Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

Our Stewardship theme for the year is simple: “We Give.” It states the obvious, that disciples of Jesus Christ give of their time, talent and financial resources. Giving is implicit in the lifestyle of a disciple. But the first question is “Why give?” In the United States, a Halloween tradition is for children to go “trick or treating.” Adorned in their favorite costumes, children go to a house and ring the door-bell. When the homeowner answers, the children say (loudly!), “Trick or Treat!” The idea is that you give the children a treat or they’ll play a trick on you! Of course Christians should not give because of coercion or guilt. We give because we have received so richly from God! You have read the scripture in I John 4:19, “We love, because God first loved us.” The verse could be paraphrased, “We give, because God first gave to us.”

In early October, I attended the American Foreign Christian Union development meeting in Minneapolis. The AFCU board members are all alumni/ae of the ACP or our sister churches in Berlin and Vienna. The AFCU members give generously to support the three churches because they remember how important our congregations were in their expatriate time abroad. They give faithfully, some of them for decades after having left Europe, because they received so much while here. Part of the meeting agenda included a presentation by a Philanthropic Advisor from the Minnesota Philanthropy Partners. In her presentation, she listed the various “Motivations for Giving” as “identifying with a cause or community, desire to leave a legacy, memorialize a loved one, seek recognition or status, achieve financial security for a favorite cause, limit transfer of wealth to heirs, and secure tax benefits.”

I immediately raised my hand and said, “You’ve left off the list what I think is the most important motivation for giving... the ‘Joy Factor!’” The Apostle Paul recalls Jesus’ words (Acts 20:35), “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Obviously we need to receive first in order to give, but I think Jesus meant that it is more fun to give, even anonymously, and to see others blessed by our gifts and offerings than it is to receive. I hope joy is always your main motivation in giving: You are experiencing the joy of God’s grace and love so richly, so fully, that you just can’t help but share it and give it away to others!

Our theme verse this year is from I Peter 4:10, “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” The phrase, “manifold grace of God” appears only here in the New Testament. The word “manifold” poikilos in the Greek, means “of various colors or sorts.” How perfect for our congregation! We give because we believe that all of us have received varied gifts from God. And so we all have something to share, to give. Please take time to prayerfully consider your stewardship in the coming year. God is blessing our congregation so faithfully. How will we faithfully be a blessing to this city and the world? I think it will be according to the colorful ways in which we give!

While we have been reflecting on our theme “We Give” in previous weeks, Sunday 17 November will be an opportunity to make a collective commitment to the Lord. We will be encouraging one another to grow in our stewardship throughout the year, as giving is a key component of discipleship, but some of you may want to prayerfully consider and fill out a commitment form to help you grow in your faith. My prayer is that as we grow in our own faithful stewardship awareness and commitment, our congregation will grow in joyful blessings and as a blessing for this city and the world!

Learning to grow in discipleship and stewardship of the colorfully diverse grace of God with you,

In Christ,

[Signature]
Mission Retreat 2013
By The Rev. Michelle Wahila
Associate Pastor

Have you ever wondered what the Mission and Outreach Committee is all about? Are you curious about what it means to engage in “mission” and live out your Christian faith?

Come to the Mission Retreat Morning on 7 December, 9h00 – 12h00 in the Thurber Room!

This retreat is designed for young adults and adults to engage in fruitful dialogue about being the missional church.

Beginning with a light breakfast and fellowship, the morning will include a devotional time led by Chuck Davis, a time of learning about the ACP’s Mission Outreach Committee, and a time of learning led by John V. Winings, the Executive Director of Haiti Fund, Inc. about how churches can “effectively” partner with already existing missions and nonprofits.

Please consider joining the Mission Outreach Committee and your brothers and sisters in faith in learning more about “mission.” When we speak of mission we talk about God’s Kingdom, doing God’s work and following Jesus. As a church we are also entrusted to be stewards of financial resources and to give to partner organizations. We are given great responsibility as Christians and as the church. It is helpful then to “think theologically” about a coherent vision for “doing mission” that is consistent with what we believe and how we believe God works in the world.

There are myriad questions that come to mind in thinking through a church’s mission program. During our upcoming morning mission retreat, our team hopes to be able to think through some of these crucial questions. I encourage you to add your own to this list, and to think, pray and be encouraged to be a part of God’s work in this world!

What does it mean to do mission? Is that different than being a Christian? As Christ’s ambassadors, how do we reflect His light to the least among us? Do we embody His love for the least of these as a church community? Are we responsible for reaching out beyond our own local community? And if so, how do we choose organizations with whom we can partner? Once we have chosen missions, how can we expand our vision? Do we ever “prune” our program, and if so, how?

If these questions spark your interest and speak to your heart, please join the Mission Outreach Committee for a time of reflection and discussion, led by two incredible speakers and our very own MOC chair and vice-chair. It will be a time of learning, fellowship and blessing.

Bénédictions,

Michelle
From 21 October to 3 November over 100 students converged on Luxembourg City for the annual AICEME Youth Conference. Members from our ACP lycée group were amongst the scores of teenagers who traveled by plane or train for this weekend getaway in the tiny country of Luxembourg. Our host was All Nations Church and they celebrated their 10th anniversary the weekend of our arrival.

Each year, the Association of Churches in Europe and the Middle East (AICEME) hosts a number of gatherings and conferences including the Pastors and Spouse conference, Youth Pastors conference and also this Youth Conference.

Please visit the website to learn more: [www.aiceme.net](http://www.aiceme.net)

AICEME is an association of Christian congregations, bearing witness to the Gospel and serving Jesus Christ among English-speaking people throughout Europe and the Middle East. AICEME member churches are diverse in style, tradition, denominational affiliation, and membership. Many of the churches were started by English-speaking Christians from North America. Today, the association includes believers from six continents who are business people, expatriates, diplomats, refugees, missionaries, and students.

What brings everyone together is the English language and love for Christ.

There are approximately twenty-eight member churches in this association and each church has middle school and high school students involved. While some churches are not yet able to hire a youth pastor or have an official “youth group,” AICEME creates an opportunity once a year for all churches to send students to an international conference where they can make new friends, be inspired in their faith and equipped as a follower of Jesus.

What I have discovered is that these Third-Culture students find commonality and solidarity with one another and instantly forge friendships. Why? Partly due to the fact that they are all accustomed to transitions and having to open up to new students on a regular basis. Many of these churches are full of transient families and, like ACP, have learned to become a welcoming community for all, even if only traveling through for six months. Another reason why students love this conference is that they understand each other. Many are from multi-cultural families, speak multiple languages, have dual citizenship, feel 100% comfortable at an airport by age twelve, and struggle to answer the often posed question “Where are you from?”

So, once a year we gather from across Europe to support and encourage one another. This year the 2013 AICEME Youth Conference is themed THRIVE—Real faith: Real life. Youth Pastors from various churches will lead the main sessions and seminars and we have a city-wide treasure hunt and Serve the City opportunity to focus our time on having fun together, exploring this new city and serving those in need.

I am honored to be part of a church that supports this association and believes in the importance of our students learning, worshiping, serving, and living alongside each other as we embrace our unity in diversity as followers of Christ.

