The Spire
The Beacon on the Seine

November 2012
Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

The following poem, “A Prayer among Friends,” gets at the heart of Christian stewardship:

Among other wonders of our lives, we are alive with one another, we walk here in the light of this unlikely world that isn’t ours for long.

May we spend generously the time we are given. May we enact our responsibilities as thoroughly as we enjoy our pleasures.

May we see with clarity, may we seek a vision that serves all beings, may we honor the mystery surpassing our sight...hold in our hands the gift of good work and bear it forth whole... and praise the power” revealed uniquely in Christ.

That this month begins with Toussaint (All Saints) holidays is poignant. We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, those who have gone before us and those who will come after us. In many ways we are part of a long parade that spans the centuries. And so I want to “spend generously the time we are given...enact our responsibilities as thoroughly as we enjoy our pleasures...see with clarity...seek a vision that serves all beings...honor the mystery surpassing our sight...hold in our hands the gift of good work and bear it forth whole... and praise the power” revealed uniquely in Christ.

Remembering with gratitude is a key component of faithful stewardship. I pray that as we reflect on stewardship in the coming weeks, we will remember the tremendous gifts we have received from the saints who have gone before us, and turn to God in thankful and praise. I am so thankful for our church, for our diverse members and gifted staff team. I pray we are investing generously in the future as we care for and teach our children, youth and young adults. I pray we are becoming a more caring community; that strangers in our midst are welcome; when members and friends are hurting we are there for them with support and love. I pray that we live into the fullness of our identity as “saints,” sanctified and made holy by what Christ has done for us that we could not do for ourselves.

My brother is part of the Vanderbilt Center for Integrative Health, and I attended one of their staff meetings. The Director, a Christian, commented that “society is exclusive; community is inclusive.” I wonder if in our reflecting on stewardship and gratitude this month we might also recognize the tremendous gift we are to the world as a welcoming and loving community of Christ-followers? May we continue to invest in ways that serve all beings, and allows the Kingdom of Heaven to break forth in us and in our great city and wherever we are in the world.

In Christ,
Dear friends,

November reminds me of the blessings of the harvest season – a time to remember and give thanks for God’s abundance. In 2000, the Uniting Church in Australia began a movement to establish a new liturgical season allowing worshipers to give thanks to God for these many blessings – the Season of Creation. The season begins in September and many churches across denominations mark this time until the end of November (or until American Thanksgiving). It was established as a time to celebrate the Creator and the wonders of creation. Like the Psalmist, we are given the opportunity to rejoice with the forests, fields, and mountains in praise to our Creator.

Bible readings focus especially on the story of earth, which complements the story of God and the story of humanity in the Scriptures. As worshipers, we participate in liturgies committing ourselves to a ministry of healing the earth, with Christ and creation as our partners. It is a time to celebrate the earth as a sacred planet filled with God’s vibrant presence, as well as a time to confess our sins against creation and to mark a way that invites us to embrace our kin (indeed, the whole world!) as our family in God. The hope is that we are continually equipped to proclaim the good news that the risen Jesus is the cosmic Christ who fills and renews all creation.

The liturgical color is orange. During this season, you will notice me wearing a green stole decorated with a harvest scene filled with orange pumpkins. To me, these colorful gourds are a bright reminder of the beauty of the earth! It warms my heart to see a whimsical autumn squash declare the amazing work of our Creator. Scripture is full of striking passages proclaiming God’s handiwork in creation. The beautiful words of the Psalmist are an awesome reminder of the glory of our God the Creator:

1 LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory in the heavens.
2 Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.
3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?
5 You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.
6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:
7 all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,
8 the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.
9 LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Happy Season of Creation!

Blessings,

Michelle
Thoughts from
Rev. Dan Haugh
Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministries

Here is the caption: “It was Thanksgiving, so no one brought up why Aunt Ruth has a “sleepover” friend named Rhonda, or cousin Bill’s pending trial, or why Grandpa Willard is on the computer well past midnight every night (with the door locked), or little Stephen’s fondness for Broadway show tunes, or his sister Aunette’s 32-year old boyfriend, or Uncle Hank’s almost unhealthy fascination with high heels, or just what in the world that awful scratching noise is up in Grandma Geraldin and Grandpa Burt’s attic…” Every family looks “normal” in pictures, but there is always a caption, right?

As an American I have fond memories of celebrating Thanksgiving. Most years have been spent with family. Living abroad for over a year now, I realize how blessed I am to have a loving and supportive family. I also realize for many people out there, that is not the reality. Close to 70% of my students at church come from broken homes. To these students, being part of the “family of God” already has prepackaged negative connotations. It is hard for them to imagine what a healthy family looks like. I chose to not use the word “normal” because I no longer think any one of us can describe the characteristics or attributes of that term. What is normal for you may be different for me. No longer does “normal” imply 2 parents (husband and wife), first marriage, 2.5 children, stay at home mom, etc....

However, within the diversity of what a family looks like, “healthy” is something we all long for and desire. I believe that is God’s dream as well... for “healthy” families who are committed to each other and united in love. I love my family. They know me more deeply and intimately than anyone else. They understand my complexity and quirks... and tolerate me anyway! My family has walked with and beside me during my dark and difficult moments. My family is thoughtful, caring, and generous with what they have (including their time). They genuinely enjoy spending time together.

There are members of my family who disagree with me in general on a lot of things, and specifically in areas of politics, social issues, and some theological ideas. We have discussions, debates, and may even flat-out disagree or argue on matters that seem very important to us as
individuals. Yet... when we come to the table during these special seasons of the year (literally and symbolically)... love is there. Each Thanksgiving I am reminded of that as we sit around the table and differences are put aside as we pile on the turkey and trimmings. Despite our differences, there is acceptance, embrace, warmth, and collective memories when we gather around the table.

