Thoughts from The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr

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Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

The great French Reformer, Jean Calvin, begins the main text of his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, with the words, “Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves.”

As we have begun reflecting on the theme, “No Longer Strangers,” it seems to me the first confession we have to make is that we are both strangers to God and strangers to ourselves, at least more than we realize. That sounds a bit harsh, but have you ever had the experience where you surprise yourself with a thought, word, or action that is “not like you”? I’m amazed (and humbled) by the fact that I can still fall to the temptation to be angry, to judge others, to gossip, to complain, to tell a white lie in order to avoid an awkward truth, etc. After decades of trying to follow Jesus, I realize that “my situation is far worse than I ever imagined.”

One small comfort is that the same dilemma was true for the Apostle Paul. He begins his assessment of his inner life as “I’m not the least of the apostles!” but later admits, “I am chief of sinners,” and then ultimately, “Wretched man that I am... Who then will save me?” In his famous confession of Romans 7, the disciple most credited with founding the western church writes, “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do” (Romans 7:19).

Could it be that in order to move from being strangers to God and ourselves involves first confessing our own brokenness and estrangement even from the truth about ourselves? There are serious issues to be dealt with in our world, including economic disparity, systemic and often violent racism and bigotry, violence against women and what some call a “rape culture,” and all kinds of sexual exploitation. There is a long list of evils that as Christians we are called to address in our world. But can we face the unpleasant truth that all of these evils begin in the human heart...our own heart?

As Socrates once put it, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” In our chapel mural by Frank Armington, the depiction is underlined with Jesus’ famous assertion, “The truth will set you free.” I recently read an excellent article in the *New York Times*, by Jonathan Beale, “Wittgenstein’s Confession,” which describes the great philosopher’s understanding of the connection of confession and personal change. In other words, a lot of the evils of our world, the systemic sin that we see all around us, is maintained by colossal self-deception. “I’m not a racist.” “I’m not a bigot.” “I’m good.” Confession takes courage, especially when it means admitting I have done wrong and that my character is fundamentally flawed.

While the gospel always begins with God’s unconditional love and grace, the gospel also requires repentance from us, a “change of mind” and a yielding of our will to God and God’s ways. While Wittgenstein thought his failure of will “could be corrected only by courage,” I believe our thoughts and actions can be changed by the amazing transformation that comes when we believe that our primary identity and worth is found in Christ, trusting in what he has done for us that we could not do for ourselves, that because of Christ’s self-giving love, I have been called “no longer stranger” to God, and rather a “member of the household of God.” Knowing that I am a beloved son (daughter) and heir, I can face the dark sin which yet needs to be transformed in my beliefs, my thinking, my attitudes, and actions.

Later this month, some of you will enjoy the retreat “Strange.” All of us will celebrate All Saints’ Eve (Halloween) and begin the Toussaint holidays. Technically, saints are those who believe, who recognize the strangeness of God’s grace and love is for them, and for all people, and who live more deeply into the fullness of the gospel.

My favorite summary of the gospel is this: “Cheer up, your situation is far worse than you could have ever imagined! But cheer up, God’s love for you is far greater than you could have ever hoped!” May we in our own ways and times embrace this paradox of the good news, and may we all make courageous confessions that lead to new freedoms.

In Christ,

“Cheer up, your situation is far worse than you could have ever imagined! But cheer up, God’s love for you is far greater than you could have ever hoped!”
Bible readings for October

7 October    20th Sunday after Pentecost
Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

14 October    21st Sunday after Pentecost
Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

21 October    22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Job 38:1-7, (34-41); Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

28 October    23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22)
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

thurber lecture series

Tuesday | 6 November
Who is My Neighbor?
Muslim and Christian Bridgebuilding
Rev. Mateen Elass

Wednesday | 5 December
Who is Normal?
Disability and the image of God
Dr. Medi Ann Volpe

The American Church in Paris
Dinner, lecture and conversation | 19h00 - 21h15
The voice of the outsider

Rev. Tim Vance
Associate Pastor

Ruth is a woman, like many women and minorities throughout history, who encountered exclusion. Much of this came from those who would identify themselves as religious (perhaps we should take note). Ruth was an immigrant, a cultural and spiritual outsider who didn’t belong. And yet without her, history and our own personal stories might look very different.

The story of Ruth, as told in the Bible, is shockingly provocative to any majority culture, or group or person who hold onto clearly defined rules about who is in and who is out. She is, therefore, a prophetic voice of hope for anyone who has ever felt like a stranger. She invites us to ask the question, what does it mean to belong?

