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On the cover: Morning view toward the ACP from the Pont de l’Alma
Thoughts from
The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

Paul writes in Ephesians 3:20-21, “Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

I love these verses because they are both a beautiful benediction as well as a powerful theological affirmation. Paul affirms that God is “at work within us.” As we approach the American holiday of Thanksgiving, I want to invite you to give thanks to God for the many ways that God is at work in your life. Consider the blessings of life that we too often take for granted: the gift of fresh air to breathe, of sight and sound, smell and taste; the gift of running water and a safe place to sleep; food and clothing; family and friends; and the reminder that whether in life or in death, we have a loving Savior in Jesus Christ. If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can’t buy!

I invite you also to give thanks for the different ways in which God is at work in our congregation, whether in the various worship services each Sunday, the Children’s Worship, the beautiful music, the fellowship times after services, the mission work each Friday at the Mission Lunch or with Serve the City, the provocative lectures we have had over the year to help us reflect more deeply on what it means to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God,” and the various small groups that have been going for years or are just getting started.

We will be celebrating Thanksgiving this month in a number of ways at the ACP. Please plan to join us for a service of worship that will welcome Christian, Jewish, and Muslim neighbors in giving thanks to God for all of the blessings we have received. Come to the ACP Thursday, 26 November at 12h15 and join us for a very special inter-faith service of worship. On Thanksgiving evening, we will also be hosting again over 400 American University in Paris students for Thanksgiving Dinner; and on Saturday, 28 November, enjoying two seatings of a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner together as a church family. Please see more about how to get your Thanksgiving dinner tickets later in this issue or on our website!

As we remember God’s goodness and love toward us, we also take time this month to reflect on Stewardship. I love stewardship, as it is an integral part of discipleship. This year we are trusting God by the power at work within us to do exceedingly far more than we can ask or imagine. There is such a need for the unique ministry of the ACP, and our theme this year is, “More for Christ!” We hope that you will prayerfully take the challenge to give an additional 1% more of your household income this year over what you gave last year. Christian Bovée, a mid-19th century American author once said, “Examples are few of men ruined by giving.” It is my belief that God invites us to give more so that we can learn more of God’s power to multiply blessings for all.

Over the first four Sundays of November, we will reflect on stewardship together, and on 22 November will gather for Dedication Sunday, when we will make our own financial commitment to support the ministry and mission of God’s church. Remember what Billy Graham said, “A checkbook is a theological document; it will tell you who and what you worship.”

I look forward to this special time of Thanks and Giving. To God be the glory!

In Christ,

Thoughts from
The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor

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In Christ,
Thurber Thursdays
5, 12, 19 November with Nicky Gumbel

"A Life Worth Living" is a 9-session video course by Nicky Gumbel which explores the New Life in Christ, as presented by Paul in Philippians. This course is ideal for those who are starting out as Christians or those wanting to review the basics of the Christian life.

The video presentation is followed by discussion in small groups. All adults welcome.

Thurber Thursdays
18h30: Dinner in the Thurber room
19h30-21h00: Presentation, then Q&A
All are welcome.
If dining, please bring a donation to offset costs.

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.

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8
Dear friends,

No doubt, this time of year we reflect on those people, experiences, and things for which we are thankful. I relish opportunities to reminisce with family over the year’s blessings. Often when we reflect on the whole year, we are able to see a bigger picture upon which we are able to paint large strokes of thankfulness onto the canvases of our lives.

It is certainly that way with parenting. It has been said of parenting that “the days are long but the years are short.” Parenting in the midst of everyday life is often difficult, sometimes confusing, and beyond tiring, but then we blink... And our kids have grown. Like everything, parenting is for a season – and when we reflect on years instead of days, we realize how quickly that season and those years pass. Even so, it’s difficult to be thankful for everything, every single day. When we’re down in the trenches getting dirty, we can find ourselves living day to day, getting bogged down in what is difficult and beyond our control.

Those day-to-day things can be exhausting and trying. I confess that even as an adoring mother, I struggle with being thankful for everything that happens daily. I tend to give the side eye to those parents who claim they are thankful for absolutely everything about parenting. Really? I cannot remember the last time I was thankful for a temper tantrum in the middle of the grocery store. At least, not in the midst of it.

Perhaps that makes me a bad parent or a weak Christian, but I’m not afraid to admit that in the midst of difficult parenting days, I get frustrated, discouraged, and am not always thankful. These are the times when I am most thankful for my husband, my own parents, good friends, and the great cloud of witnesses surrounding me. In the times when I struggle to be thankful, I have the thankfulness, love, and support of the saints to boost me, encourage me, and hold my hand through the valleys.

For this great gift, I find myself extremely thankful. Through the muck and mire of everyday life I know that I am a small part of a bigger picture – one in which the thankfulness, love, and grace acted out by God’s children bring heaven a little closer to earth. When we share our thankfulness with those around us, we follow the way of Jesus and we might just (unknowingly!) boost someone else’s spirit. On the days that we can share the thankfulness that overflows in us, we have the opportunity to permeate someone else’s heart – maybe a broken, lonely, or grieving heart that can’t carry thankfulness on its own.

This graceful way of “communal thankfulness” opens for us a way to be thankful when we cannot do it alone. That is, after all, the message of the gospel, isn’t it? Jesus did for us what we could not do for ourselves. As his followers, it is our responsibility to allow his grace to flow out of us to bless others. That is our work as disciples and the fruit of his saving grace in us. No, we cannot do it alone. We need Jesus. We need each other. And we need the testimony of the saints past, present, and future to complete the bigger God-painted picture.

My prayer for us this “Thanksgiving” season is that we might carry each other toward a greater thankfulness – on the days when that task is easy, and on the days when it is not.

Benedictions,
Michelle
All are invited to come and give thanks at the Community Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Day Service at the ACP, Thursday, 26 November at 12h15. A brief reception will follow, with kosher and halal snacks provided. All are welcome!

Bible readings for November

1 November 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 26(31) All Saints Sunday
Ruth 1:1-18 or Deuteronomy 6:1-9;
Psalm 146 or Psalm 119:1-8;
Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34;
Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24;
Revelation 21:1-6a;
John 11:32-44

8 November 24th Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 27(32)
Matthew 6:19-24
Psalm 127 or Psalm 146
II Corinthians 9:6-15

15 November 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 28(33)
1 Samuel 1:4-20 or Daniel 12:1-3
1 Samuel 2:1-10 or Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

22 November 26th Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 29(34) Reign of Christ (Mission)
2 Samuel 23:1-7 or Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18) or Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

29 November 1st Sunday of Advent
Jeremiah 33:14–16
Psalm 25:1–10
1 Thessalonians 3:9–13
The 1% challenge

The Rev. Dr. Jeff Powell
Associate Pastor

Can I get something off my chest?

For 39 years the most frustrating part of my life has been serving on the payroll of a local church at financial pledging time.

The work of Christ has such importance in today’s world. Surely there is no cause with a higher priority. Faith is crucial to family life, and spiritual issues are at the center of the human agenda. Never before was the calling of God’s people a more needful heritage. Never before was faith a more important gift for our families’ future, laden with the meaning of life itself.

Here is my frustration at financial pledging time: I learned to tithe in the 4th grade Sunday School class of Central Presbyterian Church of Huntington, New York. As I grew up, one penny out of ten earned on my paper route and other jobs was for the Lord. Old-fashioned religion?

Over my years of pastoral service in local Christian churches, I have been paid for my occupational pursuits in the midst of the congregation. But my VOCATION, my calling, not my occupation, is what brings the dividend of joy to my life. And the stewardship of my income is part of my VOCATION – the VOCATION that you and I share – to follow Jesus Christ, and to live as God’s people in today’s world.