Dan Haugh
Of all of the beautiful sounds one can hear at any given time inside the American Church in Paris, perhaps the most beautiful of all is the joyful sound of children laughing. There was plenty of that (not to mention a strong pitter-pattering of over 50 pairs of little feet and some very loud singing) the week of 26-30 August during ACP’s Vacation Bible School.

My name is Allison Wheeler, and I am the new Director of Children’s Ministries here at ACP. I was also lucky enough to be a volunteer for this year’s VBS, working under the direction of our VBS-coordinator extraordinaire, the impeccable Camilla Furman. Our theme this year was “The Fruits of the Spirit,” so the church was turned into the closest that we could get it to a county fair without the Ferris wheel: volunteers dug out their plaid shirts and bandanas, cotton candy was served, and everything that we did—from the crafts to the games—had a farm feeling to it. While we had fun recreating a little slice of Americana in the 7th arrondissement of Paris, the real goal was to create a fun, safe place for children to learn about and experience the love of Jesus Christ.

The children started each day by learning about a new fruit of the spirit by watching a short video illustrating each different fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness) and then learning a verse that corresponded to the day’s fruit. By beginning each day with scripture, everything that the children did at VBS was provided with a biblical foundation, and at the end of the week the kids had been exposed to five new bible verses. From there the children would be divided by age group and move onto one of three different activities: a bible story, crafts, or games. In each of these activities the adult volunteers used every opportunity to reinforce the fruits that the children had been learning about. What better way for a child to learn about patience then to have to wait their turn for a glue stick during craft time, or to show kindness than to cheer on other children during games, or to grow in peace than by calmly listening to a story from the Bible?

After these activities everyone was served a professionally catered lunch which was a new, and very welcome, feature to VBS this year. Then the children would gather together for singing and dancing. I’ve been told by several parents that their children are still singing the songs that they sang at VBS! It’s a good thing that the songs that the children learned seem to get stuck in their heads because it helped them to perform those songs like pros the Sunday after VBS ended. This was a wonderful opportunity for the entire congregation to experience just a little bit of what we fortunate volunteers had been privileged to experience all week long: the contagious joy of the children.

Before the children left each day, Pastor Michelle Wahila would lead us, children and adults together, in a group prayer. What a wonderful chance to be reminded, before heading back out into the craziness that is Paris on the eve of the infamous rentrée, that more than awesome games, more than catered lunches, more than mosaics made out of seeds, that these children were there to receive the sum of these parts: knowing that church is a really fun place that we can come and experience the love of Jesus Christ. It is my prayer, and I know that it is the prayer of each VBS volunteer, that the children carry the security that comes from that love with them throughout this new school year.

Regular Children’s Worship takes place every Sunday (except school holidays) at the 11h00 and 13h30 services. If you would like your child to be a part of Children’s Worship at the American Church in Paris, please register them on our website: www.acparis.org. And in order to keep this wonderful program up and running at full capacity, we are always in need of volunteers. If you would like to consider offering your time or talents to the Children’s Ministry at the church, please contact me at childrensworship@acparis.org.
At the American Church in Paris on Thanksgiving night 20 years ago, Jean Taquet made a move that would prove decisive in his life – and would indirectly result, 10 years later, in the ACP’s refugee ministry.

But the reasons for Jean’s move that night go back 10 years earlier still, when Paula Woolfolk, a graduate student in music at the University of Urbana-Champaign, came to France to work on her doctorate and ended up finding lodging in the Taquet family’s spacious home in Arpajon, south of Paris, in 1983.

Love bloomed, and in the spring of 1986 Jean moved to the United States and got married. Now, in November 1993, he and Paula had been back in France almost four years, and their daughter, Lucille, was two years old. Paula, to Jean’s surprise, had had a hard time adapting to living full time in France.

“I was surprised because she had always studied French and she was fluent.” It was Jean’s first experience of the difficulties expatriates could have adapting to another culture.

He was bicultural himself, born in France to a Danish mother and a French father. While growing up he had spent every summer in Denmark. Culture switching seemed natural to him, so his wife’s frequent confusion and anger over how things were done in France threw him in the beginning.

“So Paula kept saying, ‘Why do they do such and such this way? Why don’t they do it the right way?’,” Jean recalled. Through trial and error, he began building a body of experience in the kind of clues and explanations that could help expats become comfortable in France.

Jean’s training was as a juriste, a legal scholar who doesn’t appear in court but generally serves as a legal expert for private corporations.

“I decided what was needed was a Q and A column like Dear Abby – but for foreigners in France. Nothing sophisticated, just the basics on living in France. I wanted to give simple, understandable answers to everyday problems that were aggravating them.”

The problem was, where to find an outlet for such a column in those far-off days before the Internet was widely used? The solution turned out to be the Paris Free Voice, a monthly cultural magazine then published as part of the ACP’s ministry (it later became the Paris Voice, went independent and eventually ended up as a web-only publication).

“Paula used to read the Voice a lot, so I knew about it,” Jean recalled. The magazine’s editor, Bob Bishop, was at that time an ACP staff member, and so it was in the Thurber Room that Thanksgiving night in 1993 when Jean decided to make his move and propose a new regular feature for the Voice.

As Jean remembers it, Bishop “said it was the kind of format he’d been looking for, for years, but he hadn’t been able to get anyone. We basically looked at each other and said OK let’s do it.” The column began appearing in the magazine soon thereafter.

It proved so popular that eventually Jean was able to go into business as a consultant and adviser to expatriates – especially Americans – in France, with specialties including real estate matters and how to get working or residence papers.

He did the column until shortly before the Voice stopped appearing on paper, then started his own website, where the column still appears every month but December and August. It is also sent out as an email newsletter.

As for the Wednesday legal advice sessions that we now know as the refugee ministry (“that doesn’t exactly describe it, but it was hard to find a name that did”), their roots also go back to the 1990s, though they didn’t start operating in anything like their present form until 2003.

An ACP friend of Jean’s invited him in 1994 to visit the Filipino Fellowship at its lunch after church. When his second child, Eric, was born at the end of the year, “he was a big hit at the fellowship,” and that seemed to cement Jean’s relationship with the group. “Especially at the beginning, my column didn’t deal with immigration, or at least not much. At that time, French law on illegal immigrants was extremely harsh. Members of the fellowship asked if I could help. I knew nothing about immigration law, so I bought a book at GISTI” – the Group d’information et de soutien des immigrés.
(Immigrant Information and Support Group), a nonprofit founded in 1972 to uphold the legal and political rights of immigrants and other foreigners in France.

“I met the secretary-general of the GISTI, and a quick discussion with him led to a conference at the ACP, with him and some of GISTI’s immigration lawyers. It was open to everyone, but the Filipino Fellowship was especially interested in it.” After the government of Lionel Jospin issued an amnesty for illegal aliens in 1997, “almost everyone who’d been at the conference was regularized.”

Skip to 2000, when Jean was elected to the board of the Mission évangélique parmi les sans-lgis [Evangelical Mission among the Homeless], headquartered in the 10th arrondissement, which provides food for body and soul to street people in Paris.

“A lawyer there ran a refugee ministry on Monday afternoons. I helped her at first, and later did it alone, as a volunteer, for almost four years. That’s really where I learned everything I needed to run these [ACP] sessions. It taught me a huge amount.

“Then, in 2003, I learned that the African Fellowship had been created at the church. I became a member of the fellowship and at same time started doing Wednesday afternoon refugee counseling sessions.”

