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Cover photo © Mark Primmer

Would you like to propose articles, write, proofread, do layout, or take photos for the Spire?
Contact the editor, Alison Benney, at Spire@acparis.org.
Note: Deadline for the November edition is Wednesday 23 October.
Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

It’s been a great rentrée and we’re through the fullness of September that involved the Soundtrack for a Painting Concert, a Thurber lecture by Brian McLaren, the Alpha Launch Party and courses beginning, the Ministry Fair and installation of the Council leadership team, and other small group and ministry teams starting up.

In October we’re hosting Bloom Where You’re Planted for newcomers to Paris, and the special Brilliance concert on 19 October. I hope that you as a member or friend of this community are finding ways to connect and grow into our Worship+2 formula for spiritual health: Attending weekly worship wherever you are, and investing in a small group or ministry team where you are able to receive food for your soul throughout the week, and then another area of ministry or mission where you are able to exercise your gifts to serve and bless others.

I’d like to invite you also to consider how stewardship is another key component for healthy discipleship. I’d like you to specifically consider what it means to give financially to support the Kingdom work of the ACP, and to try to tithe if you’ve never done it! But first, I want to share my story with you....

I learned about tithing when I was a first-year student at Princeton Theological Seminary. My parents have always been generous givers, but as a student, I figured I got a pass and so really hadn’t ever learned to give. It’s easy to assume someone else will take care of “that”! Well, as I was walking across the quad one day, Chase Hunt, the Vice President for Development of the Seminary, called me over and said, “Scott, I’d like to invite you to be a part of the seminary Stewardship Committee.” Not knowing what I was getting into, I said, “Sure,” and started attending the monthly meetings.

I started hearing about the mission projects of the seminary funded solely by students who gave generously to support what our committee sponsored. I heard about tithing and started learning that quite a few students gave donations to the seminary because they were no longer at a “home church” and so gave to the seminary stewardship committee while students. At one meeting, Chase talked about the need for a financial secretary on the committee, and everyone looked at me (because I wasn’t really doing much up to that point)! I cautiously said I’d give it a try. And I saw “the books.” I saw what my fellow students were giving and where the money was going, and I was deeply moved.

I asked Chase to meet and told him how amazed I was at the generosity of students who looked to me anyway, well, just like me, without much money but who were giving a lot of money, at least more than I imagined ever giving. And I saw how they were making an impact in the world! Chase asked me if I had ever tithed before, and I had to confess that no, I never had. So he invited me to consider trying to give 10% of my income to the Lord. My first response was that I was a student, and didn’t have any money, but he reminded me that I was receiving a stipend for my field education work, and he said that I should tithe on whatever I was receiving for a few months, and just see what happened. And so I did. I’ve never stopped since.

Here are some of the things I’ve learned that I hope you might experience as well:

1) You can’t out-give God!

2) Giving is the only area where God actually challenges us to “put God to the test.” In Malachi 3:10, we read how the Lord commands us to bring the full tithe and to put God to the test to see if God doesn’t open the gates of heaven to bless us.

3) Stewardship is not the same as the “prosperity gospel!” It’s not a “get rich” scheme, but rather about a lifetime of spiritual formation; learning to let go and align our priorities more around God’s priorities.

4) Giving transforms our hearts and at the same time helps us to learn how generous God really is.

5) I’ve learned about the faithfulness of God in ways that are nothing short of miraculous.

6) All of us can grow in our giving!

7) Learning to give in a disciplined and proportional way has been the best investment of my life, hands down, as it has impacted every area of my life: my marriage, my relationship with my children, my recognition that my spending reflects directly my priorities and reveals what is in my heart.

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Our theme passage on *The Ministry of Reconciliation* is taken from II Corinthians 5:14-21, and begins with the words, “For the love of Christ...” That’s our stewardship theme for 2019-2020, and we pray that the love of Christ is the sole motivation for all of our giving. Next month will involve different highlights on stewardship during our worship services, with dedication opportunities each Sunday through the month of November. Stewardship is really an all-year discipline, more a lifestyle than a once a year event. But we have to start somewhere, so November will be a special time to focus on giving. There’s so much more to reflect on from scripture on giving. For now, I invite you please to prayerfully consider your own stewardship of life, but particularly your financial giving. And we’ll share more together in the coming weeks.