I tithe my pastoral compensation and give 90% of that tithe to the church that I serve. The other 10% goes to other institutions that serve the vocational goals of God’s people.

Now, my candid hope is that you will do that too! Or at least work up to it a little at a time. A tithe (une dime, en francais) is ultimately fair; it goes up and down with your income, and it clarifies the priority of our Christian vocation and faith as over against other values in our lives.

Here’s my frustration: You think I’m talking about money, when I’m talking about joyous, purposeful Christian life.

Now if I asked everyone to begin tithing, giving 10% of their income to ACP today, I think many people would find that hard to swallow. Someone once asked, “How do you eat an elephant?” The answer is “one bite at a time.” So what would a bite-sized financial challenge be for us today? I challenge you to increase your giving to the American Church in Paris by 1% of your 2016 household income over what you gave in 2015.

I did a little research on my computer and found out that the median household income for a family in Paris is €36,085. Half the people make less than that amount and half the people make more. Now at ACP I think that there are a good number of people who probably make more, so that is a plus. Jean-Michel, our accountant, gave me only numbers, no names, showing that there are 252 donors of record, 252 giving units or households who receive donation reporting for their taxes. There a lot more people who contribute to the offering, but are not givers of record. I am speaking to everyone now, however you give.

The median donation to ACP is only €353 in a year. Equal number of persons give above and below that number. If we take the €36,085 median income, the donation of €353 a year is less than 1% of household income. That is not a tithe: it is 1/10 of a tithe. I believe we can do better than that.

What I am asking is for everyone to step up 1% in giving. If you are giving 1% of income then move to 2%, or if you are giving 6% then move to 7%, or if you are already giving 10% to increase that to 11%. The ultimate goal should be to grow towards a tithe and beyond.

For a person with the median income, that is an increase of giving over the 2015 giving level that amounts to €360, about one more euro a day, less than a cup of expresso coffee. Most people here can do that. If your household income is €72,000 a year, twice the median income, that would be an increase of €720 over the giving level of 2015.

There is definitely room for growth in our financial giving to ACP. So I invite you to take the challenge “At least 1% more for Christ in 2016”.

In the Joy of His Service,

Jeff
Stewardship: Keeping the Lord’s hall
By John Tynan

Steward comes from the Old English (OE) “stig” (= hall) and “weard” (=keeper), i.e. the keeper of the lord’s hall. It shares a common origin with the word “lord”: “loaf ward” relating to the feudal lord’s responsibility for the safeguarding of the common granaries and for the feeding of his people. It, in turn, comes from the OE “haefweard”, or, as simplified: “hlaford” which early Christian teachers used to translate the Latin word for “master.”

The Stewards
A Breton named Alan fitz Flaad and his son, Flaad fitz Alain, came to England with William the Conqueror. Flaad was from the hereditary Dapifers of Dol (near Mont St Michel). A dapifer meant “he who served meat at the master’s table,” but with time, the role expanded to the complete stewardship of his lord’s affairs.

The grandson, Alan fitz Flaad, attracted the attention of Henry I of England for his management skills and, in turn, his son Walter’s talents were noted by King David of Scotland when visiting Henry. Walter was invited to become the first High Steward of Scotland in 1136 and King Malcolm IV in 1157 granted hereditary status to the title.

Family surnames first began to be used around the 13th century. These were often related to a person’s profession and so the first of the family to be so recognized was Walter Stewart, the 3rd High Steward, the “t” having replaced the “d” probably by simple clerical error.

The sixth High Steward, also a Walter Stewart, married Robert the Bruce’s daughter, Marjorie; their son, following the earlier death of a senior claimant, became Robert II of Scotland and the first of the Stewart Dynasty. “Stewart” remained the family name for a further six generations until the time of Mary, Queen of Scots (1542 – 1587). She married Francis, Dauphin of France, but, because the letter “W” did not exist in French, the “EW” became “U”. Widowed, she married her cousin, Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley.

The English Tudor dynasty died out with the passing of Queen Elizabeth, and the nearest heir was Mary Stuart’s son, King James VI of Scotland, who became James I of England, effectively uniting the two kingdoms. In 1604 James, an able theologian, ordered a new translation of the Bible : the Authorized King James Bible, completed in 1611.

Stewardship and accountability
All states have a “Steward” or finance minister, with responsibility for all economic and financial matters. In England this person is the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In medieval times, the Chancellor was a member of the clergy because education was centered on religious teachings; as these students were not allowed to marry - hence the “bachelors” degree. The best educated among them also became Prime Ministers, including for instance, Thomas à Beckett, Abbot Suger in France, and Cardinal Wolsey.

The Exchequer was a large table divided into squares like a chess board (Fr “échiquier”) on which the county sheriffs (“Shire” + “Reeves” - which comes from the OE “gerafa” from whence also comes the German “Graf” = “count”) deposited the proceeds of their stewardship.

The sheriffs were expected to maintain law and order and were overseen by the constable (from French Comte de l’Etable, a VIP responsible for an important army resource: horses. This was contracted to connétable, whence constable. A marshal originally meant a stable keeper from the Germanic “marha “(= horse; cf English “mare”).

Today, stewardship plays a pivotal role in sustaining the mission of our Church in Paris, thus maintaining a tradition with solid roots in our own host country, France, and whereby we acknowledge that what we possess does not belong to us but is held in trust for God.
You and I are in the middle of everything. Literally. Human beings, who on average are around a meter tall, are halfway between the largest thing we can comprehend (hint: it’s the universe) and the smallest thing we have discovered so far (in said universe).

And humans are fascinating. Did you know that every ninety days your body is completely renewed? C’est vrai. About each month you have completely new skin and each day you shed ten billion flakes of skin. Which is kind of gross, but also incredibly intriguing. You and I are in a constant state of change.

Now, the basic building blocks of literally everything, including humans, are atoms. Atoms make up everything we see. The sun, moon, and stars are made up of atoms. This paper your holding is made up of atoms. The dust on the earth and the stars in the sky are all made up of atoms. You and I are made up of atoms.

These atoms make up our bodies. And as we just learned, our bodies are in a constant state of change. Much like the universe, by the way. Which begs the question, where does all the skin and hair and cells and atoms go when the leave us?

Well, simply put, they go on to form other things or other humans. Think about that for a second. The atoms that form you may have been atoms from a mountain or from mars or from your next-door neighbor. These atoms come and go as they please to form everything we see and touch and taste and smell and hear.

But I’m a pastor, not a scientist, so what does this have to do with our spirituality?

Lots actually. If we go back to the garden we see that Adam had named all the animals and yet discovered there was a missing piece in his life. It was not good for the man to be alone. And so God made a woman using a piece of the man. We share the same bones and are made of the same stuff. One of the first things we learn about humans is their need for others.

Later in Scripture we see Paul using the body as a metaphor saying, “You are one body and one spirit just as God also called you in one hope.” We have many parts, he says, but one body. And we need each other. These parts serve different functions and therefore focus on different tasks but each part is needed to make the body work.

What many people are discovering, including myself, is that we’ve always known that the Bible has helped us see we are made for one another, but what we are learning more and more is that science is pointing to the idea that our one-ness with each other is quite literal.


No matter how different we see ourselves from other people, we are actually made from the same stuff and pass along our own traces of our bodies to others in an endless cycle of death and renewal. Maybe God was even more masterful than we can imagine when He created the universe.

Consider those people occasionally in the pew next to you at church, the ones who you disagree with theologically, or the ones who just rub the wrong way. If you start to see them as being intimately connected with you, would that change the way you treat them, especially in light of Jesus’ command to love one another?