As this month of November ends we approach the beginning of Advent. During this season I am also reminded of the unity we have when we gather in the presence of Christ, for at the table of our Lord the same can happen. Christ’s sacrifice for all made it possible. His continued presence affirms and enables that.

Family can and will disagree and often argue over things, but at the end of the day you are still a family. You are committed to each other and have each others' backs. In a family, you would do anything for your sister, brother, mother, father, niece, nephew, cousin, and (sometimes) distant relative like that crazy uncle or aunt who everyone seems to have.

**Why do we do this?**

Because you are all related. Blood unifies, bonds, and holds you together no matter what, through thick and thin. They say “blood is thicker than water.” And family blood should be thicker than any differences. How much more should the blood of Christ unify Christians?

This holiday season may Jesus’ life, ministry, resurrection, and hope of redemption be what we are all known for. May we come together at Christ’s table to celebrate the reality of his presence. May we allow doctrine such as The Apostle’s Creed to unite us. May we not be known so much for our differences (which ultimately lead to exclusivity and division), when God’s hope for the world is for his children to be known in the unifying love and person of Christ.

As we gather together this Thanksgiving during either our worship service at noon or our meal the following weekend, look around at your "family." Yes, we are all imperfect, flawed, and have quirks. But we can and should accept and love one another as God loves his children and Christ his church.

I am grateful and thankful for our church family here at the American Church in Paris for teaching me the value and beauty of unity in spite of differences.

In Christ,

Dan Haugh
Dear Friends and Members of ACP,

If you read last month’s Spire you may know that the ACP Council’s theme this year, based on Jeremiah 12:7 is “We are here to bless the city!” As we moved into October it was hard to tell who was most blessed! At the 30 September Ministry Fair we had over 100 people sign up to participate in one of the 30+ opportunities. That same day we welcomed 28 new members into the ACP community. On 6 October the Bloom Where You’re Planted program hosted over 180 people with 75 ACP volunteers. We are truly blessed!

At our last Council meeting we approved Jacques and Ursula Perrier to be the ACP delegates to the Fédération protestante de France. This will help us keep abreast of the activities of the French Protestant community in Paris and tuned to where our ministries might be effective.

As we move into November each of our nine Council Committees is busy planning for 2013; there is a lot going on. Please contact us if you would like to help us bless the city. You never know who might feel more blessed.

Your Moderators,
Rad Laney and Pam Bohl
Community Life
Camilla Macfarlane and Nathaniel Akujuobi

New Members Orientation Class

Please RSVP to communitylife@acparis.org, if you would like to attend our next New Members Orientation on 11 November with confirmation on 25 November. Come and find out how we live out and affirm our faith!

Wednesday Evening Supper Club

(In conjunction with Christian Education)
Meets Wednesday evenings at 19h30 at a local café to discuss Timothy Keller's book, King’s Cross.
Come for dinner, dessert, good conversation, and discussion!
Email Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org for café directions!

Welcoming and Greeting

Please consider being one of ACP’s greatest assets!
Be a Meeter Greeter!! This is ministry that EVERY ONE of us can do!!

And do not forget kindness to strangers, for by this, some who, while they were unaware, were worthy to receive Angels. ~ Hebrews 13:2
Let us encourage one another to put on a smile and not be afraid to introduce ourselves to someone who would love to be noticed, acknowledged, and greeted kindly, during one of our coffee hours.
Sign up at the Welcome Table!! We will even get you a name tag!

Filipino Fellowship

YUMMY! They will be serving lunch at the Marché de Nöel.

Nominating Committee
Ursula Perrier and Jonathan Wheeler

Are you interested in serving at ACP in some capacity, but aren’t sure who to contact, or how to find the right fit?
Do you have a special skill or talent that you would like to share?

Throughout the year the Nominating Committee connects people to serve on one of the ACP Committees, or participate in the various ACP projects and activities.

Get Connected! Let us help!
Contact us at nominating@acparis.org
Be a Blessing for the Future

“By faith Isaac invoked blessings for the future on Jacob and Esau.”
--Hebrews 11:20

Look around the ACP. We are blessed by the many who sacrificed and gave generously in generations past so that we can worship and be a part of God’s ministry and mission here today.

Be a blessing for the future:
Invest your resources to build something that is more than we can see or imagine.

Stewardship is a Spiritual Discipline

Amazing, isn’t it, just how deeply and fully God has blessed each one of us? We are blessed as people because we have an inheritance from God before we do anything at all. We are blessed because we are able to give to others out of the grace we have received from God.

Take this month to prayerfully reflect on how God has called you as a blessed person to be a blessing to others at the ACP, in Paris, and the world. We hope you will fill out the Gift of Financial Resources and Gift of Service pledge forms, and prepare to make a new commitment to the Lord on Stewardship Sunday, 18 November.

You have gifts that you can share with the ACP regardless of your income, ability, age, marital status, profession, or gender. Consider how your lifestyle may better reflect your gratitude and thanks for God’s generosity and blessing to you.

Stewardship is a spiritual discipline, one that requires us to take a part of our money, a part of our time, and give it as an offering to God. In this act, something that we see as “mine” becomes “ours” as we work together to create a more giving and dynamic ACP.
How can the ACP be a blessing to others in 2013?

The American Church in Paris is a dynamic place where people can come to worship God, find comfort and solace in spiritual discipleship, serve the city and the world through a variety of mission and outreach opportunities, make friends, meet new people, raise their voices and musical talents in praise, and so much more.

What is even more amazing (Praise God!) is that the ACP will be able to offer even more blessings onto new comers and old timers alike in 2013. With your gifts of financial resources and gifts of service, the ACP will be able to grow and be a blessing unto others in the future.