In a letter written close to 2,000 years ago to a minority church community in what is now modern-day Turkey, the author (Paul), writes that we are no longer strangers... (Ephesians 2:19). How does that sound to you? Depending upon our various experiences these words might strike us as either true or naive. We might be skeptical about this claim that the grace of God, embodied in Jesus, invites us into deep belonging or we might have personal stories of welcome and acceptance that point to this being real. More than likely our various stories include both.

At various points in my life I have unquestioningly defended the Bible and Christianity against claims from “outsiders” that this book and religion wound and exclude. Part of that defense, for me at least, came from a place of insecurity. I was not able to tell the difference between the Bible, my religion, and Jesus. Of course, they are connected, but they are most certainly not the same thing.

What I had failed to notice about this book and religion that I was defending against the outside voice, was that the Bible and the religion formed in Jesus’ name both carried themes and traditions of listening to and valuing the outside voice. In fact, that language is not strong enough. The voice of the outsider, in the Bible at least, is often framed as the more authentic voice of God speaking to a religious community that has lost its way.

Ruth is one of those voices. The “evil empire” in Nineveh (in the Jonah story) is another voice. And then watch out for the stories of Jesus and the encounters that he has with people, because it is here that the outsider is truly valued.

Now please don’t hear what I am not saying. I am not saying that Christianity is bad or that the Bible is bad. I am a pastor, after all. What I am saying is, let’s be honest. The Bible and the structures built up around our faith in Jesus can be (and have been) used for great good and great evil. In acknowledging this, if we would rather embrace the good, then we need to start listening again to our own story. We need to listen to Ruth, and those who are like Ruth here and now. Without them we may not be able to authentically hear the voice of God.

If you are interested in Ruth’s story, we will be exploring the ideas of stranger and belonging on our All-Church Fall Retreat, 12 to 14 October. You can get more information and register at www.acparis.org/retreat.
Originating in Left Bank studios in 1895, the Atelier Concert Series became part of the cultural activities at the American Church in Paris during the early 1930s. These concerts provide a performance opportunity in Paris for talented musicians of all nationalities.

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

**Sunday 7 October 17h00**
*Tomohiro HATTA - piano*

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**Sunday 14 October 17h00**
*Debra TAKAKJIAN - piano;*
*Frédéric GONCALVES - baritone;*
*Nicole TAYLOR - soprano;*
*Carol MUNNINGER - clarinet*

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**Sunday 21 October 17h00**
*Jennifer YOUNG - soprano;*
*Nozomi MISAWA - piano*

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**Sunday 28 October 17h00**
*Philip James GLENISTER - tenor;*
*Laurana MITCHELMORE - piano*

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**“Japonisme”**
*Oeuvres de*
Claude Debussy, Charles Griffes, Mary Howe,
Toru Takemitsu, Susumu Yoshida

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**“Follow our Lied”**
*A program of German Art Songs and more...*
*Oeuvres de*
Schumann et Brahms

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**Sunday 28 October 17h00**
*Philip James GLENISTER - tenor;*
*Laurana MITCHELMORE - piano*

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**Robert Schumann - Dichterliebe op. 48**
*Gabriel Fauré - Cinq mélodies*
*Gerald Finzi - 'Let Us Garlands Bring'**
Women as transformational leaders
by Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart
Visiting Pastor

In September, 70 women of Spirit gathered at ACP for the program Women as Transformational Leaders. We began by each naming one woman whose leadership had inspired or challenged us. Then we explored why.

Drawing upon life experience, Scripture, and theories and practices of adaptive leadership and theological reflection, we drew upon our own life experience and Scripture to rekindle the gifts of God within us.

We named the women in Scripture whose leadership and agency inspires or challenges us, and we identified the qualities of leadership that change lives — our lives, and the life of the world. It was a great joy to share with this group of women the difference between technical, adaptive, and transformational leadership, and the strength of women for this form of leadership.

I have served as pastor of congregations and as chaplain of universities as a United Methodist Clergywoman. The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Transformational leadership calls to all women disciples of Jesus in every sphere of public and private life. It is a way of seeing and being that is Spirit, gift, and community-led. It begins with analysis and discernment in the question: What is really going on here?

Sharon Daloz Parks, principal of Leadership of the New Commons, wrote, “A leader, then, is not only someone applying skill and competence onto a situation, circumstance, organization, problem - a Practitioner, but also a Hermenaut – a seeker, questioner, and crafter of meaning.”