I believe it would. Paul picked up on this when he used the metaphor of the body to describe our one-ness in Christ and one-ness as humans. He recognized our need for each other to carry out Jesus’ call to make disciples of all nations.

So instead of looking at the stranger and seeing all the ways you differ, perhaps, as science is discovering and like the Bible teaches us, you should begin with the fact that we are one body both metaphorically and quite literally. Instead of many differences, begin to see the endless connections.

And maybe that will lead us, as Hebrews says, to “be at peace with everyone and to be holy.”

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

@AmChurchParis /AmericanChurchParis
The 2015 Candlelight Christmas Concerts

Presented by

The American Church Choir
The ACP Bronze Ringers
Fred Gramann, director

The Ensemble Lumina
Caroline Drury, director

Le Choeur d’Enfants Sotto Voce
Scott Alan Prouty, director

Saturday, December 12, 2015
at 17h and 20h

Seasonal music, carol arrangements, and all joining to sing carols in English and French

The American Church in Paris
65, Quai d’Orsay - 75007 Paris

Métro: Alma-Marceau, Invalides
Bus: 42, 63, 80, 92

Tickets: 25 euros (reserved seating for adults, students and children)
15 euros (adults, all other seating)
10 euros (children & students, all other seating)

For ticket order form contact music@acparis.org
Or go to www.acparis.org
In a time-honored tradition of heartfelt hospitality and outreach, please join us for the ACP traditional Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, 28 November.

Thanks to our annual troupe of hardworking volunteers, we will once again have two seatings. The first "family friendly" seating will be from 17h00 to 19h00. The second seating will be from 20h30 to 22h30 and will be a more elegant seating.

The menu will be the same at both and will include green salad, turkey with gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, and cranberry sauce. A glass of wine is included for the adults with additional wine available for purchase.

New this year will be a coffee and dessert buffet, served in the Theatre beginning 1 hour after each seating starts. It is hoped that this will allow a more relaxed end to your meal and more time to visit with friends and neighbors and maybe make some new friends.

The theatre is also where the kid’s crafts will be and where the movie Charlie Brown’s Thanksgiving will be shown.

Worship on Thanksgiving Day!

Please join in giving thanks together in this year’s Community Thanksgiving Service. It will be held at 12h15 on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday 26 November, in our sanctuary. All are welcome.

Ticket prices:
For the 17h00 seating
€25/person 12 and older
€18/child 11 and younger
At the 20h30 seating €25/person

Thanksgiving Volunteers Needed

We cannot do all of these events without a lot of help - so please consider being a volunteer!
We need volunteers for:

• Cooking, setup, service and cleanup for the Thanksgiving Day service reception
• Cooking, setup, serving and cleanup for the Thanksgiving Dinner
• Donations for baked goods for dessert at the Thanksgiving coffee and dessert buffet.

If you can help with any of these, please contact Carol Brown at communitylife@acparis.org
Prêt à donner
By Valentina Lana and Jim Hobbs

Doesn’t it shock you to see good food wasted when so many go hungry? Prêt à Manger not only agreed, they acted. The food chain is in Paris now, and working with ACP volunteers to serve the city.

Prêt à Manger is a chain of healthy fast-food restaurants founded in England in 1986, with the first restaurant next to Victoria Station in London. As the homeless population was considerable around the railroad station area, from the very first day the leftovers were given to those people in need living on the streets. Thus, Prêt’s philosophy was born, to prepare their food fresh each morning and the next day give the remaining, unsold items to those in the area who were hungry.

In the nearly 30 years since then, Prêt à Manger has stayed true to this philosophy each time a new restaurant is opened. The company accomplishes this by building partnerships with local organizations to have the leftovers picked up and distributed to the needy each day. Prêt strives to keep the process ethical, environmentally friendly, and generous.

Serve the City Paris and the ACP have signed a partnership agreement with Prêt à Manger, to begin once-a-month food pick-up and distribution. With close proximity of the ACP to one of the local Prêt stores, the food was first collected at the restaurant across the river, on rue Marbeuf, starting in May.

As a result of this collaboration, in the fall Prêt offered to expand our partnership, assigning Serve the City Paris and the ACP to a restaurant newly opened in Neuilly-sur-Seine at the beginning of October. The leadership of STC Paris attended the grand opening at 118 Avenue Charles de Gaulle in Neuilly, and daily pick-up and distribution of the food began the following Monday, 5 October. The program started with only a handful of volunteers, but in two weeks’ time Serve the City Paris counted over 40 people signed on to help with the Pret program!

Each weekday morning at 8h, Monday to Friday, a team of volunteers coordinated by Serve the City Paris collects the leftovers in isothermal bags. They then head out all across Paris to distribute the food to those hungry and in need. Areas such as Châtelet, Bastille, Saint-Germain-des-Prés and Saint-Lazare are covered weekly, along with other sections of the city.

STC Paris and ACP’s love for the people we serve is nourished by the hope to send more smiling faces and generous hands to impact their lives.

For more information on the Prêt à Manger program, additional Serve The City Paris events, and to learn how you can volunteer, go to Facebook.com/servethecityparis or email parisservethecity@gmail.com.

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 2 and 16 November. 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, at www.acparis.org/acptoday. Faith Talk from Paris - ACP chat at your fingertips. Want to get involved? Contact acptoday@acparis.org.
What’s up in Paris

November event listings

By Karen Albrecht

Available Light
Postmodernist American choreographer Lucinda Childs created this intriguing piece in 1983, based on a translucent, two-level set designed by star architect Frank Gehry. Two groups of dancers spin a sleek, upstairs-downstairs counterpoint, to the tune of composer John Adams’s symphony "Light Over Water."

Until 7 November, www.theatredelaville-paris.com

Autour des dinosaures
Get set to time-travel across 200 million years, to the Jurassic period, the Cretaceous period and back again in just one afternoon. Animated scenes include an archaeopteryx in a tropical lagoon, a Mongolian desert complete with velociraptors, and a vision of the ancient super-continent of Pangaea and the dreaded tyrannosaurus that roamed there. The show ends on a reflective note, asking whether humankind is on a trajectory parallel to that of our gigantic predecessors. But visitors are reminded that the dinosaurs’ direct descendants, modern-day birds, live on.


Karl Lagerfeld, A Visual Journey
Superstar fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld’s photographic career began in 1987 when he was drafted to shoot some urgently needed pix for a Chanel press kit. He has since branched out into landscapes, portraits, night scenes and of course fashion photography. Rather like its creator, the work can be precious, overblown, some might say downright annoying, but displays a unique and undeniable talent.

Until 20 March, www.pinacotheque.com

Picasso Mania
The flamboyant Spanish artist’s career spanned the better part of the 20th century, with an array of styles ranging from complex Cubist canvases to the ribald paintings and whimsical sculptures of his later years. This blockbuster show at the Grand Palais explores the making of the Picasso myth and traces the impact of his works, including the seminal "Demoiselles d’Avignon" and the iconic "Guernica".


Martin Scorsese at the Cinémathèque Française
"You talkin’ to me?" From that challenge delivered to the mirror by a heavily armed Robert de Niro in "Taxi Driver" to the exquisite, aristocratic "Age of Innocence," native New Yorker Martin Scorsese is behind some of the most memorable cinematic moments of the last half-century. This affectionate retrospective features materials from the director’s personal archives, plus screenings of his major films, lesser-known features and surprisingly wide-ranging documentaries.


