to Ecodair, a company located in the 18th arrondissement that hires physically handicapped people to recondition and resell the material at a low cost. Ecodair accepts computers, screens, printers, televisions, cell phones, photocopiers, fax machines and other electronic parts. Not only does Ecodair provide long-term employment opportunities for handicapped people, it also allows schools, retirement homes and NGOs to purchase IT equipment at a lower cost.
Warm Easter Greetings from the ACP Council!

Each year, the American Church in Paris gathers together to celebrate the blessings from the year, and memorialize the completion of another Council term. As the Church celebrates the Easter season with the promise of Hope of New Life in the Resurrection, the ACP Council celebrates the completion of a year’s work by proposing new leadership candidates to the congregation for affirmation. This annual renewal of leadership acts as an exciting reminder and reassurance that the Lord’s work will continue in Paris and in the lives of our community, under the prayerful leadership of the men and women called to serve on the upcoming Council.

This year, as in years past, the election of leadership will take place at the second semi-annual church-wide congregational meeting, scheduled for 21 May, immediately following the 11h00 service. In addition to the election of the 2017-2018 Council, the Congregation will also be given the opportunity to hear from the Council on the stewardship activities and ministries carried out in the past year. This is an excellent time for each member of the Congregation to reflect upon his or her personal walk of faith over the past year and to meditate on the amazing work God has called ACP to do in our city.

The Council will also present the 2017-2018 budget, based on the financial projections for the year, and in line with the mission and vision of each ministry and committee represented in Council. Again, this is an excellent opportunity for each one of us to look forward to the new Council term with hope and joy for the exciting work ahead, and to prayerfully consider where God may be leading us to actively contribute our gifts and talents in the next year.

Finally, we are excited to receive an update from Pastor Tim Vance on the congregational reflections shared in our first semi-annual meeting. This will be the next step in continuing a healthy dialogue among the congregation on our spiritual needs and the vision of ACP.

It is not often that we have the opportunity to join our ACP brothers and sisters in a unified meeting of celebration and planning. I encourage each of you to join us for this important meeting as we thank God for a prosperous year, and show our commitment to His vision for Paris by affirming our next generation of leaders with thankfulness and prayer.
ACP Youth Music Program
By Sara Barton

We’ve had a wonderful year and we’re not finished yet!
The Youth Music Program now includes the Son-Day
Children’s choir which rehearses on select Sundays during
the Sunday school hour. These children have added an extra
dimension of joy to the ACP youth music program and have joined the Angel and Spirit Choirs in singing anthems
on several Sundays throughout the school year. All children are welcome to sing in the Son-Day choir: if you would
like information or would like to participate please sign up through the Children’s worship program by contacting
childrensworship@acparis.org.

In December we had the chance to participate again in a recording session with Bob Sinclar, which was a wonderful
opportunity to see how a professional song recording is made.

Last year the ACP children’s choirs performed a concert at the Mairie of the 7th arrondissement as part of the
annual English Forum program. We must have made a good impression, because we have been invited back!

Please join us for our concert at the Mairie of the 7th on Wednesday,
17 May at 18h45. The concert will feature favorite anthems and
selections from the musical we are preparing for our Spring Concert at
ACP.

Swiftly following this concert, we are excited to present our first full-length
children’s musical “Life is Good” at ACP on Saturday, 3 June at
19hoo. This show features acting, singing, rapping, dancing, wonderful
costumes and a message to remember based on John 16:33b “In this world
you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Bible
characters such as Jonah, Noah, Job, David and many others are brought
to life in fun songs and dramatic sketches, and when the kids discover the real joy of the Lord, they finally agree
that ”Life is Good!”

We hope you will join us! Contact ymusic@acparis.org with any questions.

What’s going on? Tune in: ACP Today

Have you tuned in to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show yet? Join us on
Mondays at 20h45 – this month on 1 and 15 May. The 45-minute program is an exciting
and inspiring mix of music, interviews, sermon highlights, and discussion on hot topics.

We’re at 100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante, and we broadcast especially for friends
who may be housebound or who would simply like more devotional time on a Monday
evening. Don’t like the radio? Listen online at http://frequenceprotestante.com or tune in at your leisure via the ACP
website.

Friends and visitors, what better way to keep in touch with the ACP family and learn about the latest ACP news? All
our shows are downloaded within 48 hours to our website, at www.acparis.org/ceptoday. Faith Talk from Paris – it’s
a kind of souvenir that never gets old.

If you have any questions, comments, ideas or would like to contribute to the show, be sure to contact us at
ceptoday@acparis.org.
On 16 June we will be returning to the Abbaye-Fleury, a historic Benedictine monastery on the banks of the Loire about two hours from Paris. The theme of the retreat will be “Companions on the Inner Way,” and will be led by Visiting Pastor Jeff Powell and Alba Powell. The retreat will explore how we as a community of Christ-followers share in the daily rhythm of life that is immersed in prayer, Bible reading and reflection, and spiritual fellowship.