From this view, leading is not only viewed as a continuous act but also as the ability to reflect on and learn from this continuous process of orientation, disorientation, then reorientation of life, aligned with the creative and redemptive presence and purpose of God.

Transformational leaders are centered in God and respond deeply, relationally, radically, with an ability to hold steady and improvise, to risk and learn from failure, and to use everything as raw material for positive fundamental change.

One example of this has been the National Women’s Program of South Sudan. It has earned the respect of all warring sides in its efforts to stop the long civil wars and lay the foundation for peace that is sustainable, bridging the hatred among the tribal and political divides by organizing monthly women’s national prayers. The prayers bring together women from opposing sides of the wars that started in 2013. “It is this spirit of resilience and resistance in the women of South Sudan which motivated others to accompany the people of South Sudan through weekly prayers” (World Council of Churches, 2018).

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

If you would like someone to pray with you after services, a Prayer Team member is available. Meet in the chapel next to the theater after each service.
Women's Ministry Activities for September

Come find a warm, friendly place to meet and fellowship with other women, and be encouraged in your faith journey. For more information contact women@acparis.org

Monthly Sunday Women's Bible Study
7 October, 12h15 - 13h15, F2 (first floor)

This study of *The Lord's Prayer*, is led by Teri Lee Valluy and meets one Sunday each month. Meetings have been scheduled to overlap with the new kid’s worship class (ages 7-12) to make it easier for mom's to attend. The focus for this month’s study is "Our Father who art in Heaven." All women are invited to attend and childcare provided. For more information, email sundaywomensbible@acparis.org.

Monthly Sunday Women's Fellowship
14 October, 12h15 - 13h30, Thurber Room

Wine is at the heart of Jesus’s first miracle. It is a drink that symbolizes celebration, coming together; something special. But it doesn’t start this way. It was something basic and without any outstanding unique flavor (water). It took JESUS alone to bring it flavor and character. Have you ever thought about this as an analogy for our lives? If you have ever felt like you are nothing special, we've got news for you: when Jesus enters the picture He’ll make you into something new. Something bold. Something unique. Join us as Amy Dahmen shares her testimony of Jesus making new wine out of a « nothing special » life. All women are invited to attend. Childcare is provided in G1.

Amy Dahmen is a Pacific Northwest (USA) native with a heart for the nations. She moved to Paris in 2017 to pursue a Master’s in Design for Social Impact from Paris College of Art. God put a drive to explore social business and refugee integration on Amy’s heart and this has been the cause driving her work and her call in Paris. Amy recently joined PLAY International to develop social innovations for sport inclusion. She currently co-leads a social business effort, Kabubu, which provides opportunities for refugees through sport here in Paris.

She loves exercising creativity, especially dreaming up solutions to big challenges. In her free time she loves fusing fitness styles, pretending to know how to dance, drawing, reading, exploring, and drawing connections between the seemingly disconnected.

Mini-Retreat in two parts
21 October and 11 November, 15h - 18h, 2nd Floor Library

*Blessing Others with your God-given Passions* is a two-part mini retreat designed to help you explore those interests that you absolutely adore and discover how you can share your passion to bless others.

**21 October - Planting a Passion.** We will be learning about how God gifts us with passions that make us unique and special and we will plant something beautiful.

**11 November - Painting with Purpose.** We will be seeking the Holy Spirit to guide and direct our passions in ways that will bless others while we paint our own masterpiece.

There will be time to enjoy French wine and treats while you meet and fellowship with other women. Led by Amy Dahmer, assisted by Monica Bassett. There is a limit of 15 women for this retreat and we would encourage you to attend both sessions. Donation of 15 euros for the retreat is requested. Please contact Kim at women.acparis@gmail.com if interested.

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

[@AmChurchParis](https://twitter.com/AmChurchParis)  [AmericanChurchParis](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanChurchParis)
Look! WHO’s ringing handbells!
by Fred Gramann

The Grinch of Dr. Seuss fame may well steal Christmas again this year, but handbells may just steal the show. This November a new animated film will be released, recounting how the grumpy green Grinch decided to ruin Christmas for all the whos in Whoville. The co-director, Yarrow Cheney, and his wife, Carrie, have been active in the life of the American Church in Paris. Yarrow co-directed *The Secret Life of Pets* and was a production designer in *Despicable Me*, *The Lorax* and *Despicable Me 2*. Being a fan of the ACP Bronze Ringers, our advanced handbell ensemble, Yarrow decided to give Whoville its very own handbell choir for the film. His design shows a rather unconventional group of ringers. It’s hard to imagine how he arrived at that as our ringers are quite conventional. Oh well, even if you don’t find “tringlers, fuzzles, pantookas, dafflers or wuzzles” under the tree this year, go see The Grinch and ring in the season with great joy!