Eventually what was then the Social Concerns Committee (now Mission Outreach) brought the sessions under its umbrella and started referring to them as the Refugee Ministry.

The sessions are now held every other Wednesday from 17h00 to 19h00. While many of the people who seek Jean’s help are longtime residents trying to get papers, that is not always the case. On one recent Wednesday evening, the person sitting outside basement room G1 waiting to see Jean already had the right to work in France but was having trouble with the company that hired her.

Parisa (she asked that her last name not be used) was Iranian-born but Australia-raised. She had worked in France for seven years. Now an Algerian-born colleague, who was seeing Jean while Parisa waited her turn, had been fired — illegally, they were convinced — and Parisa feared the same thing would soon happen to her. She hoped Jean could help her find a way to reach an amicable separation from the company so that she could set up as an independent consultant and eventually, perhaps, even seek French citizenship.

The sessions reach ACP members and non-members alike. Among the former is David Clothier, who sings tenor in the adult choir. He had spent a lot of time in France, on and off, without documentation, but after working with Jean at Wednesday sessions for two months, he was able to go back to the US and obtain a visa, managed to get his papers and now works legally as a consultant in the video and media industry and as an English teacher. He has continued to meet with Jean once or twice a month to navigate his carte de séjour paperwork.

“Jean has been more valuable to me than I can say,” David said. “The transition of moving to France, and the preparation for it, left me with not a lot of cash. Some of us can’t afford the fees of a top-notch legal expert like Jean. Without Jean’s sessions at the church, I literally wouldn’t have been able to realize my dream of living in France, where I strongly feel I am supposed to be, and I also wouldn’t have the knowledge to understand the procedures and what’s required of me now that I am here.”
Annual Women’s Retreat—2014

Save the date: Saturday, 8 February, 2014 9h30 – 15h00 in the ACP Thurber Room. We are thrilled to have Caroline Corda-Razat talking to us about prayer. She has led many women’s retreats for church groups in the US and Europe, and in both English and French. She writes, “I am always amazed how this same message resonates with women from around the world, across demographics and denominations. A real encouragement to me that it is all from the Lord.”
Happy November!! The month full of weather changes, Thanksgiving celebrations and Christmas preparation. I’m missing all the fun while in Ghana, however, I will see if I can bring the Western flare to my new found home. I will be in Afrangua for the Christmas holiday so maybe we could host an ECTF party or two! My students love to show me the local dances which seem more like a workout than a dance but this time I will try my best to learn so I can teach you all in Paris.

In a village not too far from Afrangua, I have started a secondary ICT center in Abura Gynebankcom Methodist Primary School. It’s about a 15-minute taxi ride towards the north. The computer classroom already hosts 19 desktops for roughly 150 students and it was never used before our arrival. Over half of the computers were broken or missing a keyboard or mouse; however, we have resolved all those issues and the first lesson should be taught by the time this article is printed.

The Ghana Education Ministry has changed the daily timetable this school year and this will mean that the teacher will find it difficult to attend our ICT classes. Methodist Primary School teachers will teach their students in the new and improved computer classroom for one hour from 1st grade to 6th grade beginning this month. I promise to post some pictures in the December Spire!

God blessed me with additional visitors in October, including a wonderful friend from my church home in Chicago called Unity Lutheran Church. Robert Addo is a Ghanaian who relocated to Chicago last year for retirement with his wife. He created a primary school in Ghana’s capital, Accra, in 1990 and he is currently building a secondary school in Kasoa (about an hour west of Accra). Robert decided during this trip to Ghana that he would come to Afrangua with his daughter Naomi for a visit.

They arrived on Friday morning with smiles on their faces and joy in their hearts. He was amazed by the size and well-maintained state of the community center where I live and offer computer classes. Also my dear friend was quite excited to see us in action!! The 4th and 5th graders were in the classroom learning how to use Wordpad while Robert took a moment to snap some photos before enjoying a delicious meal prepared by Grace.

During his visit in Afrangua, Robert donated numerous textbooks to Afrangua Primary D/A School. His school in Accra purchased new books this year and he asked me to locate a primary school in need. Of course, I thought of my very own in Afrangua and Ekow Simpson accepted them without hesitation.

The blessings are flowing into our little community! Glory be to God!
JoAnn Neal has been working with the Rafiki Foundation in Africa for more than a decade and has been supported throughout this time by ACP. JoAnn will be writing regularly for the Spire and keeping us updated with life as a missionary in Tanzania.

“Your strength will equal your days”

As I contemplated the theme for my article for “The Spire” this month, the haunting hymn, “Day by Day and with Each Passing Moment” played through my head, knowing that the Father has blessed me and given to me what he deems best, mingling toil with peace and rest. And, fittingly, the Biblical reference for this hymn is Deuteronomy 33:25, “your strength will equal your days.” God has been gracious to me, giving me strength to serve Him here in Tanzania, being a vital part of the lives of 51 children and a national staff of our care-giver mothers and assistants.

What is the life like here, some of you have asked. So I am sharing with you a pictorial essay in “A Week in the Life of a Rafiki child”.

Emanuel helping to harvest the maize crop.

Theresia “swimming” on the Weru-Weru River banks.

It’s Clinton’s turn to ride the “big bikes” after school.

Playing with the “big trucks” – a favorite activity for Doreen, Irene, Hillary, Irene, and Ruki.
As the hymn, “Day by Day, continues to the second verse, it says “The protection of his child and treasure is a charge that on himself he laid; ‘As your day, your strength shall be in measure,’ this the pledge to me has made.” And day by day I take joy in the work that the Father has given me to do here in Tanzania.
Bloom Report
By Marta Hobbs

On Saturday 5 October nearly 90 volunteers from the American Church in Paris eagerly awaited 9h. The coffee was brewing, the breakfast was ready, and guest speakers were already arriving. Companies and not-for-profits were setting up their exhibit tables. Lunch was being already prepared and the wine was chilling for the infamous “Wine Down.”

It was “Bloom Where You’re Planted” time. And the participants were lining up outside of ACP ready to learn, listen, network, as well as be welcomed, informed and educated about life in Paris for English-speaking newcomers.

This year, the 43rd time around, Jim Hobbs hosted and Pastor Michelle Wahila welcomed all those new to the City of Light. Peter Caine enchanted the audience with his architecture and history talk about Paris. Jane Kendall shared tips on successfully transitioning and embracing the new culture and town. Patricia Wells took us on a journey across the cuisines, markets, and tastes of Paris. The Improfessionals entertained and made us laugh with their improv skits of being Parisian (or being around them).

After a fabulous lunch, the afternoon kicked off with an author book signing featuring Patricia Wells, Cara Black and Jamie Cat Callan courtesy of WH Smith. At the same time nearly 50 tables welcomed guests to the Exhibit Hall. The breakout sessions which followed were split into Fun, Functional and Family specializations and covered everything from shopping and cooking in Paris to French taxes, insurance, immigration laws and working at a French office. The long but informative day ended with a Wine Down, cheese tasting and plenty of time for getting to know other Parisian new-comers or chatting with the gracious, kind and welcoming hosts.

While the adults were learning about Cote du Rhone and Petit Chablis, kids of all ages were ending the day with relay races and making their own crepes. It was a well-organized and successful day for all.