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<th>We will explore more what it means to be a church community who is growing in &quot;doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God.&quot;</th>
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<td>We will add administrative support for the needs of a growing church</td>
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<td>We will pursue more intentional discipleship classes</td>
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<td>We will start a new youth group for college students, and focus on seeing families become an active part of our community</td>
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<td>We will launch new ministries and programs such as Pub Theology, Open Mic, Faith in Film, and Young Professions Discussion to better serve and support all young adults in Paris</td>
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<td>We will continue to pursue excellence in welcoming visiting scholars, writers and teachers</td>
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<td>We will develop our ministry with and to the Paris artist community</td>
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Do you want more information?

During the services through 18 November, come to hear how your gifts of financial resources are supporting the ministries and missions of the ACP.

On Dedication Stewardship Sunday, 18 November, we invite you to bring your Gift of Financial Resources pledge form to any of the church services. If you are unable to attend that Sunday, please place your form in the offering plate at any time or mail to the ACP accountant, Jean-Michel Bollecker. There will be a Stewardship table at coffee hours if you have questions from now till 18 November.

**Stewardship Team:**
Julia Kung, Stan Marcello (Finance Chair), Sue Orsoni, Joanne Sopt, Megan Staley (Stewardship Chair)

**Together, we will be a blessing for the future**
Christian Education

Anne Speicher and Lori Kolodziejczak

Upcoming Thurber Thursday Lectures
Thurber Thursday’s is an adult community gathering and growth time that is open to all.
We share a meal at 18h30 and the evening program begins at 19h30.

November Discussion Topics
Peter Bannister will be speaking on *Theology and the history of Rock Music* (15 November).
And then, in the theme of Advent, there will be lectures by: Peter Bannister on *In the Fullness of Time: Evolution and Incarnation* (29 November)

December Discussion Topics
Pastor Michelle Wahila on *Eschatology/the Book of Revelation and Popular Culture* (December 6) and Peter Bannister on *Mary is not just for Catholics'* (December 13)

Small Group Studies
Introducing an all-church small-group study, using *King’s Cross* by Timothy Keller, which focuses on the Gospel of Mark, and connects to the sermon series. Please come to the welcome table during the 11h00 service coffee hour on Sunday, 4 November or contact the group leaders directly.
Our aim is widespread participation, and small groups can be organized throughout the city, different days and times at individual homes or at the church. The groups combine Bible study, community, and everyday application.

How about joining one of the following already formed groups!

Wednesday Evening Supper Club: meets at a local café (book discussion over dinner)
Led by Camilla Macfarlane communitylife@acparis.org

Wednesday Evening Home Study (in the 15th)
Led by Kimberley Hunt

Couple Study, twice a month, in Versailles
Led by Angela and Dominique Grelet

Saturday Morning Brunch Circle
Led by Felicia Henderson

(The books are available to purchase at the book table after the 11h00 service for 10€.)

Would you Consider being a Group Leader?
If you would like to be a group leader, please contact Anne at christianeducation@acparis.org or Pastor Wahila at associatepastor@acparis.org.
All group leaders will be given a short training by Pastor Wahila.

Spring Retreat
Sue Orsoni will again organize the spring retreat at St. Benoit sur Loire the first weekend in June 2013.
Cynthia Bourgeault will be leading the retreat.
A great deal of thought and work has gone into getting a new sound system for the sanctuary. This will benefit not only our worship services, each with distinct needs, but also our recording of the many magnificent speakers, musicians, and concerts that continually grace us.

The bidding companies are doing demonstrations so we can best determine what equipment is needed for ACP.

We are thankful for the many ears and the sound system professionals who have spent time speaking with the bidding representatives, listening to demonstrations, and making comments to guide this project. It is a long and arduous path, which is not taken lightly by any who are involved with these decisions.

The Communications Team helps ACP committees and groups get the word out about their activities and events.

If we as a congregation are called to bear witness to Christ’s love, let’s shine that light as clearly as possible. Good communications tools make this easier!

The communications committee produces and updates the ACP website, the Spire newsletter, the weekly Bulletin, the radio show Faith Talk in Paris, social media, a calendar of What’s On, the congregation database, and ministry brochures and materials for publicizing events.

So we need writers, editors, proofreaders, photographers, tweeters, graphic artists and designers, audio-visual pros, and communications specialists in general. If you’d like to help us get the message out, please contact John Newman and Alison Benney at communications@acparis.org.
Mission Outreach
Carolyn Bouazouni and Anne Mildred

The MOC focus for 2012 is to remain committed to God’s work in mission – feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, aiding the poor, parenting the orphans, caring for the widows and elderly, providing restoration and reform for the prisoners, giving medicinal care for the sick, assisting the refugees, encouraging the downhearted, mentoring the young.....

If you would like to contribute or donate in any way to the below missions, please contact us at missionoutreach@acparis.org and we will connect you to the lay-leader in charge.

Local Missions

Friday Mission Lunch Program: The American Church is grateful for volunteers and helping hands every Friday. The program needs lead cooks immediately! Please contact Kristie Worrel.

Foyer de Grenelle is a Christian inspired social center that provides the needy with meals, mailing addresses for the homeless, and assistance to the unemployed. Perhaps you would like to help with the Wednesday Dinners, afternoon babysitting, or even become a co-lay leader!

Love in a Box offers needy children colorfully wrapped Christmas presents. You can help by donating items, filling, and wrapping these gifts. Boxes need to be prepared by 1 December!

Refugee Ministry offers practical and legal information twice a month at ACP for free. Help in assembling packets and other secretarial help would be welcomed.

SOS Help is an English language telephone service providing anonymous and confidential listening to those in need. Volunteers can serve as trained listeners, book sellers, and more.

Global Missions

Beit El Safa in Beirut houses 15 girls who are victims of domestic violence. You can help by contributing to their operating costs and renovation projects.

The Cameroonian Presbyterian Church is constructing a church building for its growing French community. They are in need of building supplies, so we are helping them to get a roof!