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**Hymn Sing**
Thursday 8 November at 21h

Pastor Scott and ACP member Tom Johnson invite you to join them in an evening of song in the Herr family apartment. You are invited to bring your favorite hymn, tell us where it came from and why you love it, and we will sing it along with the favorite hymns of others.

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**ACP Cafe**
Friday 19 October, 19h30-21h30

Come enjoy live music by the Orsay Jazz Quartet and friends. Dinner will be available for purchase to raise money for an upcoming songwriting retreat for the Still Point band. Open to all, free entry. Invite your friends.
The American and Foreign Christian Union (AFCU), our US partner in ministry, has established endowment funds to help sustain our long-term ministry. Gifts from estates are a fundamental way these endowments are funded. If you would like to participate in growing these endowment funds, please contact the AFCU at AFCUHeritage@AFCUBridge.org.

**Holy Spirit Night, Wednesday 3 October**

This European movement comes to France for its third year. Its vision to empower the younger generation with the Holy Spirit attracted 1,600 people at the Folies Bergère in 2016, and 2,000 people in 2017. This year’s event at the Grand Rex will feature the Bethel Music collective from California. Markus Wenz, Joel Ramsey, Benjamin Lim, Samul Oliver and Gregory Turpin will also appear.

**Wednesday, 3 October 3, 20h. Grand Rex, 1 bd Poissonnière, 75002 Paris. 17€ and up. For tickets and information, see [www.holy-spirit-night.fr](http://www.holy-spirit-night.fr).**

**Towards an ethics for affective robots, Tuesday 16 October**

Affective robots are being designed to mimic, ever more successfully, human speech and affect. How do we ensure that the most vulnerable — children and the elderly — are not nudged into lending these robots capacities, such as conscience or emotion, that they lack. Part of an ongoing series.

**Tuesday, 16 October, 19h. Collège des Bernardins, 20 rue de Poissy, 75005 Paris. Tickets 6€/3€. For more information, go to [www.collegedesbernardins.fr](http://www.collegedesbernardins.fr).**

The **Refugee Task Force** makes recommendations to the Mission Outreach Committee on ways to motivate members of our congregation to help alleviate the refugee crisis in Paris. The task force is looking for new members. If you would like to join or see what we do, please contact Ursula Perrier at ursulaperrier@gmail.com.
What’s up in Paris

October event listings
by Karen Albrecht

Because the world is round

The new 360° immersive multimedia space Atelier des Lumières, a hit with Parisians and visitors alike, has just extended its eye-popping inaugural Gustav Klimt show through to 6 January. And this month, a special evening series “Terramagnifica” will weave the spectacular images of aerial photographer Yann Arthus-Bertrand into a mind-blowing wraparound display of the wonders of planet earth, to raise money for Arthus-Bertrand’s eco-charity Fondation GoodPlanet.

19 October-4 November, 18h-23h, www.atelier-lumieres.com

The Java jive

“Java Art Energy,” the first-ever major Paris event showcasing the contemporary art and culture of Malaysia’s most vibrant and populous island, features colorful creations by 13 top Javanese artists, along with a lively line-up of film, song and dance, and even a demonstration of pencak silat, the unique Javanese initiation ritual that mixes sacred tradition with martial arts. Kids’ activities include creating batik and traditional shadow puppets, plus an introduction to the gamelan.

19 October-4 November, www.institut-cultures-islam.org

“Tempest” in a teapot

Just when you thought nothing new could be done with Shakespeare, the Forced Theatre Company has come to town with its “Complete Works: Table Top Shakespeare”. Every one of the Bard’s 36 plays, from “The Merchant of Venice” on opening night to grand finale “The Tempest”, is performed in one hour, in English. A single actor, seated at a bare tabletop, moves cups, bottles, sponges and other everyday objects around, distilling the Bard’s dramas into stripped-down yet surprisingly moving snippets, animated with absurdly spare, yet strangely poetic puppetry.