Kitsch ou Pas Kitsch?
Paris’s Institut des Cultures de l’Islam has gathered works by 15 contemporary artists, a refreshing array of responses to the allegation that Middle Eastern art is "kitsch". Whether you find the defendants blissfully innocent or gleefully guilty, you’ll have a good time examining all the evidence. Lectures, cooking workshops and screenings of vintage films from Egypt, Tunisia and Nigeria’s "Nollywood" complete the playful panorama.

Thurber Thursday at ACP is an adult-oriented dinner and speaker event. The speakers are invited to lecture on a variety of topics. The lecture is followed by a question-and-answer time.

Before the lecture, a dinner is prepared and served by a team of ACP volunteers. This year the dinner has taken the form of soup, salad and sundaes. The menu alternates between vegetarian and meat-based soups. The salad is in the form of a salad bar, allowing each person to customize their meal according to their preferences. On vegetarian soup days, there is a meat choice in the salad bar.

Our Corn Chowder recipe is being offered here by popular demand. It is a little complicated, so bonne chance et bon appétit!

---

**Corn Chowder**

**Serves 8-10**

Soup

- 375 gr canned corn
- 30 ml olive oil, divided
- 1 onion, diced
- 100 gr carrots, shredded
- 1 celery stalk, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 litre chicken broth (or veg broth)
- 4 potatoes, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 500 ml light cream
- Cream-style corn (recipe below)
- Parsley, chopped fine, to taste
- Salt, to taste
- White pepper, ground, to taste

Roux

- 45 gr butter
- 16 gr flour

Preheat oven to 175 degrees C.

Combine canned corn and 15 ml olive oil in a baking dish; stir to coat corn kernels in oil. Roast corn in preheated oven for 20 minutes.

Heat remaining olive oil in a pot over medium heat. Cook and stir onion, carrot, celery, and garlic in the olive oil until tender, 5 to 7 minutes. Stir chicken broth, roasted corn, potatoes, light cream, cream-style corn, parsley, salt, and pepper into the vegetable mixture; bring to a boil.

Melt butter in a small skillet over medium-low heat; stir flour into melted butter and whisk until a paste forms and begins to thin, about 5 minutes.

Stir roux into the chowder; continue cooking until chowder is thickened, about 30 minutes.

Stir cream-style corn into the chowder; continue cooking until chowder is thickened, about 30 minutes.

Cream-style corn

- 300 gr frozen corn (or canned)
- 13 gr sugar
- 120 ml heavy cream
- 15 gr butter
- Pinch of salt and pepper
- 16 gr flour
- 120 ml milk
- 30 gr parmesan cheese, grated

In a skillet over medium heat, combine the corn, cream, salt, pepper, sugar, and butter. Whisk together the milk and flour, and stir into the corn mixture. Cook stirring over medium heat until the mixture is thickened, and corn is cooked through. Remove from heat, and stir in the parmesan cheese until melted.
La Boudeuse sailed into Paris on 9 September, docking at the Port du Gros-Caillou, just in front of the American Church of Paris. She’s here for a 4-month stay, and ACP member Diane Ficarelli, who volunteered on the ship, relates its story.

**What brings the ship to Paris?** La Boudeuse came to Paris under the auspices of the international non-profit organization called ACTED, to participate in a number of activities surrounding the conference on climate change (COP21) the first two weeks in December. Both the ship and ACTED share the core values of humanistic action and concern for the environment, and will focus on building awareness of the need for sustainable development to preserve the future of our fragile planet.

**Where did the name La Boudeuse come from?** The ship’s captain, Patrice Franceschi, gave her that name as a tribute to the captain of the original 18th-century frigate called La Boudeuse, Louis-Antoine de Bougainville. He was the first Frenchman to sail around the world, from 1766 to 1769, not in a spirit of conquest but one of humanism, discovery, and confidence in the progress of science.

Captain Franceschi himself is a man of many talents: explorer, philosopher, sailor, pilot, writer (he recently received the prized Goncourt book award for his collection of short stories), but above all, he personifies the very spirit of adventure.

"La Boudeuse" means, roughly, "the sulky lady." It was the custom in the 18th century to give ships a feminine name - and also often a female figurehead - to offset the absence of women on board, as they were said to bring bad luck! The present-day Boudeuse has a crew composed of up to 26 men and women when at sea. The ship has a steel hull and is a magnificent sight when she hoists her 13 sails.

**What is its history?** The ship now called La Boudeuse was built in 1916 in Holland and was initially used to haul goods in the northern seas. After WWII it became a Swedish sail training vessel under the name of Vida, but became French when Patrice Franceschi bought it in 2003. He renamed and overhauled it, turning it into an exploration ship dedicated to discovery, adventure, and science in the spirit of the great expeditions of the Age of Enlightenment.

From 2004 to 2007, La Boudeuse sailed around the world in the wake of Bougainville, meeting peoples far off the beaten track, on remote islands or in deep jungles, with the aim of pinpointing what it is that unites all human beings, above and beyond our very different lifestyles. A number of films made about these expeditions have been shown several times on French TV (and are available as DVDs).

From December 2007 to May 2009 the ship was docked in Paris on the rive droite near Bercy, just across the Seine from the French national library. During that time La Boudeuse was open to the public three times a week; over 100,000 visitors came from all over to discover this authentic traditional sailing vessel where all the manoeuvers are done by hand.

As a member of the French Tall Ships Association (Les Amis des Grands Voiliers), I had the honor, privilege and joy of serving as one of the volunteer guides every Wednesday for those 18 months (sometimes arriving late for choir rehearsals because visitors would tarry on board to ask questions!). I was later able to sail twice on the ship for a few unforgettable days, first on the Seine and then along the coast of Brittany.

From October 2009 to June 2010 La Boudeuse carried out several scientific and environmental missions in the Amazon region of South America. During her stay in Paris for COP21, the ship will take part in a number of climate change awareness activities planned on Les Berges de Seine. Check online for details, and look for another story in the December issue of the Spire.
Nicholas Hulot, French environmentalist and agnostic, recently noted that the size of the environmental problem facing the world is so large that only religions are capable of mobilizing enough people to address it. Pope Francis’ second encyclical, *Laudato si’*, powerfully tackles this challenge. The papal letter is not, however, addressed merely to Christians. It is an urgent plea for dialogue among all people, with explicit appreciation for those non-Christians who have understood the magnitude of the environmental crisis facing humanity.

The pope begins the document by assessing what is happening in our common home — from pollution to the lack of water, from the 6th extinction to planetary inequality. He notes, "Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last 200 years," and asserts that the tragic situation of the planet has reached a breaking point. In fact, the situation is so dire that: "If we are truly concerned to develop an ecology (sic) capable of remedying the damage we have done, no branch of the sciences and no form of wisdom can be left out, and that includes religion and the language particular to it."

Accordingly, the second section of the encyclical provides an overview of the evangelical perspective of creation. Pope Francis rejects what he calls misinterpretations of Genesis 1:28, noting that since we are created in the image of God, our granted dominion over the earth is certainly not for purposes of unbridled exploitation. Instead, he catalogues the Biblical perspective on creation, citing passages such as Romans 1:20: "Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made” that put the problem of environment degradation on a sweeping spiritual plane.

Francis contends that creation is a book written by and carrying a message from God, in which no creature is superfluous. He challenges us to consider the full implications of allowing our sinful habits to render the earth inhospitable to God’s creatures. He believes that the care of creation is intrinsic to Christian faith. For, "the destiny of all creation is bound up with the mystery of Christ."

Father Louzeau, Director of Research at the Collège des Bernardins, calls the encyclical an itinerary of conversion. If we are to overcome our resistance and address the problem, we must fully accept the full scope of the damage we have caused. We must transform what is happening in the world into personal suffering because the destruction of the environment is a mere symptom, the root cause of which is the sin-sick human heart.