One last thing. The image we’ll be using is the sparrow. Jesus reminds us that God cares even for the sparrows, but how much more does he care for you and provides for what you need! Thank you for your prayerful reflection. And may God continue to bless the ministry and mission of the ACP through each of us and the gifts we receive and are learning to share.

In Christ,

Youth group

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**STEWARDSHIP**

*Managing God’s Gifts To Us*

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**Calendar: Youth and Young Adults**

**Youth group**

**SEPTEMBER**

**SEPT 1**
Amazing Race I

**SEPT 8**
Amazing Race II

**SEPT 15**
Amazing Race III

**SEPT 21 (SAT)**
Lock-in #1

**SEPT 22**
No Youth

**SEPT 29**
Amazing Race Finale

**OCTOBER**

**OCT 6**
A.W Intro I // Monsters

**OCT 13**
A.W Intro II // Horror

**OCT 20**
No Youth

**OCT 27**
No Youth

**OCT 30**
Lock-in #2 for Youth Conference

**OCT 31 - NOV. 3**
2019 AICEME Youth Conference in Luxembourg

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**Young adults group**

**SEPTEMBER**

**SEPT 3**
Introductions Feat. Jahan Woodson Jazz Trio

**SEPT 10**
A.W Intro Feat. Jahan Woodson Jazz Trio

**SEPT 17**
Brian McLaren Talk Feat. Alexis Robe

**SEPT 24**
A.W Intro II Feat. Alex Williams

**OCTOBER**

**OCT 1**
On Monsters // John G The Water @ Palais de Tokyo

**OCT 8**
On Horror // Easkel & The Graveyards

**OCT 15**
On Dystopia // Eljon & The Dead

**OCT 17-20**
 Catacombs Soft Launch / Feat. The Brilliance

**OCT 22**
On Utopia // Isiah & the Animals

**OCT 29**
On Magical Realism // God & Talking Animals

**NOVEMBER**

**NOV 5**
On Queer Futility & Messianic Time

**NOV 12**
Jeff Chu Talk // Reconciliation & The LGBTQ+ Community

**NOV 19**
Another World is Possible

**NOV 26**
Another World is Here

**DECEMBER**

**DEC 3**
Advent 1

**DEC 10**
Advent 8

**DEC 17**
Christmas Party

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4 ACP Spire, October 2019
Reconciliation comes after

by Victor Greene
Associate Pastor, Youth and Young Adults

I would have said no, not yet, had someone asked me if we should use reconciliation as our theme for the year. I never got that chance, so I will explain it now:

Whatever it means to move towards reconciliation (emphasis on moving towards it) can only come after; afterwards and as a result of a different kind of work that precedes it. At first glance, reconciliation made by those aiming to be reconcilers seems to name the work itself (reconciliation). I would argue, for us today, that it is healthier to think of reconciliation as the result of a different kind of work and one that turns those who participate in that different kind of work (workers) into reconcilers (we will get to Christ’s work in a bit). It is in my view that the work of reconciliation is not a thing, that there is work that leads toward reconciliation and it is actually a different kind of work that must come after we name, identify, and understand the differences that are already assumed in the idea of reconciliation.

To speak of reconciliation means, in a certain sense, you’ve already accepted difference or are aware of differences on some level—whether that be healthy or not. Often the differences or the rupture of the event that calls for reconciliation / conciliation is assumed poorly, violently, or simply without care (you can insert knowledge here as well).

And this is the hard part of moving towards talking about reconciliation. It takes the kind of care that first begins with honesty and truth: many desiring-to-be-reconcilers must first lose something in order to move towards reconciliation; but all losses are not equal since not every person is called to lose something or the same amount of somethings; it means reconciliation is already, almost always, something unequal. Whatever the movement towards reconciliation it is already something that requires thinking about differences before reconciliation can happen since the differences must be identified in order to understand where people begin just as their differences create the understanding for what and how something can be reconciled / conciled. Or where the whole thing is going/moving towards. And this is all the work that must come before something called reconciliation.