Want more details? Curious what Bloom is all about? Mark your calendars for 4 October 2014 and attend to find out more or sign up to help! Contact Kim or Marta at bloom@acparis.org for details.

Love thy neighbor ~ and bring one to (or from) church!

There are elderly members of our congregation that would very much like to attend services but are finding it difficult to use the trains and buses. It would be great if we could set up a carpool system where someone who has a need for this service could be picked up and brought back home on any given Sunday. If we can get enough drivers, we are hoping that one Sunday a month/one way, could fill the need.

If you are interested and able to provide a ride to church for someone in need, please contact Camilla Furman at communitylife@acparis.org.
“Be a blessing to everyone, because everything else is just noise and a distraction.”

By “CJ”

It seems like a light switch recently was flipped one day from, “You and I can argue back and forth, but still like and respect each other, appreciating each other's opinions and enjoying the debate,” to now “I'm going to make sure I convince you of my opinion until I scream and turn blue in the face, and will personally attack you to make you look bad since you don’t see things my way!” No offense to Chef Gordon Ramsey!

In fact, the United States Congress hasn’t been the only body in the world struggling to slow the noise and distractions all around them. For all the complaining about our elected officials, many times it seems most of us can't compromise our beliefs and get along together for the greater good, to “be a blessing” to those around us.

You know, we used to have a local guy on TV who would introduce all the afternoon cartoons each day. His name was Cowboy Bob. He wore a cowboy outfit, had a nice cowboy hat, and always had a smile. And he always said this simple phrase to close every show: “If you can't say something nice, don’t say anything at all” Amazingly enough, at the end of the day, his words really eliminate much of the trouble that we all seem to get ourselves into...especially in a Tweet filled, try to one up the other reality world we live in today. The fact is...being right isn’t being a blessing, and that makes being right...mostly flat out wrong?

How could right be wrong? The intuitive fact “right is right” means wrong must be...well, wrong. Problem is, many times my negativity starts not with the initial “being wrongly” emotion, but how I react to being wronged. I’m not so good in being right when wronged. In fact, I can't tell you how many times I thought, I knew I was “right” in a situation or discussion, be it I had the facts to back me up, though I knew more about the subject matter than the other person, or simply had been flat out wronged, and knew I was “right” to feel wronged. Problem was...telling someone they wronged you isn’t being a blessing to them. In fact, I always felt worse telling someone how right I was. So does being wronged and telling someone you're right actually end up mostly wrong? In my case, almost always.

I saw a recent Facebook post which said, “Respond Wisely. It’s your response to what happens to you...not what happens to you...that will determine the outcome. Choose your response carefully.” In fact, what I’ve learned (the hard, hard way) is no response is better than any response much of the time regardless of who is right or wrong. Scripture says, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Children of God” Matthew 5:9. Starting an argument for the sake of showing you’re right, even when you are right, isn’t being a peacemaker. In fact, it also isn’t being a blessing. Ephesians 4:9 says, “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” Many times listening and “not speaking, rebuking, and convincing” is thought of as a weakness in today's society. Yet, so many times, doesn’t the quietest person in the room seem the smartest of all?

And at the end of the day, isn’t it ok to not show everyone how right we are? If we constantly focus on being a blessing to others without judging them, without worrying about how we feel about them or how they feel about us, doesn’t that put us in a position to be peacemakers and to be a blessing? What if we agree or disagree with each other's position on gun control, gay marriage, or that Jesus is our Savior? Can the focus be to simply be a blessing in their lives regardless of our disagreements, and eliminate all the noise and distractions the evil one has placed in front of us to prevent us from doing all the good we can and will do to bless others in the days ahead?

The most ironic thing is, when you are a blessing to others, the blessing is in the giving of yourself rather than the blessing you give to them. As we hear about stewardship in the coming days, realize that the giving of yourself is truly a blessing. In fact, the most precious thing you can give up is your heart, your will, your everything, to God. By giving everything to the one who gives us everything, the blessings returned will be countless. Simply be a blessing to everyone, because everything else is just noise and a distraction. Once it happens, watch what God does in your life. It doesn’t mean it’s going to get better. It doesn’t mean financial riches await. It means you and God will walk hand in hand, day by day closer together. And hopefully the feeling of that blessing will amaze you.
Elisa DOUGHTY (soprano)  
Kate COMBAULT (soprano)  
Lexie KENDRICK (mezzo-soprano)  
Carol MUNDINGER (clarinet)  
Laurana MITCHELMORE (piano)  

The concert will include works by Schubert, Berlioz, Saint-Saëns, Fauré, and Bernstein
The month of September was the month of Protestants en Fetes in France and the American Church in Paris played host to Liberian Nobel Peace Prize winner, Leymah Gbowee. The premiere screening of her film, Pray the Devil Back to Hell, was held in the Thurber room on the 26th. The film chronicles her work in Liberia and the role she and the Christian women in the country played in instigating a peaceful conversation about peace between the Charles Taylor administration and the rebel leaders. Madam Gbowee is the second Nobel Peace prize winner to speak at the American Church after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. preached from the church pulpit in 1965.

On the 27th Madam Gbowee gave a talk in the sanctuary about finding our humanity as Christians and people of the world. She gave an example of a published news story where an animal showed more compassion for a human being than other human beings did in a particular incident. She shared her experience of traveling for her work where upon arriving at the airport in her traditional African garb, was immediately held by immigration judging her as a possible immigrant based on her appearance. She talked of the importance of finding our humanity and treating others based on that humanity instead of outward appearance. She shared a story about her son who is attending a private all boys’ school in the U.S. that is predominantly Jewish. She told of how there were concerns across the board about how her son would integrate in a school where being Christian and African doubled his minority status. Her son, contrary to popular expectation, was not fazed and when asked by other students about the kind of music he listened to, he informed them that it was Christian hip hop and rap. One day when he entered the classroom he found that the boys in the class had rummaged through his bag and were now listening to the music on his computer. Her son was not angered and said of the event that it would only have bothered him if he were living a lie.

By weaving together several anecdotes, her message was one of human unity through learning to see God in everyone and acting accordingly in practical everyday situations where the opportunity to share and show our humanity arise. What she has taught the people of her country and the world is that when the opportunity to express humanity arose in her life during the Taylor administration, she took it and invited others to do the same because fighting for humanity is a matter that concerns and affects everyone, as expressed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”
Thanksgiving Dinner
23 November at 17h00 and 20h30
€25/person (Children at the 17h00 €18)

Please join us for a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner Saturday 23 November. We will be having two seatings, the first at 17h00 that will be "family friendly" with creative busy crafts for children. The second seating will be at 20h30. This will be a more elegant style dinner. The menu will be the same at both dinners and will include, turkey with gravy, dressing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, and cranberry sauce, as well as pumpkin pie for dessert and a glass of wine for the adults. Additional wine will be available for purchase.

Tickets will be available on Sunday, 3 November after each service, and then starting on 4 November online, through Eventbrite. Go to www.acparis.org for the link. You are reserved with your payment.

From Your Council ~
What’s Going On!

Now that the new Church year is underway we wanted to take this opportunity to update you on what’s happening in the ACP Council. We have a great group of leader volunteers in the council this year; each one helping ACP “bless the city.” If you have a chance, please thank them for their hard work and dedication.