Pope Francis blames this situation on our throw-away culture, consumption society, and the drive for economic domination, but he takes particular care to lay out a critique of what he calls the techno-economic paradigm. He is not a technophobe and appreciates that technology can be used for good, although it is quickly outpacing our capacity to control it.

The techno-economic paradigm, however, refers to the specialization in thought that has allowed us to create technology. This paradigm, permeating our society, seeks to establish "the scientific and experimental method, which in itself is already a technique of possession, mastery and transformation." This fragmented mode of thought has altered our capacity to perceive the whole and to understand the relationships between things and "made it easy to accept the idea of infinite or unlimited growth...based on the lie that there is an infinite supply of the earth's goods."

This efficiency-driven specialization in thought is coupled with a misguided anthropocentrism, giving rise to "a relativism which sees everything as irrelevant unless it serves one’s own immediate interests." In this way, Pope Francis believes that environmental degradation and social injustice are related and must be addressed together; both are the consequences of man’s dominating heart.

The encyclical calls for extensive dialogue and action on the part of individuals and particularly, political leaders. Francis laments the subservience of political power to economic forces and calls for increased education and spirituality in all quarters. "The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion."
**The ACP congregation’s abundant generosity generated much success for our recent outreach project for the Syrian Refugees!**

The offering received on Sunday, 27 September came to a total of €4,883. Of that, €2,500 will be donated directly to a refugee aid association. Plus, approximately 700 kilos of clothing and shoes were collected over a 2-week period that have been taken to the Calais region to be distributed to the refugee camps there, via associations such as Secours populaire français and Les villages d’enfants Copain du monde.

On behalf of the ACP Council, Mission Outreach Committee, and Staff, we sincerely thank you.

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**Thirteen reasons why I as a Pastor have to quit attending sporting events**

by Rev. Mark Patterson, submitted to Spire by Jeff Powell

1. The coach never came to see me.
2. **Every time I went they asked for money.**
3. The people sitting in my row didn’t seem very friendly.
4. **The seats were very hard.**
5. The referees made decisions I didn’t agree with.
6. I was sitting with hypocrites – they only came to see what others were wearing!
7. Some games went into overtime and I was late getting home.
8. **The band played some songs I had never heard before.**
9. The games are scheduled on the only day to sleep in and run errands.
10. **My parents took me too many times when I was growing up.**
11. Since I read a book on sports, I feel that I know more than the coaches, anyway.
12. I don’t want to take my children because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.
13. I don’t believe in organized sports.

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The Umbrian name of the encyclical, *Laudato si’*, is taken from Saint Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Sun" in which St. Francis states: "Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth, who feeds us and rules us." This prayer was written after the night St. Francis was marked with stigmata, when his flesh was literally transpierced with faith, and Pope Francis argues that we too must be inhabited by this spirit of praise if we are to be the caretakers of creation as God has commanded, rather than its predator.

The full text of *Laudato si’* is available on the Vatican website.
Sunday Concert Series

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 1 November

Nikitine Sisters Duet
Katherine Nikitine, piano
Vera Nikitine, organ

Sunday 8 November

« Arte Pomposa »
Jeanne Marie Anglès, soprano
Jean-Christophe Foulon, baroque violon and viola
Céline Lhomme, baroque violin
Pascal Szymczak, viola pomposa
Pauline Chiama, viole de gambe
Camille Romuald, positif organ and harpsichord
Works by Corelli, Vivaldi, Telemann, Pachelbel, Jomelli

Sunday 15 November

Caroline Drury, soprano
Laurana Mitchelmore, piano
Works by R. Strauss, Schumann, Fauré, Poulenc
Sunday 22 November
Florence Binder, violin
David Gaugué, cello
Melissa Stramaglia, piano
Works by Fauré, Franck, Elgar, Mendelssohn

Sunday 29 November
Monica Molinaro, piano
Works by Brahms: Three Intermezzi Op. 117,

Restoring music, restoring identity

Terezin, one of the Nazi death camps in the now-Czech
Republic, was used as a “model” facility, a propaganda
experiment in which cultural life was encouraged in order
to convince the outside world that the Jews were not being
slaughtered. There were chamber groups and jazz
ensembles; stage performances were produced and
attended by prisoners. Tickets for some of the
performances were even sold in Prague, 60 km away.

But, as Ben Kingley said on
Holocaust Remembrance Day
in January, “Terezin housed a
devilish lie” - it allowed its
inmates to dream of normality.
Of the 144,000 who were
interned at Terezin (also
known by its German name,
Theresienstadt), around 35,000 died on site, and around
87,000 were deported to be murdered at other camps,
including Auschwitz.

The music that was
composed at the Terezin
camp has been recently
brought back to life, and
our own Nathalia
Romanenko is helping. In
2012, she produced a
French creation of
composer Victor
Ullmann’s concerto for piano and orchestra, in Toulouse.
On 8 December she will play the concerto with the
Orchestre de la Sorbonne, and she says it is necessary to
play this music, which had disappeared: each time it is
played, it is a new victory over Nazism, anti-Semitism,
and racism.

8 December, 20h30, Grand Amphitheatre de la
Sorbonne, 75005 Paris
In the neighborhood

Thursday 5 November, 18h30
“La Bible a la lumiere de l’archeologie”: a conference by Old Testament professor Matthieu Richelle.

Thursday 12 November, 11h30
“Centenaire de la Grande Guerre”: the vernissage opens at 11h30, and at 18h30 there is a conference on “Petits enfants dans la Grande Guerre.”

Tuesday 24 November, 18h
“La Terre vue de l’espace”: vernissage and conference, by astronaut Jean-Francois Clervoy. The expo is open from 16 November to 15 December.

Wednesday 16 December
“Noel des habitants” - activities for children, concert, wine, hot chocolate.

All events take place at the Mairie du 7eme arrondissement, 116 rue de Grenelle, 7eme

Thanks to Rose Burke, who located a number of rare photos of Dr. King at the American Church in 1965.

Speak, Lord

Dr. Luke A Powery excerpts from sermon, 25 October

“The most segregated hour is traditionally 11h on Sunday morning. Nice to see that our congregation is not monochrome as so many US congregations. When I look at you I see a beautiful reflection of stained glass windows, a rainbow coalition created by God.”

“You pray. You listen. But there comes a time when you have to act.”

“Dr. King reveals what the prophet Samuel affirms: prayerful listening leads to prophetic proclaiming.”

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

“Speak and declare, ‘Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere’.”
Thurber Thursday 22 October

Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Continuing Freedom Struggle

It was one of the bigger crowds we get for Thurber Thursdays, with almost 100 people turning up to hear Dr. Clayborne Carson. Civil rights protester, now Stanford professor of history, and official biographer of Martin Luther King, Jr., he was present at the historic march on Washington in 1963, where Dr. King gave his “I have a dream” speech.

His presentation was thought-provoking and inspiring. He told us that in King’s Nobel Peace prize lecture, he said that what was going on in the US was a very small part of what is going on in the world, and it is reshaping the world. How? Through what he called a citizenship revolution. Fifty years ago, said Dr. Carson, for the first time in history, most people around the world were not citizens of the country in which they lived. Where do human rights come from, he asked, and answered: religion. Yet citizenship rights are defined and written down in black and white as law.

The black freedom struggle kicked off all the other right struggles, he said. The 1964 Civil Rights Act outlawing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, led to the Immigration Act of 1965, which abolished a quota system established in 1921. Which led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and from there on to gender equality. He said, “Once you open the door and say you can’t deny citizenship for arbitrary reasons, that changes everything.”