Habitat for Humanity seeks to give shelter to families in need. Each summer teams of volunteers from ACP work at home building sites.

King’s Garden Children’s Home is a Christian home that provides health and educational opportunities for abused, impoverished, or enslaved children in the Philippines. You can help by collecting clothes, toys, and school supplies.

The Living Truth Foundation in Ghana, directed by a former ACP member, conducts outreach in hospitals, prisons, and to youth. Help by donating books for prisoners or contributing funds to purchase land for the construction of a church and a home for released prisoners.

The Rafiki Foundation provides a home, education, and healthcare to more than 525 orphans in ten countries in Africa. Patti Lafage is looking for financial support and orchestral instrument donations. Read about her Thurber Thursday presentation on page 13!
Keeping up with Patti!
At Rafiki Village in Uganda

In September 2011, Patti Lafage flew to Uganda to join the Rafiki Village. Rafiki, built in 2003, is home and school to orphans and local children. On these pages, Patti shares stories of “how God has been working to help (her) contribute to His transforming love in Africa.”

Not your typical week!

After my vacation in Paris a month ago, the other missionaries naturally took their turns at being away. At first, all the thousands of details that need to be implemented and followed up, went smoothly. Last Thursday, however, things took a different turn.

In a single school day, four of our resident children fell sick, one after the other. Symptoms varied: headache, low or high fever, vomiting or not. In Uganda, malaria (like “la grippe” in France) is the first thing we think of. Despite all the precautions we take here - bringing the children into their screened cottages before dusk, making sure they all sleep under their specially treated mosquito nets - children do get sick, so the first day we were only mildly surprised. Standard procedure is to test for malaria on the second day of fever and to start the three-day treatment, which is highly effective. Some children had high fevers, some did not. Some of the tests were positive immediately; others took several hours to show only a very slight case. Each day brought more illness, and now we have a total of 11 sick children to date. Seven cases are among our older boys who live in the same cottage. Comforting, taking and recording temps every four hours, making sure the sick children drink plenty of water, keeping track of who gets what meds when... well, you see!

The good news: all are responding quickly to the treatment. Only one child, who has other health issues, has had to be taken to the clinic in town for an overnight stay. But the very wonderful news: we have a Mini-Missionary here right now who is a nurse. She has been able to give extra care to the sick children and to relieve the swamped mamas. God knew that we would need Shirley here now, in the absence of our Childcare Director. How God provides!

On another note: my weekend evenings have been spent happily previewing the wonderful DVDs and CDs that ACP members so generously donated to our Village – over sixty in all. The children are really looking forward to seeing some new films, and there are even quite a few that the staff will enjoy. Thanks! I was so very touched by the warm welcome at ACP. Thank you for your interest in this mission, for your friendship, your support, and your prayers. They mean everything to us!

Additionally, here is a picture of Kizito, who received an instrument that was donated from a Parisian violinist. His joy jumps out of this picture, and I can tell you that he is just so thrilled and looking forward to some lessons. Again, the support and interests in our missions do mean the world. Thank you.
Following our Destiny

by Destiny E. Ryales

Greetings to you from the land of year-long summer! Yesterday was the first time I checked the weather in Paris or Chicago since my move to Ghana, and I was completely shocked that fall has arrived in both cities (but not in mine!)

Things have been progressing very smoothly since last month’s article. I am learning the local dialect from the villagers who LOVE to come over and say ‘Good Morning Madam.’ They are very serious about greeting you first thing in the morning, and if you skip one day then they are going to send out a search party to see why you are not there! Love it!

We offered our first computer technology class on 10 October 2012 with six classes of students from the 2nd to 7th grade. Class was more talking then anything, because I wanted the children to understand the rules of being in a room with twelve computers. Accidents happen but any accident in this classroom would be expensive. There was only one computer displayed at this point, because we were giving them a snack and ice cream towards the end of the class. After the rules, the teacher taught everyone how to put together a desktop computer. The kids were having a ball!! It was a lovely first week.

The second week was filled with laughter and big smiles across the room. We set out all the computers on Tuesday afternoon so the students could take a sneak peak Wednesday morning as they walked past the classroom to their primary school. The first class arrived at 9h00 with eleven students ready to take on the world. The following classes were around the same size so every child had his/her own computer. But Thursday was a different thing. These classes were bigger, so I must find a way to purchase four more computers asap.

Our lesson plan included the students performing the following tasks:

- Connecting their individual desktop keyboard and mouse devices
- Logging into their student user accounts from the Welcome Screen
- Learning how to move the mouse efficiently and typing with the home row keys
- Opening and closing various software applications and system folders
- Logging off their student account and turning off the desktop completely.

Needless to say, each grade made it to a certain level and we are now altering the lesson plan to fit the need. We totally expected it and I am very happy that my teacher volunteer is willing to make sure they continue next week from the point they left off. When the students see us after
school they are ready to do whatever we need, such as carry water to our home, sweep the inside and outside of each room in the center, deliver pineapples and oranges to me, or fufu to Abraham. Helpful little darlings!

Next week they will be able to use the amazing keyboarding software that I installed today from a teacher website. The software will tell them which keys to type, show them a mini keyboard on the screen for help, and create a final score at the completion of each level. My prayer is to have everyone typing at 75 words a minute before I come to Paris on 11 December 2012. Pray for them, please!!

There are two additional villages within 2 miles of here that I really want to help also. But their children cannot walk to our technology center during school hours. It is not at all feasible and I am sad about it. In the meantime, I am thinking about taking five computers and my teacher to offer lessons in these villages starting in two weeks. And during my trip to Paris and Chicago this December, I will try to fundraise as much as possible to buy a school bus/van. The Chief knows someone who would be willing to pick up and return the students back to their villages. I just need to raise the money to make it happen. I truly think with God’s help that it will be achieved.