11-20 October, www.festival-automne.com

La Scala goes upscale again

Once a favorite of Marcel Proust, the opulent 1874 music hall La Scala morphed into an Art Deco cinema house in the 1930s, degenerated into a porn palace in the 1970s, was shuttered for 20 years, and has just reopened to great fanfare as a sleek, modular performance space. La Scala’s innovative, cross-genre programming kicks off with Yoann Bourgeois’s darkly poetic dance-circus hybrid “Scala” and a rough-and-tumble, rock-and-roll rendition of Marivaux’s 1720 Commedia dell’arte romance “Arlequin poli par l’amour.”

“Scala” Until 24 October, “Arlequin” until 27 October, lascala-paris.com

Love is blue

The Musée d’Orsay has teamed up for the first time with Paris’s Picasso Museum, which boasts a peerless collection of the master’s works, to present a major show dedicated to Picasso’s early, deeply melancholy blue period and his so-called “rose period”, during which he painted in cheerier pink and orange tones. A special “Picasso Circus” weekend on 13-14 October features live acrobats and circus performers, to celebrate the artist’s fascination with circus themes.


The 17th annual “Nuit blanche” will give Parisians plenty of reasons to stay up late. Arranged in four “constellations” around Invalides, La Villette, Ile Saint-Louis and Porte Dorée, this year’s event aims to shine a spotlight on some of the city’s lesser-known sights, while providing a forum to discover emerging dance, theater and music talents. The “Nuit blanche en famille” section of the website lists a host of kid-friendly events.

Saturday 6 October, quefaire.paris.fr/nuitblanche

All night long

The 17th annual “Nuit blanche” will give Parisians plenty of reasons to stay up late. Arranged in four “constellations” around Invalides, La Villette, Ile Saint-Louis and Porte Dorée, this year’s event aims to shine a spotlight on some of the city’s lesser-known sights, while providing a forum to discover emerging dance, theater and music talents. The “Nuit blanche en famille” section of the website lists a host of kid-friendly events.

Saturday 6 October, quefaire.paris.fr/nuitblanche
Check out the ACP Library!
Not sure what to read?
Here are a few ideas...

Books on Christian Living:
- Living the Resurrection by H. Eugene Peterson
- The Wounded Healer by Henri J.M. Nouwen
- The Power of Mentoring by Martin Sanderson
- You Can You Will by Joel Osteen
- The Dangerous Act of Loving Your Neighbor by Mark Labberton
- Check Your Heart by TL Valley

Books on the Church:
- The Light and the Glory by Peter Marshall
- The Return of the Prodigal Son by Henri J.M. Nouwen

Books on Christian issues:
- Far from Rome, Near to God by Richard Bennett
- What’s so Great about Christianity by Dinesh D’Souza

Books on Healing and Recovery:
- I Choose to Forgive by Diane B. Collard
- A Slave Set Free by Irene Howat
- Sabbath, Finding Rest, Renewal by Wayne Muller Wayne
- A Grace Disguised by Jerry Sittser

Books on Theology:
- The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel
- The Case for Faith by Lee Strobel
- Christ in the Passover by Moishe Rosen

Devotionals:
- Developing Intimacy with God by Alex B. Aronis
- Too Busy Not to Pray by Bill Hybels
- True Prayer by Kenneth Leach
- Put Your Footsteps Where Your Faith Is by TL Valley

Further Suggestions:
- Till We Have Faces by C. S. Lewis (Christian fiction)
- Wishing Thinking by Frederick Buechner (examines spiritual language)
- The Road to Daybreak by Henri J.M. (Nouwen’s diary)
- God’s Smuggler by Brother Andrew (autobiography)

And the library’s got lots more! More adult books, books for young kids and youths too, plus DVDs and CDs! So come check it out – basement level across from the elevator, Sundays before and after the 11h and 13h30 services. God bless!

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Sunday Worship at the ACP

09h00:
Traditional Service, with weekly communion

11h00:
Traditional Service, with choirs, children’s worship service; communion first Sunday of the month

13h30:
Contemporary Service, with children’s worship service, and live band accompanying sung worship
Get your superhero on at Comic Con Paris
by Rebecca Brite

In the beginning, there was the fan-run comic book convention, or con, usually a one-off event held in a union hall or civic center. Dealers would bring their precious plastic-wrapped rare single-issue comics (known as floppies), and if you were really lucky a comics creator or two might be there to sign their works.

Then in the 1970s the event now called Comic-Con International began its inexorable rise. Held for four days every summer in San Diego (and thus known as SDCC for short), it expanded its coverage to films and TV shows based on comics, and later pop culture more generally, especially of the geeky sci-fi variety.