The video recording of this event is available to watch on acparis.org (Thurber Thursday archives), and it’s well worth a listen.
There is a Christian rehabilitation center called Casa Adulam, located in Guatemala City, Guatemala. The name Adulam comes from the place where David took refuge from the jealous King Saul of Israel. Casa Adulam is a place where drug addicts and alcoholics take refuge in order to recover from their physical and mental addiction to drugs and to begin a new and abundant life in Christ.

The founder of Casa Adulam was Manuel Rios, a successful businessman who developed a heavy addiction to drugs, alcohol, and gambling. One night he overdosed and fell on the street before he got into his car. He was beat up, robbed, and left for dead in the street. A Good Samaritan came along who took him to the hospital and checked in on him every day for 5 days, until Manuel became conscious and could be identified.

Manuel came to know and follow Christ through the love and the testimony of this Good Samaritan. He dedicated his life to helping addicts like himself recover from addictions and discover the love of God in Jesus Christ. He went on to study the Bible and become a Pentecostal pastor committed to this rehabilitation ministry.

Casa Adulam has never received financial support from the government or any other organization. Manuel Rios started the mission in a house that he owned, and used his savings to fund the ministry. He gave his time free of charge and in 24 years never received a salary. The Lord provided through donations and fees that some families could afford for the treatment for their loved ones. Most of the patients are abandoned by their families, but the mission accepts anyone who comes for help. There is a great social stigma against addicts, yet residents go to the markets seeking donations of food and help with the upkeep of the two rehab houses.

Bible study, prayer, and worship services in the houses are an essential part of daily life. Many residents cured of their addiction have made commitments to Christ, found employment, and returned to Casa Adulam as volunteers to serve, give testimony, and lead Bible studies.

In 2005 Pastor Manuel opened another rehabilitation house for teenage girls and women; the only one in the whole country. Some of the male residents have wives and daughters who were also addicts. I have been supporting the ministry of Casa Adulam for 24 years through prayer, visits, fundraising, and personal financial gifts. I have committed my artistic gifts to producing arts and crafts to be sold as fundraisers for Casa Adulam.

Manuel Rios was my younger brother, and he was an evangelist at heart. He brought hundreds of addicts to the Lord. He was trained as a counselor through a scholarship provided by the American Embassy.

Manuel died suddenly on 22 August of this year. I returned to Guatemala to visit my family. I also visited Casa Adulam which is now without its founder and leader. There is a new, voluntary administrator trying to keep the houses open. Casa Adulam seeks a new volunteer pastor or counselors from a Bible school to continue the ministry to the residents that Manuel loved so much. There are scant financial resources for this specialized ministry.

Would you like to help? At the Marché de Noel on 14 November, I will be selling some crafts and jewelry that I created for the benefit of Casa Adulam. The funds will contribute toward many pressing needs, including the salaries for four employees who run the houses, and the purchase of 50 Spanish-language Bibles for the residents. Please visit my stand – a gift for a friend could help bring a struggling soul to God.
ACP Christmas market

Saturday, 14 November, 9h-17h

Mark your calendars and plan to experience the fun! On Saturday, 14 November, we'll have a wide variety of vendors from all over France coming to sell beautiful hand-made merchandise: jewelry, cashmere shawls, children's clothing, books and toys, British Christmas cakes, painted silk scarves, cartonage boxes, Paris-themed cards, artwork and much, much more.

And at our own Mission Outreach tables you'll find lots of Christmas items: small gifts, decorations, hot spiced wine, yummy baked goods, ornaments, advent wreaths, homemade jams and an assortment of other original gifts.

So plan to kick off your Christmas shopping early and you won't be disappointed. The annual Used-Book Sale will also be awaiting you with hundreds of great selections in both French and English. There will be a photo op with Santa from 11h-15h and festive Carolers singing Christmas Carols at 15h. A delicious international lunch will be served in the Thurber Room by the Filipino Fellowship.

All proceeds from the ACP tables help support our many Mission projects. If you have handmade craft items or used books to donate to our Mission Outreach tables we'd love to hear from you.

We're also looking for volunteers to help us run the tables the day of the sale. If you have a couple of hours you could give to a really good cause, please e-mail us for details on how to participate and enjoy this fun event; contact Kristie at kristieworrel@hotmail.com

You are warmly invited to come and enjoy the pre-Christmas festivities.

• The Marché Café
• Photo with Santa
• Poinsettias, Hyacinths
• Advent Wreaths & Candles
• Centerpieces
• International Luncheon
• Homemade Baked Goods
• Gifts, Cards, Jewelry, Housewares
• Used Book Sale
• Childrens Corner
• Christmas Decorations
• Raffle of Prizes (Tombola)
• Handmade Crafts & Artworks
• Carolers & Elves & Santa himself!

Proceeds to benefit ACP Mission Ministries:
Habitat for Humanity; Rafiki; SOS; Foyer de Grenelle;
Friday Mission Lunch; King’s Garden Children’s Home, Philippines;
The Living Truth Foundation-Ghana; Beit el Safa, Lebanon;
Cameroonian Church Project; and Youth Missions

For full details please visit www.acparis.org
or call 01 40 62 05 00

Love in a Box: Each year, the American Cathedral and the American Church in Paris collaborate on a Paris-wide project of creating Christmas gifts that are then donated to selected community organizations. These organizations distribute the gifts to a number of outlets, including homeless shelters, soup kitchens and orphanages. Boxes are also delivered to Cathedral-supported groups, including Bonne Mine, HOME and the Salvation Army in Strasbourg and Mulhouse. We collect, check, bag and deliver 2,000-3,000 boxes each year.

Look for more information soon on our website, acparis.org.
**THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE** continues their work as of the summer, when the Council authorized them to conduct a search for a new full-time Associate Pastor, as Pastors Michelle Wahila and Jeff Powell will be completing their part-time pastoral work contracts at the end of this year.

The ACP Search Committee has received almost 120 applications and has been diligently reading resumes, statements of faith, and listening to sermon videos and checking references. The list of candidates has been narrowed to 9 finalists, and Skype interviews are underway. The Committee hopes to invite two or three final candidates for personal interviews here in Paris and to make a recommendation to the Council sometime in November. The congregation will then be called upon to vote to extend the call to a final candidate before Christmas, in order to hopefully have a new Associate Pastor here in January.

Please pray for the ongoing work of the AP Search Committee: Daphne Elferrich, Christophe Galland, Jim Hobbs (Chair), Gib Kirkham, Henry Luzolo, Gigi Oyog (Secretary), Anne Speicher (Vice Chair), and Rev. Scott Herr (Pastoral Liaison). Please also feel free to send any comments or suggestions to the committee at acpsearchcommittee@gmail.com. Thank you!

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**Mark your calendars**

**Women’s gathering:** Sunday 15 November, 12h30, Library

Please join us for a time of fellowship and to hear our speaker, ACP member Teri Lee Valluy. Teri Lee will be speaking on being a child of God. She is the author of *The Map to Joy: Pray, Listen, Obey* and *Things I’ve Learned about God from Parenting My Kids*. Childcare will be available in room G1.

**Movie discussion group:** Thursday 19 November, 19h30, Room G2

See these films and join us to discuss: *Belles familles* by Jean-Paul Rappeneau, *The Martian/Seul sur Mars* by Ridley Scott, *The Lobster* by Yorgos Lanthimos, and/or *Notre petite soeur* by Hirokazu Kore-eda. For info: movies@acparis.org

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**Call for Sunday Nursery volunteers** We have a growing need to serve our smallest disciples, and our nursery requires extra helping hands during the 11h and 13h30 services. Please contact childrensworship@acparis.org if you have experience with caring for children under 23 months and you would like to assist this vital ministry.