This is my story and I am sticking to it.

I thank you all for your prayers! See you in December (if you are in Paris)!

Destiny
Family Mystery Cleared Up
For ACP Visitors
by Fred Gramann

On Friday, 27 September 2012, our faithful ACP docent Anjlo Ajmal introduced me to a guest who wanted to clear up a mystery about the original organ at ACP. There was family hearsay that his great-grandfather had given an organ to the American Church in Paris, but the relatives suspected it was a myth.

When I pronounced the donor's name - "Fred Weckesser" - his eyes widened in astonishment. The visitor's name was also Fred Weckesser, having been named after his great-grandfather who had indeed endowed ACP with an organ back in 1931. As is noted in the book about Americans in Paris and the ACP entitled Friendly Adventurers, Mr. Weckesser gave the gift of an organ saying, "I want my children, when they come to Paris, to attend the American Church and remember when they hear the organ that their father was interested in religion, especially as interpreted through music."

While only the facade pipes, wind chests, and a few interior pipes still exist of the former organ, one can't help but think that he would be amazed to know that the organ brought not only his children for a visit, but also his great-grandson! The photo collage shows Fred with the organ facade above him that his great grandfather gave, and with his wife. Not pictured are Fred's father, son and grandson, all of whom are named .... you guessed it... Fred Weckesser!

Late For Class

A little girl, dressed in her "Sunday best" was late and running to her Sunday school class. As she ran, she prayed, "Dear God, please don't let me be late. Dear God, please don't let me be late." Then she fell.

She got up, dusted herself off and saw that her dress was now dirty and had a little tear. She started running again, still praying, "Dear God, please don't let me be late." But this time she added, "But please don't push me, either!"
The tradition of celebrating an event with a feast is probably as old as humankind itself. You can find it everywhere, in probably all of the world's great histories, literature, and religions. Food, a place, and a moment in time to share them are things that build unique bonds between people.

Perhaps you could say that Thanksgiving is like a very old tree, with hundreds of hidden roots, but with a stout trunk and countless branches and leaves for all to see and enjoy. Whether we're Americans, married to or friends of Americans, or invitees enjoying the experience, we are part of something much older than the invented tradition of the American Thanksgiving.

A harsh winter in 1620 made life difficult and dangerous for the early settlers in Massachusetts, but a moment was made between the settlers and the Wampanoag Indians living nearby to share what they had, not just what they had hunted or grown or made, but more significantly, to share their time and their table together. But it took the shattering of the country in the depths of a terrible civil war and a woman named Sarah Buell to inspire President Abraham Lincoln to try to find a way to bring his divided people back to the table, to rekindle the idea of oneness. He declared a national Day of Thanksgiving, set for the last Thursday of November of that year, 1863. A tradition started, and a few generations and a couple of acts of Congress later, Thanksgiving became the holiday we recognize today, the fourth Thursday of each November, and has been so since 1939.

However, it's not the ancient history, or the more recent American one, that makes this holiday perhaps the most beloved by many Americans. It is telling that some of the historical Thanksgivings I've mentioned here were born out of some kind of hardship or conflict. There is great wisdom, the hand of God, in this: that whether we are in hard times or good, at war or at peace, we can find something — something — that we can be grateful for. And indeed, this is the real blessing. When we come together like this, regardless of our other customs or traditions, by simply sitting at table together and enjoying a meal we celebrate life and our shared human experience. In short, it's not the turkey or the pie, or the stories of pilgrims and Indians — it's you, all of you, American or not, that just by being here make Thanksgiving great.

Thanksgiving is nothing without people. I love the American way of finding “stragglers” and inviting them for Thanksgiving — stragglers being those who are alone, lonely, or just away from their family, friends, and loved ones. It says so much, not just about Thanksgiving, but about the greater tradition, that we hold togetherness with those near us to be the important thing, and our thankfulness for it. God Bless.
Thanksgiving Dinner
Saturday, 24 November at 19h30

Tickets go on sale 4 November, at the coffee hours after the services, and on 5 November you can purchase tickets online at www.acpthanksgiving2012.eventbrite.com

Dinner will be served at 19h30 in the Thurber Room

We will be serving:
- Turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing with cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, green beans, and of course…. pumpkin pie with whipped cream.
- GOOD wine is available for purchase too! 10€/bottle or 2€/glass

Get your tickets NOW! This event sells out fast!

Adults: 17€  Children and Students (with student ID): 10€
Women of the American Church

The Women of the American Church is a Christ-centered ministry, encouraging spiritual growth and maturity in women as we listen for God's calling in our lives and live into the grace offered to us as His daughters and heirs of the Kingdom. It is our intention to build a circle of friendships among the women of ACP and to equip each woman to use her God-given gifts to serve her family, church, and community.

Our Purpose
Spiritual Formation and Education, Fellowship and Hospitality, Monthly Sunday Morning Women’s Gathering, and Community Service.

Our next gathering is 18 November
Arlene Gross will be talking about the Coeur de Femme and how we can offer our support to these women in need. We will be collecting toiletry items at this meeting to help make Christmas gifts for the Coeur de Femme ladies.

Upcoming Gatherings
Our next gatherings will be held at 12h30-13h30 on 18 November, 16 December and 27 January
Advent Women’s Discussion and Prayer Group
Using Enuma Okoro’s new book Silence (Starting first week of December in the evenings)
Also, we will hold our 2013 Annual Retreat on 23 February.

ACP Calendars Have Arrived!
....and are on sale for 10€ each.

Designed by a team here at the church and professionally printed in the US, these calendars celebrate the conclusion of the Faith Into Action campaign that brought about so many renovations to our building over the past five years. You can purchase a copy (or copies for gifts!) during the coffee fellowship time on Sundays or during the week at the church reception desk.