Thinking of Paul’s comments leading up to his claim on reconciliation that begins by saying, "We are no longer ...", Paul naturally assumes his audience already knows what it means/meant to be whatever it was they were no longer: “slave and free” and “male and female” and “jew and greek” and so on. The entrance into a reconciled people comes first by assuming there is a shared understanding about each other’s identities and terms and categories. And this means the beginning place for Paul to even speak about reconciliation comes from the places of difference and inequality. It means, the movement towards something called reconciliation cannot carry the presumption that we are starting off on the same level, share the same knowledge, share the terms of each other’s differences. And therefore, it cannot assume that the differences can be lumped together and be asked to do the same work.

Sure, exegetically one could say Christ did the work and therefore the new human and creature is Christ’s work that has already happen and witnessed at the table. But this is not a reality even as it is true. I will share testimony briefly, but I have seen folks take the communion bread from my hands reluctantly. I have watched guest pastors walk past me in order to not shake my hand. There are the differences present among us that are not a call for erasure or denial. And they call us first and before reconciliation, reminding us that reconciliation means there is and will be an unequal amount of more work to do. More for some. Less for others. For some, it’s hearing “no.” For some, it’s being the last to speak. For some, it’s giving away. For some it’s beginning by saying I might be the problem.

For all of us, it means we cannot move until we admit
1) that most often, reconciliation for the church is an excuse to not name the inequality, the differences, and the dirt that calls for reconciliation in the first place
2) that reconciliation is often deployed as a term for everyone to be polite, civil, and maintain unity—elevating unity above holiness and certainly at the benefit of the majority and
3) that reconciliation must preclude that we have already engaged in the uncomfortable conversations about who we think we are versus who we really are; who we think we have been versus who we really have been. But I know personally as a church we have not done this work.

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I know this because, by my count, I am now up to four separate instances where I have been called a name, threatened, shamed, and or reported to my superior with the hopes they will punish me for "unchristian" like behavior. In all four instances the encounters were with white people. And in all four instances they were caused after I told these people ... no. And yes, it matters that they are white. And yes it matters that the cause for their anger, sadness, and violence — despite all that would be disputed by them — is ultimately an encounter where I — a black pastor— unapologetically said "no." It matters, to name this not simply as an anecdote, but as a testimony that shows a glimpse into some of the “before-reconciliation-work” that cannot be assumed without care and attention.

Indeed, in my instance, I know we as a church do not share a common understanding of race and racism (especially white people who have all but been taught to think of themselves outside of the terms of race and black people who have been taught by the church that "we are a new creation"). And despite recent lectures by Reggie Williams (the Black Christ) and Brian McClaren (the world remade through whiteness that impacts our liturgy), I have personally witnessed the ways white people continuously dodge engaging with the subject of whiteness in preference to general ideas like prayer, church, and even climate change as if those are not already also talking about the colonial world that used race to fund theological ideas, economic laws, and a global approach to the land.

What I know, even experiencing other forms of what some might call soft racism, is that something about whiteness when it confronts something that it cannot have, or cannot have access to, or cannot have its way, or cannot be correct, disturbs the order that—as Brian McClaren recently said— remade by the creation of the "new world" we are currently living in. Or as Paul might describe, the order of a relationship between the “slave and free” that still is present in immigration policies, strategic plans, search committees, and bible curriculums.

But again, if we want to use Paul and say he is talking about Christ's work or that the community is working towards reconciliation, Paul is working with a people who—at minimum—already share a semi-common understanding of their context and names and titles and positions. But if we are honest, we do not share this. The very fact I mentioned white and whiteness above most likely lost a lot of folk who either a) got offended or b) distanced themselves and said "that's not me" and "that's not our church" and etc.