Today, Comic Cons are held around the world – across the US (Austin, Detroit, New York, Baltimore) and Europe (London, Paris, Bucharest) and as far away as African and Australia. They attract stars of all types, from comics writers and artists to the actors and producers who bring those creators’ works to life on screens large and small.

Often the events feature important announcements about entertainment industry developments. Major awards, such as SDCC’s Eisners for comics and related works, may be handed out. You can even still pick up rare floppies and other collectibles at the giant merchandise sections of most Comic Cons.

And these conventions are especially known as the main outlet for fans who enjoy dressing up in costumes to role-play, or cosplay, as their favorite superheroes and other characters. No Comic Con is complete without its cosplay parade or contest.

The Paris version of this pop culture extravaganza was launched in 2007 as Kultima, but changed its name to Comic Con Paris a couple of years later as SDCC’s fame and influence grew. Initially held at the Paris Nord Villepinte convention center, it now takes over the Grand Halle de La Villette in late October, running this year from the 26th through the 28th.

The big name among the many comics creators expected to be in attendance is Frank Miller of Sin City fame, whose Batman titles, including The Dark Knight Returns, are classics. Gail Simone, who in addition to the current run of Batgirl and Red Sonja has also written for Wonder Woman and Deadpool, is on the roster, as is artist Brian Stelfreeze from the latest run of Black Panther.

English speakers dominate the guest list thanks to American cultural imperialism, but French comics are well known and their creators have a healthy presence. That’s less the case when it comes to the actors scheduled to appear: Almost all are from US or UK television, with few current shows represented except American Gods (Ricky Whittle, Orlando Jones). Former Doctor Who companion Jenna Coleman and Summer Glau of the cult show Firefly are also on the list.

Cosplay has its stars as well, and several are scheduled to attend, including the French queen and king of Disney and Marvel cosplay, Lily on the Moon and Han Jones (not their real names). The fourth annual French cosplay championships will be held on Saturday the 27th, with the winner going on to the world championship at the Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo in March 2019. The Paris jury will include Eulyn Colette Hufkie, costume designer for TV’s long-running zombie apocalypse drama The Walking Dead.

The program is still taking shape, but will include such side events as free light saber combat lessons, and will feature a panel on Sony Pictures’ plans for a film based on the Japanese anime Robotech. For more information, keep an eye on www.comic-con-paris.com (in French and English).
Volunteer opportunities

One of the core values of ACP is to be a beacon of light and life on the Seine, calling out to our community to come in and be a part of the mission of Christ. There are multiple points of entry for members of ACP and our Parisian neighbors to serve those in need and our community through volunteer opportunities. If you are looking for a way to contribute, here is a list of opportunities.

**Nursery /children’s fellowship**
Looking for volunteers who love children, enjoy playing with them and are comfortable holding and caring for infants. A letter of reference can be provided for qualifying volunteers. Volunteers are needed for the following time slots:

- 11h and 13h30 Sunday services,
- Sundays for women’s fellowship, 12h-14h (ages 3-11)
- Tuesdays 10h-13h30
- Second Fridays 9h30-12h30

Contact Pamela Gonder: gonder.pamela@gmail.com

**Graphic designer needed**
Please contact Victor Greene: youthpastor@acparis.org

**Contemporary Worship**
- Slide Projection Coordinator: Coordinate the projection of the slide presentations during the 13h30 service. Help recruit and train people to set up the projector and run the slides in the weekly contemporary worship service. We would like to build a team of 10 people so that each person can serve once every 2 months running slides during the service.
- Tech Support: Install and break down sound equipment during the 13h30 service. Training will be provided, no experience necessary. Volunteers will need to arrive at 12h15 the weeks they are scheduled for set up and/or stay until 15h for breakdown.

Contact Natalie Raynal: cmusic@acparis.org

**Worship Liturgists**
Read Holy Scripture passages aloud to the congregation during our 9h, 11h and 13h30 services. If interested, please contact: secretary@acparis.org

**Ushers**
The commitment and willingness to serve with a friendly and welcoming smile is all that is required to usher during the Sunday services.

Contact: secretary@acparis.org

**Friday Mission Lunch**
Cook, clean, and serve hot meals to the hungry and homeless in Paris every Friday from 9h30-14h as part of the Friday Mission lunch, at The American Cathedral, 23 Avenue George V, 75008.