This calendar is a way of looking forward and anticipating what God will do in our lives and the lives of others. As you use this calendar, we pray that you will remember and celebrate God’s faithfulness each day, and that God will bless you and the ministry of the ACP for many years to come!
From our 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.

James 5:13-16 (NIV)
13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

If you would like someone to pray WITH you after service, there will be a prayer team member available. Meet under the chandelier in the sanctuary.

The ACP Lay Caregiver Ministry Team

LCG’ers are dedicated to demonstrating the love of Christ to the ACP community by making hospital visits, rejoicing with those who are celebrating, and calling, or visiting those who are going through a loss or transition or needing a listening ear or a prayerful presence.

We are also working to set up a prayer time following each of the worship services to pray with people in the congregation.

We follow training to be equipped to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.
We are always looking for more members and are happy to receive requests for visits or calls.
All of our requests are confidential. If you know of anyone who could use a visit or call from us, or would like to become a member of our team,
please contact Pastor Michelle or Yoshiko Okubo
(laycaregivers@acparis.org)
SPECIAL CONCERT
Association Symphonique de Paris
directed by Franck Chastrusse

Saturday, 17 November at 20h00
(in the Sanctuary)

Program
Beethoven Piano Concerto #3
Soloist Natalia Romanenko
and
Beethoven Symphony #5

Jazz Evening at the British Embassy
In aid of SOS Help Line

Friday, 23 November at 19h30
39 rue du Faubourg St Honore, 75008

Tickets can be purchased online only and are not available at the door
For more information or to purchase tickets
www.soshelpline.org/events.html

“ACP Today, the American Church in Paris”

Have you tuned into ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show yet? The shows are broadcast the first and third Mondays of each month at 20h45. The 45-minute program is an exciting and inspiring mix of music, interviews, sermon highlights, and discussion on hot topics.

Tune to 100.7 FM on the radio dial, Radio Fréquence Protestante, ACP Today, Faith Talk from Paris! And please invite others to listen—friends who may be housebound or who would simply like more devotional time on a Monday evening. Past shows are available on the ACP website, too!

If you have any questions or comments, be sure to contact us at acptoday@acparis.org.
The Atelier Concert Series

Sunday, 4 November
Judith Rodriguez, soprano
Debra Takajian, piano
Performing music by:
Liszt, Bizet, Puccini,
Massenet, Rodriguez

Sunday, 11 November
Jeanne-Marie Anglès, Soprano
Pauline Chiama, Viole de Gambe
Jorge Ivan Molina, baroque guitar & Archiluth
Pascal Szymczak, Viola Pomposa
Performing music by:
Bach, Vivaldi, Strozzi, Imaña, Sanz

Sunday, 18 November
“Serenade Duo”
Michelle LaPorte, flute
Gerald Sautler, guitar
Music by
Piazzolla, Granados,
Pujol, Merlin, Villa Lobos

Sunday, November 25
Nicolas Horvath, piano
Special launch of his new CD "Christus"

All concerts begin at 17h00 in the Sanctuary of ACP
Free entrance and free-will offering for all Atelier Series Concerts
**Young Adult Events (18-30yrs)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 5</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Young Adult leaders team meeting</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 6</td>
<td>19h30-21h00</td>
<td>Bible Study in the <em>Catacombs</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>18h30-21h30</td>
<td>Prayer Room open in G2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13</td>
<td>18h00-21h00</td>
<td>Pizza Night* in the <em>Thurber Room</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14</td>
<td>19h30-21h30</td>
<td>Young Professionals group <em>Catacombs</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 16</td>
<td>19h30-21h00</td>
<td>Bible Study “Women of Faith” <em>Catacombs</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 18</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Young Adult Habitat for Humanity meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 19</td>
<td>19h30-21h30</td>
<td>Pub Theology in O’Brien’s pub, rue Saint Dominique, 75007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20</td>
<td>19h30-21h00</td>
<td>Bible Study “Thanksgiving Praise” in the <em>Catacombs</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>18h30-21h30</td>
<td>Prayer Room open in G2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 22</td>
<td>12h00</td>
<td>Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service <em>American Cathedral</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 24</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>ACP Thanksgiving Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 27</td>
<td>18h00-21h00</td>
<td>Pizza night in the <em>Thurber Room</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 28</td>
<td>19h30-21h30</td>
<td>Young Professionals group <em>Catacombs</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 30</td>
<td>20h00-22h00</td>
<td>Faith in Film: viewing and discussion <em>Catacombs</em></td>
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*For **Pizza Night** come at 18h00 to help cook and from 19h30 for dinner and fellowship*

You can also join us on Thursday 15 Nov and 29 Nov for **Thurber Thursday** with a meal at 18h30 and a presentation from 19h30 in the Thurber Room. Check Christian Education for speaker list and come early to help cook or set up! Volunteers are greatly appreciated!

For more information about who we are and what we do at ACP Young Adults, please visit our group page on the church website:
http://www.acparis.org/acp-groups/young-adult-ministry

We invite you to connect with us online for community and updates on all young adult activities and gatherings:
http://www.facebook.com/groups/ACPyoungadults/
You can also follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/danhaugh)
Youth Activities in November
by Lisa Prevett

Youth Events (13-18yrs)
Please feel free to bring friends along – they are always welcome at ACP events!