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.
French language classes

French classes are held on (most) Saturdays at ACP, from 17h to 18h30. They are taught by two native French speakers, Francois and Yasmina.

The class is intended for beginners who are committed to learning French. In addition to class attendance, personal effort and engagement are required. Attendance is limited to 20. The sign-up fee is €30, and a book purchase is necessary. There is no age or nationality restriction.

If you are here for several years, or if you want to obtain working papers, a knowledge of French will be required. Think of shopping, visits to City Hall or the Prefecture, hospitals, schooling for your children, employment.

We cannot stress too much that learning a new language requires significant work. There is no such thing as “French made easy.” Therefore, consider carefully if you are ready to make that commitment. Weekly attendance is a requirement and ongoing progress is expected.

If you are interested, send your personal data (name, address, phone, nationality) to fkpierre@gmail.com.

Venice has always been a magical place for me. Like a mirage, the city emerges in the middle of the lagoon, all bell tower and domes, gilded and glistening against the blue water. Through its strong maritime trade, political savvy, and diplomacy, Venice was a world power for almost 1,000 years. Nicknamed “La Serenissima” or “The Most Serene,” Venice became legendary for its events, festivals, and celebrations, which peaked at the moment the city was in decline. This paradox is the subject of “Serenissima... Venice in celebration, from Tiepolo to Guardi,” a temporary exhibit at the Cognacq-Jay museum.

The exhibit is divided into four themes. It begins with "Great and small rejoicings," displaying the receptions, balls, concerts, and dinners that were organized by the aristocracy, while the working class had their card games, music events, and private parties.

"From the city to the stage" explores the Venetian love of performing arts. A proliferation of theaters and music halls were constructed after the Renaissance and the political Council of 10 gave permission for the performance of comedies in 1509. Known for commedia dell’arte, Venice was also the hometown of the playwright Carlo Goldoni, and the acclaimed castrato Farinelli performed in Venice.

The theme "Power as Spectacle" shows how Venice capitalized on its unique setting to stage grandiose events. Be it receptions for visiting dignitaries, religious events, or ceremonial rituals, Venice was unparalleled in pomp and pageantry. Armadas of gondolas, boats, and assorted floating vessels, all decorated to the hilt, are captured in numerous etchings and engravings.

The final theme is none other than "At the Carnival," an event now synonymous with the City of the Doges. The first mention of Carnival dates back to 1094, and by the 16th century its reputation as an “anything goes” event, augmented of course by the fact that everyone was masked, attracted tourists from all over Europe and beyond.

The exhibit pulls together about 60 works from Venetian Masters, including Tiepolo, Guardi, Longhi, and Canaletto.

Through 25 June, Musée Cognacq-Jay, 8 rue Elzevir, 75003

By Karen Marin

Serenissima
Venice in celebration, from Tiepolo to Guardi
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Time(s)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Organizer/Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 30 Apr</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert CASSIDY – piano</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Labor Day / Fête du Travail</strong></td>
<td>Monday 1 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>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 1 May</td>
<td>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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young Adults – Pub Theology</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 3 May</td>
<td>19h30-21h</td>
<td></td>
<td>Emily Chesley <a href="mailto:youthintern@acparis.org">youthintern@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Wednesday of every month, meet in a local pub for theological discussion about current events.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ThirtyPlus Adult Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Friday 5 May</td>
<td>From 20h</td>
<td></td>
<td>Daphne <a href="mailto:30plusfellowship@acparis.org">30plusfellowship@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singles and pairs, join us for fellowship every first Friday of the month in a lounge cafe setting.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 7 May</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dieuwke DAVYDOV – cello; Diana FANNING – piano</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WWII Victory in Europe (VE) Day / Fête de la Victoire</strong></td>
<td>Monday 8 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>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 12 May</td>
<td>10h-14h</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>Women's Monthly Saturday Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 13 May</td>
<td>14h-17h</td>
<td>G2</td>
<td>Elodie Mbette <a href="mailto:womenssaturdays@acparis.org">womenssaturdays@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All women are invited to this time of fellowship and a discussion on “the importance of love letters.” There will be a potluck meal, bring a dish to share.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writers Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 13 May</td>
<td>14h30-16h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tendayi Chirawu <a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Ministry Scavenger hunt</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 13 May</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gather at church to make our own pizzas followed by a city Scavenger hunt. Cost is 5€.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concert – Ensemble Lumina</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 13 May</td>
<td>20h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Caroline Drury <a href="mailto:lumina@acparis.org">lumina@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ACP chamber choir will sing compositions from Schütz and Palestrina, to Mendelssohn and Rheinberger, to lush contemporary works and Spirituals. Free admission, with free-will offering.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother’s Day (United States)</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 14 May</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women’s Monthly Sunday Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 14 May</td>
<td>12h15-13h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Teri Lee Valluy <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACP intern Emily Chesley will speak on Christian ascetics known as the Desert Fathers. All women are welcome at our monthly fellowship. Free childcare is provided.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth@Noon</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 14 May</td>
<td>12h15 - 13h15</td>
<td>G2</td>
<td>Doug Fondell, <a href="mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org">youthpastor@acparis.org</a>; Jodi Fondell <a href="mailto:interimyouthpastor@acparis.org">interimyouthpastor@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 14 May</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry NOWAKOWSKI-FOX – piano</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### ACP Spire Diary – May 2017