Contact Kristie Worrel: fridaymissionlunch@gmail.com

**American Sign Language interpreter**
Need a volunteer who knows sign language for the 13h30 worship service. Contact: Natalie Raynal at cmusic@acparis.org

**Breakfast and Sandwich Ministry**
- Prepare sack meals for the homeless, as part of a team every Friday evening (19h-20h) at ACP (room G2).
- Distribute sack meals for the homeless, as part of a team Saturday mornings, 8h30, on the first two Saturdays of the month, and 13h on the last two Saturdays of the month.

Contact: sandwichministryacp@gmail.com

**Serve the City Paris** is always looking for volunteers:
- Homeless: Immediate relief, food services and clothes drives
- Youth and Children: Concrete solutions with local partners to ensure long-term growth and a successful future
- Migrant and Refugees: legal aid and language-based opportunities
- Victims of Abuse: Solutions and resolutions to dignify all individuals
- Elderly: special care projects for the elderly in need
- Green Initiatives: varying in size and scope to ensure a better planet earth

For more information, see: servethecityparis.com

**Community Life**
The Community Life ministry is responsible for the organization of community events such as Thurber Lecture dinners, the Thanksgiving dinner, Easter breakfast, and more. We welcome new, extra hands who enjoy being a part of creating a welcoming and hospitable environment.

- Help decorate and set up and/or tear down our events.
- Help with food preparation (washing, peeling, cutting, and chopping) as well as baking or preparing desserts, cookies, preparing cheese platters, and other small buffet-style snacks. If you’re a cook (non-professional is ok) who doesn’t shy away from helping prepare a basic meal to fill over 50 plates, be sure to contact us!

Contact Daphne: communitylife@acparis.org
Join us this fall in walking through the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. In addition to reading the scriptures together, slowly, and verse by verse, we will explore questions and ideas raised by the texts while ensuring time to pray for one another. All are welcome!
What’s going on?
Tune in to ACP Today radio

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

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

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

If you have any questions, comments, ideas or would like to contribute to the show, be sure to contact us at acptoday@acparis.org.

30 Plus Adult Fellowship
Friday 5 October, 19h-22h

This social get-together is open to all, singles and couples, no age limit. We meet the first Friday of each month. We'll be meeting for a drink, dinner, or a movie. It's a time to get to know each other (better), having the opportunity to form and deepen friendships with sisters and brothers from our congregation.

For more info please write to 30plusfellowship@acparis.org

The Movie Discussion Group

19h30, Thursday, 18 October
The courtyard, weather permitting, or G2

This month’s movies to see beforehand:
Leave No Trace, by Debra Granik
A Star Is Born, by Bradley Cooper
Johnny English Strikes Again, by David Kerr
RBG, by Betsy West & Julie Cohen

Contact: movies@acparis.org

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

Because we want to keep the ACP nursery and toddler rooms safe and hygienic places to play and rest, children who are sick will not be admitted to the nursery and toddler rooms. This is to protect all of our children from communicable illnesses. We also assume that a child who is unwell will prefer to be at home with their parent(s) or caregiver(s) rather than at Sunday nursery. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation. If you have any questions, please email Allison Wheeler at childrensworship@acparis.org.

In the “calm before the storm” (AKA the very last week before la rentrée), over 70 children and 20 adult and youth volunteers got “Shipwrecked” at Vacation Bible School here at ACP! On our make-shift “tropical island,” the children got to make crafts, play active games, sing songs, watch silly skits, and hear a different Bible story each day. Through each different activity, the children learned that—no matter what they may be facing in life (like loneliness, worries, or struggles), Jesus rescues!

The children also worked hard each day learning the song, “In the Eye of the Storm,” to perform for our congregation the Sunday following VBS. This special “VBS Sunday” has become a favorite tradition of mine. Being with the children during Vacation Bible School, and being a part of the genuine joy that they have for life and for God, is an immense blessing, one that I truly wish that our whole church family could be a part of. By sharing the song that they learn with their church family, the kids allow all of us to do just that, if only for a few minutes.

Seeing the children form friendships with one another and with their leaders is always incredible to witness. But most rewarding of all is seeing children either grow in their faith, or to hear for the first time who God is and that God loves them. As one child struggled aloud to grasp just how immense and powerful God is, another child explained it thusly: “God is even more powerful than Thanos!” Talk about a creative witness!