The Council theme this year is based on Romans 15:7; “So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you…”

The text reminds us to celebrate and share our diverse gifts and encourage each other instead of letting differences disunite us. We should receive one another just as Christ received us—in the terms of pure grace, knowing and bearing each other’s shortcomings.

At our Council retreat in early September we brainstormed on the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis completed by the outgoing council last June and came up with the following specific goals. Each Committee on the council is charged with incorporating these goals into their programs this year.

1. Keep leadership focused on Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit
2. Grow as an organization that is an equipping church
3. Expand and exploit local partnerships
4. Improve internal and external communications

We hope that you, the congregation, can see these goals being accomplished throughout the year. And if you are inclined, please join us. There are many opportunities to volunteer and help “bless the city”.

In His Service,
Radford Laney and Pam Bohl
(Council Moderator and Vice Moderator)
On 6 October, I traveled to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where I was joined by Eric Sadoux, chairman of the ACP Property and Development Committee, to meet with some board members of the American Foreign Christian Union’s Development Committee. Part of this meeting involved presenting the AFCU with an anonymous donation of $69,000 of designated gifts from an ACP family to benefit the ACP ministries and mission work. Eric and I also gave presentations of some highlights in the life of our congregation over the past few months since the AFCU annual meeting in April, the ACP current financial situation, and the upcoming repair and renovation work on the roof, Spire and exterior walls of the sanctuary that will cost the church well over a half million dollars. We also presented to the AFCU our hopes to begin a Building Fund drive in the coming year to help meet the needs of increasing property and maintenance costs of the ACP.

After the meeting in Minneapolis, I flew to Jackson Hole, Wyoming to attend the Western National Leadership Conference as part of my continuing education and training. The conference theme was “Being Civil in Uncivil Times” and featured speakers like John Buchanan, editor of Christian Century, Richard Mouw, former President of Fuller Theological Seminary, Frank Yamada, President of McCormick Theological Seminary, James McDonald, President of San Francisco Theological Seminary, Bradley Longfield, Dean of Dubuque Theological Seminary, and Paul Hooker, Director of Ministerial Formation and Advanced Studies at Austin Theological Seminary. It was a privilege to be able to hear these influential leaders speak and discuss what is required for effective church leadership in the 21st century.

It is clear that diversity is the future of the church. Diversity is part of the Biblical vision of the future Kingdom, when every tribe and nation will be worshipping the lamb together (Revelation 7). But diversity is also the future (and for many of us living in urban contexts, the present!) of our world. I learned that sociologists predict by the year 2040 there will no longer be an ethnic or racial majority in the U.S.A. We were blessed at one of the conference morning Bible Studies by a reflection on I Corinthians 12 by Frank Yamada. Frank, a Japanese American, encouraged us to remember the apostle Paul’s teaching that the body of Christ has diversity in its members, and though very different from one another, each member is essential!

I was reminded again how important diversity is for those of us who care deeply and desire to support the ministry and missions of international congregations like the American Church in Paris. Ours is a wonderful community in which we already experience an amazing multiplicity of races, cultures, and faith traditions. We are already living and working through the complexities of diverse community. Despite the trends in American culture toward more divisive politics in Washington and churches, the future will be in the hands of those who can welcome difference and diversity with humility and respect.

It was moving for me to see leaders from both the “evangelical” and “liberal” wings of the church coming together to model and exhort those of us participating in the conference to remember Peter’s admonition in 1 Peter 3:15b-16a, “Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.” May it be so with us at the ACP, as we seek to live as a diverse people with more conviction and civility!
Christian Education

Anne Speicher and Lori Kolodziejczak

A Call to Live—Small Group Studies

To further the aim of widespread participation in Christian education, small groups are being organized throughout the city, on different days and times at individual homes or at the church. The groups combine Bible study, community, and everyday application. To join a group, please contact the leaders directly.

Small group Paris XV meets weekly on Wednesday evenings will study John. Please contact Kimberly Hunt for more details.

Small group Paris XI meets weekly on Saturday afternoon. "Praying and Singing," a weekly series at the home of composer Tom Johnson near the Bastille, praying and singing together and looking more closely at the hymns of the Protestant tradition and developing our faith through music. Contact Tom Johnson for more information.

Small group Paris VII meets twice a month on Tuesdays, 17h30-18h45 at ACP and is studying Developing Intimacy with God based on St. Ignatious' Spiritual Exercises. Contact MarieClaire King for more information.

Small group Paris VII meets at ACP and is studying Couple marriage study of Francis Chan’s “Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a restless God”. Contact Pastor Michelle Wahila associatepastor@acparis.org for more information.

ACP Filipino Fellowship Bible Study continues with our Sunday afternoon Bible Studies. Contact Virginia Jacinto for more details.

AFACP Bible Study meets on Sundays in G7 at 12h45 (Please note, there is no Bible study on the first Sunday of the month)

ACP Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study will be studying Romans. We meet from 10h30-12h30 every Tuesday and Childcare is available for a minimal fee. Please contact Jennifer JOurlait for more details.

ACP Men’s Group meets on Thursday mornings at 7h30. Come for coffee, conversation, prayer, and fellowship. Any men interested in further information should contact Dominique Grelet.

Small Groups Ministry

Feeling called to join or even lead a small group at ACP?

These small groups are organized across Paris and suburbs in homes, cafés and at the church and take place on different days/times throughout the week. By joining one of these groups, our hope is that you will be blessed with fellowship, Bible study, and guidance to apply what you learned to your daily lives. Members of small groups experience close fellowship and grow as a community in Christian love. Sound like an activity you’d like to join? Feeling called to lead a small group? Or, have ideas about a study theme for a small group? We want to hear from you! Please contact the Christian Education ministry, Lori and Anne christianeducation@acparis.org or Pastor Michelle Wahila at associatepastor@acparis.org
New Sunday Morning Bible Study

10h00 G2

Join us after the 9h00 service or before the 11h00 service for a casual, fun, and in-depth Bible study led by local pastor, the Rev. Brent Anderson. Each Sunday participants will gather to read and discuss the gospel lesson for the following Sunday.

The goal is to stir the soil—to scratch below the surface and familiarize ourselves with the text—so that we can better receive its message the next week in worship. This is a great way to begin preparing for worship—it helps you to not only give more of yourself in worship, but to get more out of it.

Most recently the Rev. Brent Anderson served as the senior pastor of Steel Lake Presbyterian Church in Federal Way, Washington (near Seattle); a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Since then he has followed his wife around the world: first to Sweden (where Valérie was a post-doctoral fellow in New Testament at the University of Uppsala) and then to Paris (where Valérie is the new Professor of New Testament at the Institute Protestant de Théologie, Église Protestante Unie de France – Communion Luthérienne et Réformée).

This Bible Study is open to everyone—beginner and bible scholar alike. Drop-ins and occasional visitors are always welcome! For more information, please contact Brent at brentaanderson@me.com.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Sunday, 3 November (Luke 20:27-38)
A New Life: What happens to us after we die?

Sunday, 10 November Scripture Luke 21:5-19
New Priorities: When has an encounter with God changed your life?

A New Kind of Leader: How does your leadership style reflect your faith in Jesus Christ?