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**Multicultural Couples Group**

Photos from our last potluck reflect the integration of a much younger generation when Anja and Stéphane introduced their two-month baby, Kayden, to the group. Each month we meet to share a meal, stories, and cross-cultural life adventures. It’s a lot of fun, and we thoroughly enjoy getting to know each other while traveling the cross-culture road.

The next potluck is **6 November, 20h**, in the Thurber Room.

For more information contact Monica Montoliu-Bassett monica.bassett@free.fr or Anja Wyss
True prophets
By Alison Benney

As many members and visitors know from taking a docent tour, our stained glass windows follow a scriptural sequence. It starts in the Old Testament with the patriarchs, the prophets, then the New Testament kicks in with Christmas, and the final window is our Missions window.

What many people are not aware of is that the second window, that of the prophets, has the poorest lighting in the church, blocked by the building next door. Therefore, the glass in that window was made with 90% specially treated “fritted” or finely porous glass, whereby the interior light is refracted, giving brilliancy to an otherwise dark window.

Another odd thing about this window is that three of the prophets portrayed here are one of what are termed the Major prophets: Isaiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel. Another “major,” Jeremiah, was originally supposed to have been in the window, but instead it was completed with Elijah, one of the “oral” prophets.

Isaiah was documented by the Book of Isaiah to have lived around the time of the 8th-century BC Kingdom of Judah. His name means “Yah is salvation.” Among Isaiah’s predictions, he foretold that the Messiah would be born of a virgin, that he would be an heir to the throne of David, that he would be spat on and struck, that he would be silent before his accusers, and would voluntarily accept our guilt and punishment for sin. The book of Isaiah, along with the book of Jeremiah, is distinctive in the Hebrew Bible for its direct portrayal of the “wrath of the Lord.”

Daniel’s name means “God is my Judge,” and his stories date to the 6th century. Taken into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, he served the king and his successors until the time of the Persian conqueror Cyrus, all the while remaining true to the God of Israel. Daniel was said to interpret dreams and to receive apocalyptic visions. The best-loved story, depicted in the lower frame, is when he is thrown into a lion den to test his faith to God versus King Darius. An angel saves him, his accusers are destroyed, and Daniel is restored to his royal position.

Elijah was a prophet and a wonder-worker in the northern kingdom of Israel during the reign of Ahab, 9th century BC, according to the Books of Kings. His name in Hebrew means “My God is Yahweh,” and Elijah is known for his defense of the worship of Yahweh over that of the Canaanite idol Baal. God performed many miracles through him, including raising the dead, bringing fire down from the sky, and taking him up to heaven "by a whirlwind”. He was a harbinger of the Messiah, and has appeared the world over in the guise of a beggar and scholar.

Ezekiel’s name means “May God strengthen him,” and he is acknowledged as a Hebrew prophet in Judaism, Christianity, Islam and the Bahá’í faith. Born in 622 BC, he predicted the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple by the Babylonians. He also predicted the end of Jewish exile, and the building of a new city and new Temple. Some believe him to have been a teacher to Pythagorus.
The American Church in Paris is pleased to offer you the gift of free access to a huge, streaming, online library of over 10,000 video Bible studies, leadership videos and kids' shows. [https://www.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/ACP](https://www.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/ACP)

Brad Formsma, author of the best selling book, I Like Giving invites you to experience the joy of a generous life. Brad will challenge you with fresh ideas and engaging conversation that will help you understand generosity in ways you've never considered before.

*If* is a powerful little word. Some people are stuck in "if only," trudging through lives marked with regret. But God wants us to live lives marked with possibilities, with the "what if" attitude that looks forward to the future with confidence. Why? Because the answer to "If God is for us, who can be against us?" is "No one." God is always on our side. Every day, in every way.

Mark Batterson helps us overcome feelings of guilt, fear, and doubt because in Christ there is no condemnation. Unpacking the promises of Romans 8, he shows us that we are more than conquerors—right now and forever.

In The Greatest Gift, Ann Voskamp celebrates the majesty of God's greatest gift to us—His son, Jesus Christ—through the timeless Advent tradition of the Jesse Tree.

In this stunning four-week video curriculum, Ann draws viewers even deeper into Scripture as she explores and illuminates the magnificence of God's Word through the unfurling of the greatest love story ever told—God's ardent and relentless pursuit of us.

Learn all about the importance of God's beautiful earth in this brand new Really Woolly adventure! Gracie and Jacob Woolly have been spending most of their summer days playing at the neighborhood park. So busy playing, they often forget to clean up their trash. In working to preserve their beloved playground, Gracie and Jacob learn an important lesson about caring for the world around them.
This fall the American Church in Paris launched small groups aimed to bring us together, grow our community and live out our faith in Jesus Christ. These groups are meeting all over Paris and the suburbs. Here is a look at how the first meetings of three of these new small groups! If you are interested in hosting, leading or joining an ACP small group, please contact Interim Associate Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jeff Powell.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Pringle and Sam Franklin</th>
<th>Jenn Cavanaugh and Jason Pratt</th>
<th>Lexie and John Benson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PARIS 15th</td>
<td>Leading a small group gives us a way of building up ties within the church community, of making deeper friendships, and of growing in our faith within a fellowship setting.</td>
<td>We have been involved in various Christian communities since college and wanted to get more involved in the church and its mission this fall.</td>
<td>Our most fulfilling experiences in church have been grounded in small group fellowship. When ACP decided that it would emphasize the growth of small groups, it was an answered prayer for us.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARIS 4th</td>
<td>Our first meeting went very well; we had six people there. We started with supper, then we watched a short DVD session from Dallas Willard’s profound book, The Divine Conspiracy. Afterwards we answered questions in a study guide and had a meaningful discussion on important spiritual questions. I think most everyone felt uplifted and happy they had made the effort to get together.</td>
<td>At our first meeting this week, we started getting to know each other a bit, talked about our church community experiences and what was attracting us to be part of a small group. Everyone expressed a desire to share life on a deeper level with others that stemmed from a belief that the Christian life offered and demanded more than an hour on Sundays.</td>
<td>Our first meeting was very casual, and very inspiring at the same time. It is so amazing to see that people are hungry to build relationships focused on the Word of God and our first meeting felt like a retreat from the hustle and bustle of busy life in the city.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARIS 16th</td>
<td>The Divine Conspiracy by Dallas Willard</td>
<td>The Book of Galatians</td>
<td>Sermon series by Andy Stanley called &quot;Brand New&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meeting times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pringle and Sam Franklin</th>
<th>Jenn Cavanaugh and Jason Pratt</th>
<th>Lexie and John Benson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays 19h30-21h30</td>
<td>Tuesdays 19-21h Children welcome.</td>
<td>Wednesday 20h</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Update from our missionary in the prisons of Ghana

By Carolyn Bouazouni

Anna Cobbahna goes to places and does things that most of us would never even dream of doing. She spends her days in Cape Coast, Ghana, preaching in the prisons, and visiting the AIDS ward at the hospital. People that are probably at the lowest point in their lives, see hope and a light at the end of the tunnel when Anna comes to visit and share the good news of the Bible. She always carries her Bible with her when she makes her visits.

Pretty amazing, isn’t it? I could never do that. What gives her the drive to face hardened criminals and people dying from AIDS? And she makes it looks so simple. She’s just a regular person like you or me, but instead of going to the supermarket to shop for groceries, she goes to the prisons and hospitals to tell people what God says in the Bible. She just walks in, prays, leads a few songs and then starts talking. And people listen carefully to what she says. Because what she says are words of truth and hope to people who need to hear them.