And if that is the case, if we cannot understand how, as an example, something like “no” disturbs the order, we cannot say we have named, confronted, shared, and exposed that which has made us “us” and have done the work “before-reconciliation”. Work like, pointing to the names carved on our pews. Work like pointing to the dates like 1814 and 1917 and 2013 and 2019. Work like pointing to the history of our staff. Work like asking where our money comes from and how that impacts certain communities. Work like talking about how it is climate change and land care are directly linked to the racialized, demonizing, and slaughter of indigenous people. Work that enables us to figure out what the differences and inequalities are so that we might handle them with care and maybe begin moving towards something called reconciliation.
After merrily eating dinner and meeting friends old and new, the 60 or so people gathered in ACP’s Thurber Room to hear Brian McLaren speak on 17 September were soon chewing on something very serious: The question of whether Christianity has a future.

McLaren painted a grim picture: Church attendance is declining in the West for the major Christian religions—"shrinking and wrinkling" as the remaining congregants grow older. In the U.S. the most recent figure for attendance was 53% in 2013, down from 62% in 1994. Yet the former pastor of two decades, now writer and speaker, says America wasn't always super-religious. In 1945, the share of church attendees was about 65%.

Is church attendance the right measure anyhow? Take the genocide in Rwanda in 1994, where up to 1 million people were killed on the orders of the interim government. That's despite that 95% of Rwandans are believers, and the country has the highest church attendance in the world.

The worst-case scenario for Christianity, McLaren believes, is a resurgence of white nationalism. That would continue a historic arc beginning with the 1493 papal bull justifying slavery and plunder of the New World—and feeding through to the “most segregated hour” in America—11h on Sunday when people go to church.

“Having more Christians might not be a good thing if they are hateful,” said McLaren. Instead, he believes we need a faith that addresses today’s four great global crises: the planet, poverty, peace, and politics & religion.

To arrive at that kind of faith, McLaren argues for evolution, not another Reformation or revolution. It’s silly to think that a group of people can find a perfect and permanent solution for all time, he says. Rather, we should think about a direction for Christianity that is open to God’s will for all of His creation. In the process, we’ll have to rethink doctrine, liturgy, and mission. “Experimentation has got to happen,” he said, without giving ready answers.

As the Thurber night ended, we all left feeling very full and with much on our (mental) plates.

How will we become part of God’s plan for Christianity 2.0?

The next Thurber lecture features Jeff Chu, seminarian at Princeton Theological Seminary and author of “Does Jesus Really Love Me: A Gay Christian’s Pilgrimage in Search of God in America?” on Tuesday, 12 November in the Thurber Room; meal at 19h; presentation at 19h45-21h15.

Thurber Conversations are an adult community gathering and growth time that is open to all. Do you enjoy cooking for a crowd? Join the Thurber crew through the Community Life team. Contact Daphne at communitylife@acparis.org.

– Rose Marie Burke
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 7 and 21 October. The 45-minute program is an exciting and inspiring mix of music, interviews, sermon highlights, and discussion on hot topics.

Tune into 100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante. 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.

On 7 October, Amit Pieter hosts, and youth intern Grant Mongin introduces himself, discussing why he is (or anyone would) go to seminary, plus chatting about the youth groups and our new Catacombs project. Then Brook Fischer talks about the creation of the Rainbow Connection Grief Support Group.

On 21 October, Ashleigh Searle hosts a discussion about the AICEME Youth Conference in Luxembourg, and the search for ACP’s interim pastor, answering questions about the process, and the important role of the interim pastor.

Friends and visitors, what better way to keep in touch with the ACP family and learn about the latest ACP news? If you want to catch up, all our shows are available on the ACP website. 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.

Future of the planet…A question of justice

A one-day interactive seminar in French will take place on Saturday, 19 October, from 9h30-17h, to hear the perspectives of an anthropologist, a sociologist, a philosopher, a theologian, and two scientists. Lunch will be served. Free admission with free-will offering. Faculté de Théologie, 83 blvd Arago, 75014.

Please RSVP to Patrice.Rolin@orange.fr, tel: 06.7238.1913.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study

We meet each Tuesday from 10h30-12h30 in the ACP Catacombs. We are currently studying the Timothy Keller’s Gospel in Life Series City, The World that Is. All women are welcome to attend. Childcare is provided with prior notice of one week. Contact Jenn Shinn at jennshinn13@gmail.com.