Sunday, 24 November Scripture Matthew 24:36-44
Following the Son of Man: How might you prepare this week for the coming of Christ?

Young Professionals

Are you between 25 and 39 years old? Experiencing the corporate world in Paris and surrounding areas? Then come and share your experiences with us.

This month we will be continuing with our study, “Crazy love: overwhelmed by a relentless God” by Francis Chan. Join us every Wednesday night from 19h30 to 21h30 in the ACP catacombs.

Stay connected by joining our ACP Young Professionals Facebook group.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Elodie via the website www.acparis.org/yp
Art exhibitions always have a satisfying and festive aspect to them since there is generally a sense of thrill and accomplishment in unveiling a body of completed work. That was the feeling as artist, Liz Hinton, and I hung paintings in the theatre created by teens involved in Young Artists’ Week. On the last Sunday in September, the congregation had the opportunity to enjoy viewing this work as they sipped coffee after all three services. In addition to the art on display, a short video montage was playing, assembled from photos and film taken during our week-long adventure. Here is the video link on Youtube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dK4e3QhY4A0

During the last week of August, Liz and I as well as Daniel Grout, had spent each afternoon with this group working on several art projects with the following themes:

- Portraits - What face do we show to the world?
- Combining words and images.
- Outlines – exploring our light and dark sides.
- Clay creations – molding our favorite things.
- Wheel of Life – Each individual voice makes a unified whole.

During this time, there was a subtle focus on the idea of painting with the spirit. What this means for me is that there is more importance placed on the process as opposed to the outcome. Because the creative process is one of surrender and not of control, mystery and surprise are at the heart of expression. Our society tells us to be productive, but as artists we must be willing to cooperate with the sacred dance of inspiration which means showing up without expectation. By doing this, we allow the Holy Spirit to work through us. What’s more is that not only in art, but throughout our lives, we are confronted by situations and relationships where the only way to a creative solution is through letting go and letting God.

And what’s beautiful about youth in general, is that they do this quite naturally. They really are at the age when they don’t care about “making a pretty picture” or conforming to some preconceived idea about what art should look like when it’s finished. Each person seemed to find his/her own authentic voice during the week which developed further while participating in the various projects. I think there is a lesson to be learned about personal power when we dare to create for ourselves and share this kind of integrity with others. This also highlights the idea that giving the highest of ourselves corresponds to expressing our unique individuality and sharing it with the world.

Another beautiful aspect concerning the class was how we all slowly got to know each other and how we became a fun, cohesive group during the week. Our last project was a wonderful indication of this unity. It consisted of drawing one image over a series of 16 smaller canvases thus producing one, large form. We asked for input from the teens as to what could be the overall representation. One person suggested “wheel” and so lines were drawn over all the canvases to create a big circle with spokes. The challenge was to respect the lines on
each individual canvas while at the same time enjoy the liberty of painting anything on the remaining white space. As we fit all the individual parts into place, the final piece of art was truly incredible. Together, we made an amazing painting using color, form, design, texture, abstract lines, collage and lots of imagination. And what could be more representational than that as to what we find at the ACP each week or moreover, in our world today? We are certainly a motley group coming from all different backgrounds, countries, cultures and denominations and each on our own, unique individual journey. And along with creating, receiving God’s good through all the gifts that we are able to share with one another is truly an act of worship.

Thanksgiving Community Worship Service
28 November at 12h15

Come and join us at the worship service at ACP to celebrate Thanksgiving.
All are welcome!
Mark you calendars and plan to experience the fun! We’ll have a wide variety of vendors from all over France coming to sell beautiful hand-made merchandise: jewellery, cashmere shawls, children's clothing, books and toys, gingerbread houses and 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, home made jams and more! So plan to start your Christmas shopping and you won’t be disappointed! The annual Used Book Sale will also be awaiting you with hundreds of great selections in both English and French. There’ll be a photo op with Santa from 11h-14h and festive Carolers singing Christmas carols at 15h.

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. Have a couple of hours you could give to a really great cause? Please e-mail us! For details on how to participate and enjoy this fun annual event, and donate your used books contact Kristie.
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 services, there will be a Prayer Team member available. Meet under the chandelier in the sanctuary.

From the Lay Caregiver Ministry Team...

On Pentecost Sunday, the Lay Care Giver team started a new tradition of anointing those who wish for it, along with prayer. Anointing is a very powerful addition to prayer and blessing. We are reminded of Christ's anointing before his death and reminded that we, too, are risen to new life. Therefore, a Christian anointing always points toward the newness of life found in Jesus and the “wholeness” that is given through him.

Anointing also means consecrated or a sacred act, which is why the young confirmation class members were also anointed with oil.

When we anoint in his name we are acting in his power and love to share his gifts of peace, forgiveness and wholeness. Our Lay Care Giver team members receive training from our pastors and are commissioned to represent the pastors to our congregation.

The Lay Care Giver team members will be anointing those who would like to be blessed after the worship services on the first Sunday of each month. All are welcome to be anointed.

Look for our new Lay Care Giver cards in the pews!

Do you need prayer or a listening ear? Fill in the new card for the Lay Care Givers, put it in the offering plate and we will contact you. We are trained to come alongside people in times of difficulty. Let us share your joys and your sorrows. You can also contact us by email at laycaregivers@acparis.org.

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.
Young Adult Activities in November
Young Adult Events (18-30yrs)

We meet every Tuesday evening for Bible Study (1st and 3rd Tuesday) or Pizza Night (2nd and 4th Tuesday).

We are from many different countries, cultures and backgrounds but are united by our passion for Jesus. Whether you are passing through Paris or here to stay for a while, we invite you to join our community. If you want to grow your faith, learn more about God or if you simply have lots of questions, then why not come and join us on a Tuesday night.

We will be continuing our popular Pub Theology evenings. Find out where to meet and how to find the pub by checking the Young Adult Facebook page.

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 also 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
Youth Events (13-18yrs)

ACP Youth is an active community made up of students 11-18 years old from many nationalities, traditions, and backgrounds. All youth ages 11-18 meet every Sunday in the afternoons starting at 15h00 in the ACP catacombs. Make sure you check our Facebook page to keep updated about all of our activities.

The second Sunday of every month is now Youth Sunday and we invite all youth to participate in the leading of worship during the 11h00 worship service.

Don't miss Laser Tag on Friday 8 November. Meet at ACP at 18h00

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.

Join our Facebook group and stay connected with our online community: http://www.facebook.com/groups/acpyouthgroup/
All Young Adults aged 18-30 are invited for a special evening of worship and prayer on Friday 8 November from 20h00 to 22h00 the catacombs. Special stations for journaling, silence, reading, reflection and prayer will be set up during the worship sets. You are invited and encouraged to come, relax, experience and enjoy the presence of God.

Join us for our monthly Sunday Social on the first Sunday of each month, after the 13h30 service, and following the coffee fellowship. This month we will head off to Quai Branly Museum, which is located between the Eiffel Tower and the ACP. After the Museum we will continue our time of fellowship at a local cafe.
Opportunities to Serve the Community

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP:  Children’s Worship Needs You!
Volunteers are asked to commit to serving approximately two Sundays every 6 to 8 weeks.
For more information, please contact Allison 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.