It was a joy to be “Shipwrecked” with this wonderful crew this summer. Who knows where we’ll be off to next year? (I’m voting outer space). Wherever we go, I know that with the children, our incredible crew of volunteers, and the Holy Spirit, I’ll surely be in good company.
# ACP Spire Diary – October 2018
## events, meetings and concerts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 1 Oct</td>
<td>20h45-21h30</td>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alpha Course week</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 4 Oct</td>
<td>19h meal; 19h45 program</td>
<td>Thurber Room; <a href="mailto:alpha@acparis.org">alpha@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>30 Plus Adult Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Friday 5 Oct</td>
<td>19h-22h contact for location</td>
<td>Daphne 30plusfellowship @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bloom Where You’re Planted</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 6 Oct</td>
<td>9h30-18h</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bloom@acparis.org">bloom@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday Women’s Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 7 Oct</td>
<td>12h15-13h15 F2 (first floor).</td>
<td>Teri Lee Valluy sundaywomensbible @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday Children’s Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 7 Oct</td>
<td>12h15-13h15 Catacombs and G2.</td>
<td>Allison Wheeler childrensworship @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 7 Oct</td>
<td>17h Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alpha Course HATTA - piano</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 11 Oct</td>
<td>19h meal; 19h45 program</td>
<td>Thurber Room; <a href="mailto:alpha@acparis.org">alpha@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 12 Oct</td>
<td>10h-14h The American Cathedral</td>
<td>If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel fridaymissionlunch @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP MOPS (mothers of children ages newborn-18)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 12 Oct</td>
<td>10h-12h</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mops@acparis.org">mops@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All-Church Fall Retreat - Stranger: The Gospel According to Ruth</strong></td>
<td>Weekend 12-14 Oct</td>
<td>Massabielle Retreat Center, 20km outside of Paris.</td>
<td>Tim Vance associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Registration closes 7 October.</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writer’s Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 13 Oct</td>
<td>14h30 - 16h30 Room G2</td>
<td>Tendayi Chirawu <a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women’s Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>12h15-13h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Kim Herr <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Dahmen shares her testimony of Jesus making new wine out of a “nothing special” life. All women are invited to attend. Childcare is provided in G1.</td>
<td>14 Oct</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td>14 Oct</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Debra TAKAKJIAN - piano; Frédéric GONCALVES - baritone; Nicole TAYLOR - soprano; Carol MUNDINGER - clarinet</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>20h45-21h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
<td>15 Oct</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alpha Course week</strong></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19h meal;</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alpha@acparis.org">alpha@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explore the meaning of life, ask questions and learn more about the basics of the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and friendly environment. This 10 week course is free and open to everyone.</td>
<td>18 Oct</td>
<td>19h45 program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19h30, G2 or</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movies to see before: <em>Leave No Trace</em>, by Debra Granik; <em>A Star Is Born</em>, by Bradley Cooper; <em>Johnny English Strikes Again</em>, by David Kerr; <em>RBG</em>, by Betsy West &amp; Julie Cohen</td>
<td>18 Oct</td>
<td>the courtyard, weather permitting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Café</strong></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>19h30-21h30</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Come enjoy live music by the Orsay Jazz Quartet and friends. Dinner will be available for purchase to raise money for an upcoming songwriting retreat for the Still Point band. Open to all. Free entry. Invite your friends!</td>
<td>19 Oct</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>School Holidays / Vacances Scolaire - Toussaint</strong></td>
<td>Sat 20 Oct - Sun 4 Nov</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women’s Fellowship Mini Retreat part 1 Planting a Passion.</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>15h-18h</td>
<td>Library (2nd floor)</td>
<td>Kim Herr <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We will be learning about how God gifts us with passions that make us unique and special and we will plant something beautiful. This retreat is designed to help you explore those interests that you absolutely adore and discover how you can share your passion to bless others.</td>
<td>21 Oct</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td>21 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer YOUNG - soprano; Nozomi MISAWA - piano</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alpha Course week</strong></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19h meal;</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alpha@acparis.org">alpha@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Explore the meaning of life, ask questions and learn more about the basics of the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and friendly environment. This 10 week course is free and open to everyone.</td>
<td>25 Oct</td>
<td>19h45 program</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td>28 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philip James GLENISTER - tenor; Laurana MITCHELMORE - piano</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Toussaint</strong></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church house and office closed for public holiday.</td>
<td>1 Nov</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bloom Where You’re Planted
Saturday, 8 October
The American Church in Paris

The American Church in Paris welcomed over 100 participants to Bloom this year. A big thanks to the many volunteers who made this valuable program possible. And thanks to Charlie Gay and Francois Pierre for the photos.