1— 4 Nov  AICEME International Youth Conference in Wittenberg, Germany

Sunday 4  15h00-17h00  Youth Group “Collège” Gym & G2
           No “Lycée” group this week

Sunday 11  11h00  Youth Sunday at the 11h00 worship service.
            12h15 & 14h30  Parent Meet & Greet
                          after the 11h service ~ the Youth Pastor Office
                          after 13h30 service ~ the Chapel (next to Sanctuary)

            12h30-13h30  Confirmation Class Catacombs
            15h00-17h30  Youth Group “Lycée” Catacombs
            15h00-17h00  Youth Group “Collège” Gym & G2
            17h30  Youth Leaders team meeting & dinner

Friday 16  18h-20h  Youth Missions Book Sale prep
           20h-22h  Youth Group Game Night Gym & Catacombs

Sunday 18  12h30-13h30  Confirmation Class Catacombs
            15h00-17h30  Youth Group “Lycée” Catacombs
            15h00-17h00  Youth Group “Collège” Gym & G2
            17h30-18h30  Youth Missions team meeting Catacombs

Sunday 25  12h30-13h30  Confirmation Class Catacombs
            15h00-17h30  Youth Group “Lycée” Catacombs
            15h00-17h00  Youth Group “Collège” Gym & G2

Monday 26  19h00-21h00  Parent’s Forum Catacombs

Youth Worship (11-13yrs)
We meet each Sunday during the 11h00 worship service in the Youth Catacombs.
Follow the cross during the service to gather in the theater.

For more information about who we are and what we do at ACP Youth, please visit our group page on the church website: http://www.acparis.org/acp-groups/youth-ministry, or contact Rev. Dan Haugh at youthpastor@acparis.org.
For students to stay connected with our online community please join our Facebook group: http://www.facebook.com/groups/acpyouthgroup/
Volunteering Opportunities

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP: Children's Worship Needs You!
Volunteers are asked to commit to serving approximately two Sundays every 6-8 weeks. For more information, please contact Jeanette at childrensworship@acparis.org.

GREETING AND USHERING: We are seeking new members for this group. If you are interested in participating during the services, please contact Anna Zweede at worshipandmusic@acparis.org.

THURBER THURSDAY: Like to cook? Bake? We need people for making cakes/cookies and delicious desserts in advance of our dinners on Thursday evenings, as well as helping with dinner preparations on Thursdays. Our cooking crew starts at 16h00 and set up crew sets the tables starting at 17h30. Please contact Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org if you would like to become part of this fun team! Clean upcrew eats for free and earns special blessings!

THANKSGIVING TEAM: Looking for people to cook on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and clean up after our dinner on 24 November. If you sign up for the clean up crew... You eat for FREE!! Contact Camilla at communitylife@acparis.org. There are five clean up crew slots left!

RUMMAGE SALE: has been cancelled. Space and time are the main issues. If you have ideas to help distribute the already collected materials and goods, please contact Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org.

FRIDAY MISSION LUNCH at the American Church in Paris. Each Friday from 10h00 – 14h00, a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. Volunteers are needed each week for cooking, serving, and cleaning up. If you are interested and available please contact Kristie Worrel.

WELCOME TABLE ATTENDANTS and COFFEE HOUR GREETERS:
Be a MEETER GREETER! We are looking for happy, cheerful people to help at the Welcome Table after every service, as well as roaming coffee hour greeters. This is a ministry that we can ALL share in, and if you can share 20 minutes of your time, once a month to participate in welcoming guests, you are sure to find more joy than you can give. A smile and a handshake is all that is needed! Teams are being formed so that each team serves one Sunday per month at each service. Please contact Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org if you can be counted on to spread some joy and welcome a new comer!
ACP Bible Studies and Other Discussion Groups

ACP SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY will be reading Ecclesiasticus or The Wisdom of Ben Sirach, not to be confused with Ecclesiastes, and not contained in our Protestant bibles. This text, 51 chapters long, written around 180 BC, can be downloaded at www.catholicdoors.com/bible/sirach.htm. The class, led by Tom Johnson and Kristie Worrel, meets in G2 between services at 10h15 – 11h00. Everyone is welcome to attend.

ACP SUNDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY meets at 12h30 in G7. All are welcome to join us in the study of the book of Daniel as it relates to a common situation: being foreigners in a foreign land and how to apply God's word in everyday life.

ACP FILIPINO FELLOWSHIP BIBLE STUDY: All are welcome to attend. Study begins Sundays at 14h00 in the Thurber Room. Contact Virginia Jacinto for more details.

ACP TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY is studying Ephesians. All are welcome! We will be using Warren Wiersbe's book: Be Rich: Gaining the Things That Money Can’t Buy. Participants will be responsible for purchasing their own copy (available via internet or through WH Smith bookstore). Come along even if you don’t yet have a copy of the book. We’re good at sharing! The study runs from 10h30-12h30 every Tuesday morning except during school holidays in the catacombs of the church building. Childcare is available for a minimal fee. For more information please contact Jennifer Jourlait.

ACP MEN’S GROUP: Come for coffee, conversation, prayer, and fellowship. Any men interested in further information, address, and door codes, or in being added to our e-mail list, should contact Ed Hyslip.

ACP WEDNESDAY EVENING SUPPER CLUB: Discussing Timothy Keller’s book, King’s Cross, over dinner at a café, every Wednesday evening at 19h30. Anybody and everybody is welcome to join us for good discussion, good fellowship, and good food! For more information and café location, please contact Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org. Note: It is nice if you are up to date in the reading, but conversation is more conceptual regarding the chapter being discussed, so don’t be hesitant to come just because you haven’t read it!
ACP Groups and Additional Fun Activities

**ACP WRITER’S GROUP** meets the second Saturday of the month at 14h00 – 17h00 in room G2. Contact Rosalyn McKeown.

**MULTICULTURAL COUPLES POTLUCK** will meet on Saturday, 17 November at 18h00 for a potluck of food and fun. You are warmly invited to bring a dish to share and join the fun. There is always great fellowship and fascinating cross-cultural discussion.

**THE KNITTING GROUP** will meet on Mondays at 17h00. We welcome all newcomers whether beginners or experts or somewhere in between. Some of us even crochet, quilt, and cross stitch. Bring your own project and find new friends.