FRIDAY MISSION LUNCH at the American Church in Paris. Each Friday from 10h00 to 14h00, a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. The American Church is responsible for providing the meal on the second Friday of each month but we are grateful for volunteers and helping hands every Friday. 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 Furman at communitylife@acparis.org if you can be counted on to spread some joy and welcome a newcomer!

HOMELESS MINISTRY will be making breakfast for the hungry and homeless on Saturday 2 November at ACP at 8h and distributes the breakfast bags from 9h. On Friday 15 November we will prepare sandwiches ready to give to the homeless on Saturday 16. Contact Jurie Ane or Dan Haugh at youthpastor@acparis.org if you would like to get involved.

For other volunteering opportunities, check with Mission Outreach at missionoutreach@acparis.org, Community Life at communitylife@acparis.org, or Dan Haugh with Youth and Young Adult Ministries at youthpastor@acparis.org.

ACP Today: Faith Talk From Paris

Have you tuned in to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show yet? Join us on Monday 4 and 18 November 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! And please invite others to listen—friends who may be housebound or who would simply like more devotional time on a Monday evening. Missed a show? Don’t worry, you can catch up online at www.acparis.org/acptoday.

If you have any questions or comments, be sure to contact us at acptoday@acparis.org.
ACP Groups and Additional Activities

ACP WRITER’S GROUP meets on the second Saturday of the month at 14h00 – 17h00 in room G2. Contact Laura Kerber at ApollinarisPatera@gmail.com.

MULTICULTURAL COUPLES THANKSGIVING POTLUCK Friday 29 November at 20h00 in the Thurber Room. CALLING ALL COUPLES!!! You are warmly invited to bring a dish to share and join us for a moment of fellowship and fun! For more information, please contact Monica Bassett or Anja Wyss.

KNITTING GROUP meets Mondays from 16h00 to 18h30. Whilst we are primarily a knitting group, we have several new members who crochet, cross stitch and embroider. We knit for ourselves and/or church missions. We welcome all to our fun and diverse group. Please contact Susan Owens for more information.

QUILTING GROUP meets on Tuesday afternoon at members houses. We welcome quilters of all levels. Some of us work on our own projects while others of us learn new techniques. For more information please contact Carol Brown.

MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP: will meet on Thursday, 21 November at 7:30pm in basement room G2. The group’s choices for November are Omar by Hany Abu-Assad, Gravity by Alfonso Cuaron, Inside Llewyn Davis by Joel and Ethan Coen, and La Vénus à la fourrure by Roman Polanski. See any or all of the films at your convenience, then join the group for discussion.

Independent Christian Prayer Groups and Bible Study Activities

MOMS IN PRAYER INTERNATIONAL Are you concerned about your kids? Bless them by making prayer a priority. Experience the joy of replacing anxiety with peace and hope when we pray together. Join us at ACP on Tuesday mornings at 9h30 in G2. Groups are forming in and around Paris, Versailles, Sevres, and across France and even on Skype. Know another interested mom? With just two or three Christian moms you can easily form your own group. For information about our ministry please contact Caroline at MomsInPrayerParis@gmail.com and visit www.MomsInPrayer.eu. It is a precious gift for a family when they know Mom prays for them regularly.

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. Contact Thelma Fuchs for more information.