When I visited Anna in Ghana last year, one of the prison officers at the Maximum Security Prison told me “It’s a calling. You can’t do a job like that if you’re not called. Otherwise, you wouldn’t last long.” Anna has been doing this for over 10 years, so she is clearly called by God to do this work. And she obeys and goes. God is using her, and through her, lives are being touched and changed. Lives are being completely turned around.

God calls each of us to do different things at different times in our lives. How do you know what your calling is? Your heart will tell you. Maybe it’s being the best parent possible to your children; or taking time to talk with neighbors who need a listening ear; or serving sandwiches to the homeless; praying for those in need; or contributing financially so others can serve in the field - like Anna or our other missionaries. God needs workers in all of these areas, and so many more. My advice to you if God is calling you to something, is GO FOR IT!

For more information on Mission Outreach Committee activities or how to support Anna Cobbahna, please contact us at missionoutreach@acparis.org.

What we are looking for is what is looking. ~St. Francis of Assisi
Dear Pastor Scott and all the saints at ACP,

Thank you all for making my time in Paris so very enriching and fun. From all the hugs and smiles on the first Sunday right through to a lovely lunch on the last day hosted by Pastor Michelle, every moment was perfect. I always feel that I am at home at ACP.

Happy now to be back to the joys and chores here at Rafiki, I’m feeling renewed energy thanks to your love and support.

We here at Rafiki Village ask for your continued prayers as we serve God by caring for the 100 children, who now include 50+ teenagers, and building our education program for future teachers.

Many blessing to all of you,

Patti

October 17, 2015

Patti has returned from her September “furlough” in Paris, back to her village in the savannahs of Uganda. Please remember to keep her in your prayers as she looks forward to her 5th year with the Rafiki Foundation. In Uganda. Rafiki’s mission is “to help Africans know God and to raise their standard of living with excellence and integrity”.

You can learn more about Patti and the Rafiki Foundation at this link: https://www.rafikifoundation.org/AboutUs/staff.aspx. Please consider making a donation to support Patti’s important kingdom work with the orphans in Uganda.

Our missionary in Uganda: Patti Lafage

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## ACP Spire Diary

**events, meetings and concerts**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family Toussaint Event</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 1 Nov</td>
<td>Following 11h00 service</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>RSVP: Allison Wheeler childrensworship @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Nikitine Sisters Duet</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 1 Nov</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <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 Nov</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Thursday - A Life Worth Living</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 5 Nov</td>
<td>18h30; 19h30 Dinner;Lecture</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Jeff Powell interimassociatepast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Breakfast Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Friday 6 Nov</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Jurie Ane Feleo homelesssandwich @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner</strong></td>
<td>Friday 6 Nov</td>
<td>20h00</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Monica Bassett &amp; Anja Wyss multicultural @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Member Orientation</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 8 Nov</td>
<td>12h30-13h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Carol Brown communitylife@</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Arte Pomposa</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 8 Nov</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Armistice Day</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP MOPS (mothers of children ages newborn-6)</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 12 Nov</td>
<td>10h00 - 12h00 Catacombs</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mops@acparis.org">mops@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Thursday - A Life Worth Living</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 12 Nov</td>
<td>18h30; 19h30 Dinner;Lecture</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
<td>Jeff Powell interimassociatepast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 13 Nov</td>
<td>10h00 - 14h00 The American Cathedral</td>
<td></td>
<td>If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel fridaymissionlunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marché de Noël</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 14 Nov</td>
<td>9h00-17h00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kristie Worrell marchedenoel @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writers’ Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 14 Nov</td>
<td>14h30 - 16h30 Room G2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tendayi Chirawu <a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

### Women’s Gathering - Teri Lee Valluy speaking on “Being a Child of God.”
A time of fellowship and a discussion. Childcare will be available in room G1.
- **Date and Time:** Sunday 15 Nov 12h30-13h30 Thurber Room
- **Contact:** Kim Herr 
  women@acparis.org

### Atelier Concert - Caroline DRURY, soprano; Laurana MITCHELMORE, piano
- **Date and Time:** Sunday 15 Nov 17h00 Sanctuary
- **Contact:** Fred Gramann 
  music@acparis.org

### ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show
Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.
- **Date and Time:** Monday 16 Nov 20h45 - 21h30
- **Contact:** 100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante

### Thurber Thursday - A Life Worth Living
Video course by Nicky Gumbel, which explores the New Thursday 19 Nov 18h30; 19h30 Dinner;Lecture
- **Contact:** Jeff Powell
  interimassociatepast

### Movie Discussion Group
This month’s movie listings. *Belles familles* by Jean-Paul Rappeneau, *The Martian/Seul sur Mars* by Ridley Scott, *The Lobster* by Yorgos Lanthimos, *Notre petite soeur* by Hirokazu Kore-eda. See any or all at your leisure and join
- **Date and Time:** Thursday 19 Nov 19h30 Room G2
- **Contact:** Rebecca Brite 
  movies@acparis.org

### Sandwich Ministry
Preparation: Friday 19h30, meet at ACP Reception
Distribution: Saturday 13h30, meet at ACP Reception
- **Date and Time:** Friday 20 Nov 19h30 
  Saturday 21 Nov 13h30
- **Contact:** Jurie Ane Feleo 
  homelesssandwich @acparis.org

### CBSI: Community Bible Study International special event
All are invited to learn more about the CBSI. The CBSI Caleb’s group and the Director of CBSI Europe will be present. There will be testimonies and a Q & A session.
- **Date and Time:** Sunday 22 Nov 15h30 Library
- **Contact:** cbsi@acparis.org

### Atelier Concert - Florence BINDER, violon; David GAUGUE, viola; Melissa STRAMAGLIA, piano
- **Date and Time:** Sunday 22 Nov 17h00 Sanctuary
- **Contact:** Fred Gramann 
  music@acparis.org

### Community Thanksgiving Service
All are welcome. Please join us in giving thanks.
- **Date and Time:** Thursday 26 Nov 12h15 ACP

### ACP Thanksgiving Dinner
There will be two seatings: 17h00 is a family friendly dinner with crafts and a movie for children; 20h30 is a little more formal. Tickets available, until Sunday 22 Nov,
- **Date and Time:** Saturday 28 Nov 17h00, 20h30 Thurber Room and Library
- **Contact:** Carol Brown 
  communitylife@acparis.org

### Atelier Concert - Monica MOLINARO, piano
Free admission, with free-will offering
- **Date and Time:** Sunday 29 Nov 17h00 Sanctuary
- **Contact:** Fred Gramann 
  music@acparis.org
Saturday, 14 November
11h-17h

- Children’s Corner
- The Marché Café
- Advent Wreaths & Candles
- Photo with Santa
- Poinsettias, Hyacinths
- Wine & Regional Specialties
- Centerpieces
- International Luncheon
- Homemade Baked Goods
- Gifts, Cards, Jewelry, Housewares
- Used Book Sale
- Christmas Decorations
- Raffle of Prizes (Tombola)
- Handmade Crafts & Artworks
- Carolers & Elves & Santa himself!

visit our website: www.acparis.org

COUPON
Good for One Cup of Coffee or Mulled Wine
Marché de Noël
Christmas Market
11:00 - 17:00
Saturday, 14 November

Organized by the ACP Mission Outreach Committee.
All proceeds from ACP tables
to benefit mission ministries:
Habitat for Humanity; Rafiki; SOS;
Foyer de Grenelle; Friday Mission Lunch;
King’s Garden Children’s Home, Philippines;
The Living Truth Foundation-Ghana;
the Cameroonian Church Project and Youth Missions

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