**THE QUILTING GROUP** meets on Tuesday afternoon at members houses and welcomes quilters of all levels. We have worked on a paper piecing project and now we are working on a pieced and appliqué basket project.

**MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP**: The movie group’s choices for November are: *In Another Country*, by Hong Sang-soo, *Cesare deve morire*, *(César doit Mourir)*, by the Taviani brothers, *Amour*, by Michael Haneke and *Argo*, by Ben Affleck. See any or all in the cinema at your convenience, then join the group for discussion on Thursday, 15 November at 19h30 in room G2 of the church basement.

### Independent Christian Prayer Groups and Bible Study Activities

**MOMS IN PRAYER INTERNATIONAL** has come to Paris! Are you concerned about your kids? Would you like to join with other moms as we lift up our cares and concerns for our children and their schools to our loving Father? Experience the joy of replacing anxiety with peace and hope when we pray together. Contact Caroline at MomsInPrayerParis@gmail.com for information and join us Tuesday mornings at 9h30 in G2. See also MomsInPrayer.org.

**BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP (BSF INTERNATIONAL)**: What a great way to discover the gift of God’s Word through BSF’s interdenominational and international Bible studies! This Paris class brings together 50 or so women for in-depth Bible study every Monday evening from 19h00 to 20h50.

**MINDFUL MEDITATION**: This group is being offered on Saturdays from 12h00 to 13h15, in G2, for those who already have a meditation practice, as well as for those who are interested in beginning a practice. Mindfulness meditation is a way of learning to pay attention to our life as it unfolds moment by moment. It is open to church members as well as to the larger community. Norma Jean Deak, a clinical social worker, has taught Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction for 14 years. Contact Norma Jean with any questions.
Marie Laure Laverjat

Marie Laure is from beautiful Bordeaux, where she went to Ecole Superieure de Commerce. She has now been in Paris for nearly 20 years and has been a member of ACP for 12 years.

You can find Marie Laure helping and volunteering in many different places around the church. Her lovely smile and gracious and cheerful attitude are always very nice to be around. She knows things too, (insert a wink and a knowing look), and is always willing to be a helpful leader, as well as lending a helping hand.

She sang in the choir for ten years, but decided to be part of the bell choir instead, and continues to share the joy of music by ringing with the Celebration Ringers. She also is a member of the nominating committee and helps on Sundays by ushering and collecting and counting the offerings. Her favorite part of being at ACP though is being a congregant at the services.

When she has free time, she packs in as many ballet classes as she can. Her graceful silhouette can sometimes be seen practicing at the bar in the theatre after bell rehearsals, with a few other ballet aficionados! They stretch and their pirouettes and arabesques are beautiful! She also adores gardening and her many cats. She spends many hours in her garden and helps others garden as well. She has a very green thumb!

Being a native French speaker, she is also a wonderful translator! She can help in giving you the right word at the right time, if for any reason the word you are looking for doesn’t come to mind!

So, the next time you see Marie-Laure, give her a thank you for sharing her time and talents with us. Her loving nature and sweet smile are so approachable and she is very open and warm. Perhaps you can ask her about her personal faith journey, and what it means in her life to be a volunteer, sharing so much time and talent.

For certain, ACP is very grateful to have her as our spiritual sister and friend.
Upcoming Events

All-Church Christmas Party!

Thursday, 20 December, 18h30

Dinner, Singing, and Fellowship
....AND a White Elephant Gift Exchange*!

Don’t know what a White Elephant Gift Exchange is????
It goes like this.
You bring an item from your home that you don’t want anymore. Something that you
 can’t use, or just don’t want anymore. (Something worth no more than 10 or 15€).
Wrap it up and bring it! You will receive a ticket in exchange for your gift.
When it is time for the exchange, tickets will be drawn and the person called gets to choose
one of the gifts. The gift is opened and shown it to all who are participating. The next
person called, can also choose a gift, OR take the gift that has already been opened!
If the already opened gift is chosen, then the person who has his gift taken,
gets to open a new gift, etc, etc, till all the gifts have been chosen.
It is very fun and VERY funny! Plan to join the fun!

Cookie Decorating and Christmas Caroling!

Saturday, 22 December
A fun day of Christmas Activity for the whole family!

14h00– 17h00  Christmas Cookie Decorating and Gingerbread House Making*
17h00—18h30 Sandwiches, cookies, hot chocolate, spiced cider
And a rehearsal!

A REHEARSAL???? A Rehearsal FOR WHAT??
FOR CAROLING!
We will be heading to the Metro and then Champs Elysées!
18h30—20h30

*Gingerbread House Kits can be purchased from Kent's Party Solutions for 25€ for a small size house kit or 50€
for large kits. Everything is included with the exception of the frosting to glue it together, which will be
provided at the church function on 22 Dec. Pictures are available! Place your order in advance
at kentspartysolutions@gmail.com so they can be delivered to the church by decoration day!
RADIO SHOW FUN!

Rev. Dr. Glen Thorp and his wife Jeannie Thorp talk about Spiritual Gifts and the All Church Retreat that took place in Houlgate, Normandy.

Charles Mitchelmore is host with Rev. Dr. Scott Herr, Senior Pastor and Rev. Dan Haugh, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

Bloom Where You’re Planted
The American Church in Paris is a member congregation of the Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East. If you are traveling and looking for a place to worship, please consult the AICEME website for our sister congregations: http://aiceme.net/.

Clergy and Staff of the American Church in Paris

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Assistant Secretary   Paul Grayson        councilassistantsecretary@acparis.org
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Treasurer Vice Chair  Megan Staley        financeandstewardship@acparis.org
Human Resources Chair  Pierre Lisbonis      humanresources@acparis.org
Human Resources Vice-Chair Pascal Berger    humanresources@acparis.org
Christian Education Chair Anne Speicher     christianeducation@acparis.org
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