MINDFUL MEDITATION: This group, being offered on Saturdays from 12h00 to 13h15 in G2, is 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.
## ACP Spire Diary – November events, meetings and concerts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</th>
<th>Date/Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AICEME Youth Conference</strong>&lt;br&gt;Thrive - Real faith: Real life. A weekend retreat of community, worship and conversation for high school students</td>
<td>Thursday 31 Oct - Sunday 3 Nov</td>
<td>All Nations Church, Luxembourg</td>
<td>Dan Haugh youthpastor @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Toussaint Holiday (All Saints Day) - Church building closed</strong></td>
<td>Friday 1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Homeless Ministry (breakfast project)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Providing breakfast and sandwiches to the homeless of Paris.</td>
<td>Saturday 2</td>
<td>8h00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dan Haugh &amp; Jurie Ane Feleo youthpastor @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Young Adults Sunday Social</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 3</td>
<td>14h30</td>
<td>ACP Theater</td>
<td>Dan Haugh youthpastor @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Free admission, with free-will offering&lt;br&gt;Michael Tsalka, piano&lt;br&gt;Oeuvres de Cabezón, Bach, Rameau, Mozart, de Falla, Yevtushenko</td>
<td>Sunday 3</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>&lt;br&gt;Tune in for inspiring music, interviews, and sermon highlights.</td>
<td>Monday 4</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.7 FM Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Thursday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Speaker: Enuma Okoro, Desire and the Spiritual Life</td>
<td>Thursday 7</td>
<td>19h30 - 22h00</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Michelle Wahila associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Group Laser Tag Outing</strong>&lt;br&gt;Meet and return to ACP. Cost is 18 euros and remember to bring round-trip Metro tickets.</td>
<td>Friday 8</td>
<td>18h00-22h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Andrea Chaumont youthintern @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Young Adult Worship &amp; Prayer Evening</strong></td>
<td>Friday 8</td>
<td>20h00-22h00</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
<td>Dan Haugh youthpastor @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contemporary Band Retreat</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 9 – Monday 11</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Writers’ Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 9</td>
<td>14h00 - 17h00</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td>Laura Kerber <a href="mailto:apollinarisPatera@gmail.com">apollinarisPatera@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women’s Ministry Sunday Gathering</strong>&lt;br&gt;Enuma Okoro, Talking Taboo: American Christian Women Get Frank about Faith</td>
<td>Sunday 10</td>
<td>12h30 - 13h30</td>
<td>2nd floor Library</td>
<td>Kim Herr <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Free admission, with free-will offering&lt;br&gt;Elisa Doughty, soprano; Kate Combault, soprano; Lexie Kendrick, mezzo-soprano; Carol Mundinger, clarinet; Laurana Mitchelmore piano&lt;br&gt;Oeuvres de Schubert, Schumann, R. Strauss, Offenbach, Berlioz, Saint-Saëns, Fauré, Bernstein</td>
<td>Sunday 10</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Armistice Day Holiday - Church building closed</strong></td>
<td>Monday 11</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Young Adults Pizza Night with Enuma Okoro</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Kingdom of God is Like…&lt;br&gt;Hosted by ACP Young Adults and open to all ACP community.</td>
<td>Tuesday 12</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Dan Haugh youthpastor @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Thursday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Speaker: Francis MULLER of the Mission populaire évangélique de France (MPEF) and Christian BOUZY of the Eglise réformée de France and the Foyer de Grenelle (Paris 15th), Faith in Action Among the Poorest</td>
<td>Thursday 14</td>
<td>19h30 - 22h00</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Michelle Wahila associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young Adults—Shane Claiborne en France at Paris Belleville</strong></td>
<td>Friday 15</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Andrea Chaumont youthintern @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Homeless Ministry (sandwich/lunch project)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Providing breakfast and sandwiches to the homeless of Paris.</td>
<td>Friday 15 &amp; Saturday 16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dan Haugh &amp; Jurie Ane Feleo youthpastor @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Person(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marché de Noël</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 16</td>
<td>11h00-17h00</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Kristie Worrel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There will be activities for the children while you shop for a wide array of</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas items: plants, small gifts, decorations, wine, pâté, used books, and</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>much, much more! Lunch will be served in the Thurber Room by the Filipino</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship. All proceeds from the ACP sponsored tables help support our many</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission Projects.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stewardship Sunday</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 17</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong> - Free admission, with free-will offering “La Ballade de la</td>
<td>Sunday 17</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geôle de Reading” de Oscar Wilde, Monica Molinaro, piano; Jean-Paul Audrain,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comédien; Grégoire Couette-Jourdain, mise en scène Oeuvres de Brahms,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachmaninov, Grieg, Liszt, Chopin, Borodine, Satie, Granados</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young Adults - Pub Theology</strong></td>
<td>Monday 18</td>
<td>20h00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dan Haugh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check Young Adult Facebook page to confirm venue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org">youthpastor@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 18</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM Radio Fréquence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music, interviews, and sermon highlights.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Protestante</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Council Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday 19</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Radford Laney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 21</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Films for November are <em>Omar</em> by Hany Abu-Assad, <em>Gravity</em> by Alfonso Cuaron,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Inside Llewyn Davis</em> by Joel and Ethan Coen, and <em>La Vénus à la fourrure</em> by</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Roman Polanski. View any or all films in the cinema, and then discuss with the</td>
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<tr>
<td>group.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 23</td>
<td>17h00 &amp;</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Camilla Furman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please join us for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings!</td>
<td></td>
<td>20h30</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:communitylife@acparis.org">communitylife@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweet Potatoes and Pumpkin Pie. Tickets at: acparis.org/thanksgiving</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong> - Free admission, with free-will offering Anne-Chantal</td>
<td>Sunday 24</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrière, soprano; Alexandre Duhamel, baryton; Louison Cres, violoncelle;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominique Fournier, piano. Présentation : Carolyn Shuster Fournier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oeuvres de Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, Massenet, Bizet</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving Service at ACP</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 28</td>
<td>12h15 – 13h15</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>The joint Thanksgiving service of ACP and the American Cathedral will take place</td>
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<tr>
<td>on ACP.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Multicultural Couples Thanksgiving Potluck</strong></td>
<td>Friday 29</td>
<td>20h00</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Monica Bassett &amp;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship and discussion on topics such as raising bicultural/ bilingual</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anja Wyss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>children and cultural differences. Bring a dish to share.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(continue)
# ACP Spire Diary – Weekly events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sundays</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Traditional Service**  
Communion weekly | 9h00 |  
Fred Gramann  
music@acparis.org |
| **Adult Choir rehearsal** | 9h45 | Fred Gramann  
music@acparis.org |
| **Sunday Morning Bible Study** | 10h00 |  
Rev. Brent Anderson |
| **Traditional Service & Children's Worship**  
communion service 3 Nov; service led by Youth 10 Nov | 11h00 |  |
| **Contemporary Service & Children's Worship**  
communion service 3 Nov; service led by Youth 10 Nov | 13h30 |  |
| **African Fellowship Luncheon & Bible Study**  
Luncheon on first Sunday of month; Bible study on other Sundays. | 13h00 (6 Nov)  
Thurber Room;  
12h45 (other Sundays)  
Room G7 | Zainabu Taylor |
| **Filipino Fellowship Luncheon & Bible Study**  
Bible study on first Sunday of month; Luncheon and Bible study on other Sundays. | 13h00 (3 Nov)  
Room G7;  
13h00 (other Sundays)  
Thurber Room | Virginia Jacinto |
| **Youth Group (11-18) - Collège & Lycée Group (11-18)** | 15h00 -17h00  
Catacombs | Andrea Chaumont  
youthintern  
@acparis.org |
| **Community Bible Study International (CBSI)** | 15h30  
2nd floor Library | Josephine Kajo Poggo |
| **Atelier Concert**  
Free admission, with free-will offering | 17h00  
Sanctuary | Fred Gramann  
music@acparis.org |
| **Mondays** | | |
| **Knitting Group**  
We are primarily knitters, beginners and experts, but welcome those who crochet, embroider, needlepoint, ... | 16h00 -18h30  
Room G2 | Susan Owens |
| **Celebration Ringers rehearsal** | 18h45 -20h00  
Theater | Fred Gramann  
music@acparis.org |
| **Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) International**  
Discover 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. | 19h00 -20h50 | Thelma Fuchs |
| **Tuesdays** | | |
| **Moms In Prayer International**  
Concerned about your kids? Join us 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. | 9h30  
Room G2 | Caroline Corda-Razat  
MomsInPrayerParis  
@gmail.com  
MomsInPrayer.eu. |
| **Women’s Bible Study**  
Weekly fellowship, study and prayer. We are studying the book of Romans using John Stott’s study guide. Childcare is available for a minimal fee. | 10h30 -12h30  
Catacombs | Jennifer Jourlait |
| **Quilting Group** | 17h00  
Members’ homes | Carol Brown |
| **Small Group Study VII** | Twice a month  
17h30  
ACP | MaryClaire King |
| **Young Adults Group (18-30) - Pizza Night & Bible Study**  
Bible Study: 5 & 19 Nov  
Pizza Night: 12 & 26 Nov | 19h30 Bible Study  
Catacombs;  
18h00 Pizza  
Thurber Room | Dan Haugh  
youthpastor  
@acparis.org |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesdays</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Organizer/Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Children's Choir and Children's Handbell Choir rehearsal (ages 7-12)</td>
<td>14h00 - 16h00</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>Bonnie Woolley <a href="mailto:youthmusic@acparis.org">youthmusic@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherub Choir rehearsal (ages 4-6)</td>
<td>15h00 - 16h00</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>Bonnie Woolley <a href="mailto:youthmusic@acparis.org">youthmusic@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Choir and Handbells rehearsal (Teens)</td>
<td>16h00 - 18h30</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>Bonnie Woolley <a href="mailto:youthmusic@acparis.org">youthmusic@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Choir rehearsal</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee Ministry</td>
<td>16h00 - 19h00</td>
<td>Room G7</td>
<td>Jean Taquet <a href="mailto:missionoutreach@acparis.org">missionoutreach@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Professionals Group (25-39)</td>
<td>19h30 - 21h30</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
<td>Elodie Lassiere <a href="http://www.acparis.org/yp">www.acparis.org/yp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Group Study XV</td>
<td></td>
<td>Evening Paris 15</td>
<td>Kimberly Hunt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursdays</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men's Bible Study</td>
<td>7h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dominique Grelet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spire Ringers rehearsal</td>
<td>15h00 - 16h00</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze Ringers rehearsal</td>
<td>19h30 - 21h30</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fridays</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday Mission Lunch</td>
<td>10h30 - 14h00</td>
<td>Thurber kitchen &amp; Theater</td>
<td>Kristie Worrel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We and cleaning up.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To volunteer, please contact Kristie Worrel.welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>volunteers every week for cooking, serving</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturdays</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mindful Meditation</td>
<td>12h00 - 13h15</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td>Norma Jean Deak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meditation teaches us to pay attention to our life as it unfolds moment by moment.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Service band rehearsal</td>
<td>12h00 - 14h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Natalie Raynal <a href="mailto:cmusic@acparis.org">cmusic@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Group Study XI</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Paris 11</td>
<td>Tom Johnson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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/.

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The Entire Congregation

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**Building Maintenance**
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