#### events, meetings & concerts (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>20h45-21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Lecture – Rabbi Tom Cohen</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>19h Dinner;</td>
<td>Tim Vance associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shalom: Judaism and Peace</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>19h45 Lecture Thurber Room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbi Cohen serves Kehilat Gesher, the only progressive, bilingual synagogue in</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Paris region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19h30 Room G2 (or courtyard, weather permitting)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This month’s movie listings: <em>Après la tempête</em>, <em>A Quiet Passion</em>, *I Am Not Your</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Negro*, <em>The Idol (Le Chanteur de Gaza)</em>. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefit Concert – Habitat for Humanity</strong></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>20h</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite <a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Johannes BRAHMS, Liebeslieder Waltzes Op. 52</strong></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An evening of music, inspiration and fun to raise funds for the Habitat for</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanity mission. Tickets available at <a href="http://www.billetweb.fr/habitat-pour-lhumanite">www.billetweb.fr/habitat-pour-lhumanite</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concert – The University Singers</strong></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>20h</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The choir from Southwestern Adventist University (Keene, Texas) will present a</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>program that includes music by Bach, Vierne, Forrest, Ešenvalds and Spirituals.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Combined Worship Service and Annual Congregational Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>11h worship</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela HOWLAND – piano</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ascension Day / Ascension</strong></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church house and office closed for public holiday.</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefit Concert – A Latin American in Paris</strong></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>20h</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Survier FLORES - violin; Laetitia FEDERICI - piano</strong></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>20h</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports the association “A Latin American in Paris” which brings promising young violinists from Guatemala to Paris for study.</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multicultural Couples BBQ</strong></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>From 12h;</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.</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>rsvp for location and details</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women’s Monthly Saturday Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>15h-17h G2</td>
<td>Elodie Mbette womenssaturdays @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a month Elodie Mbette leads a Bible study with the theme “Love as a daily decision, action, and commitment: a reflection on love” based on 1 Corinthians 13.</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother’s Day (France) / Fête des mères</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tien HSIEH – piano</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young Adults – Table Talks</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>19h30-21h</td>
<td>Emily Chesley youthintern @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frédéric Mion, the President of Sciences Po</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the last Tuesday of the month, meet to share a meal, hear from a guest speaker, and get to know one another in a more intentional setting.</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ACP Spire, May 2017** 27
THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS and the
ROTARY CLUB PARIS CHAMPS ELYSEES
and ROTARACT PARIS CHAMPS ELYSEES
present

A concert in support of

**Habitat for Humanity**

which seeks to put God’s love into action by bringing people together
to build homes, communities and hope for the poor.

![Images of performers]

**Johannes BRAHMS**

*Liebestieder Walzes, Op. 52*

- Caroline DRURY soprano
- Britta GLÆSER mezzo-soprano
- Vladimir MARIC tenor
- Tomasz SADOWNIK baritone
- Laurana MITCHEMLORE and Yulia LEVIN piano

**Friday 19 May 2017 at 20h**

At the American Church in Paris, 65 quai d’Orsay 75007 Paris

Followed by a cocktail reception, this special concert is a gift. However we must count on your generosity. All donations by check for a minimum of 100€ will receive a tax receipt (réduction de l’IRPP de 66% du don limité à 20% du revenu). We also welcome sponsorship. Our heartfelt thanks for your participation.

Tickets may also be purchased on-line : https://www.billetweb.fr/habitat-pour-lhumanite

---

**Reservation form / payment by Check**

Number of tickets x 30€ = _______ € (Please make your check payable to FACCP–Habitat)

I regret I am unable to attend but am sending a gift of: _______ €

Last name_________________________ First name_________________________

Address ___________________________ Email ___________________________

Please return the form and check to : RCPCE c/o D. ROUSSEAU - 14, rue Daru - 75008 Paris

*Please help recycle this publication. When you’re through reading it, instead of tossing it in the bin, return it to the Welcome desk.*