October schedule
1: Session 2: Heart, Three Ways To Live
8: Session 3: Idolatry, The Sin Beneath The Sin
15: Prayer and brunch, testimony sharing
22 & 29: Vacances Scolaires Toussaint

Family Toussaint Celebration
Sunday 20 October
12h15-13h15

Share in a time of remembrance and celebration of the saints of our families, as well as the saints of our faith. We’ll meet in the Catacombs. All ages welcome.
Our changing planet
by Rebecca Brite

The state of our planet’s environment weighs ever heavier on hearts and minds across the world today.

Climate change dominates the headlines, particularly in the wake of the late September youth strikes, which sent millions of people into streets around the world, and the United Nations Climate Action Summit, which some feel mainly produced a large amount of hot air. Yet climate change is only one concern, albeit a major one and interconnected with many others.

Shortly before this issue of the Spire went to press, for example, we learned that North America had lost nearly one-third of its bird population since 1970. Human actions are thought to be largely responsible, notably habitat destruction, introduction of domestic cats, and pesticide use. This last has also contributed to a dramatic decline in insect populations – most famously bees, but numbers of all insects are down. Climate change has likely worsened the situation in both cases. Bird and insect populations are key indicators of environmental health.

On the other side of the planet, the Great Barrier Reef, the world’s largest coral ecosystem, was classified in August as being in “very poor” condition, down from “poor” five years earlier. Climate change and the accompanying ocean acidification is a major cause. Other culprits include pollution run-off, development, and illegal fishing. More generally, a new report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sees particularly dire effects from global warming on oceans and sea ice.

The environmental problems caused by single-use plastic and other plastic waste have been receiving a lot of notice in recent months, but plastic pollution goes far beyond straws, bags, and bottles. The ocean alone receives some 8 million tonnes of plastic waste every year. Barely visible microplastics are found not just in the sea but also in our air and drinking water.

A major source of microplastics is your laundry. The fashion industry, with its emphasis on the new, also produces literally heaps of waste, much of it synthetics. Meanwhile, production of plastics and synthetic fibers represents a not insignificant share of global oil consumption and the accompanying greenhouse gas emissions that cause and worsen climate change.

Of course, microplastics have until recently been low on the list of concerns about water and air pollution. We tend to think more of industries like mining and manufacturing pouring poisons into what we drink and breathe. But while such point-source pollution is still a problem, these sectors have actually cleaned up their act a lot. Nowadays diffuse pollution, such as run-off from highways, landfills, and farm fields (including biocides and fertilizers) and exhaust from traffic, may pose a tougher problem. And the sectors involved (transport, waste management, agriculture) also emit a lot of greenhouse gases.

Add to all this the trends of hurricanes and heat waves becoming more severe, and floods more frequent, plus forest fires drawing increased attention, and it is hard not to feel that a tipping point is being reached, that the time to save our only home is growing too short. Reports such as those from the IPCC, which warned a year ago that we had just 12 years to prevent catastrophic change, increase the feeling of urgency.

Among those most concerned by such matters are low-income countries and poor people – those who are often the least responsible for the damage, least able to do anything about it, and most likely to be affected. This environmental injustice is still another topic facing government leaders, businesses, and ordinary citizens trying to grapple with what can too often seem an overwhelming global crisis.

While many activists believe that the magnitude of the problem demands massive systemic change, Katharine Hayhoe, an evangelical Christian and climate scientist, says we don’t actually have time for that. “We have to fix climate change with the people we have right now, and to a large extent with the perspectives we have right now as well.”

Over the next several months, the Spire will look in depth at climate change and other environmental issues, discussing the causes for concern and the actions we can take – as citizens and consumers, as people of faith – to address them.

Rebecca Brite has edited national environmental performance reviews for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for nearly 30 years.

2) www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S000632071833636
4) www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/01/we-can-stop-choking-our-oceans-with-plastic-waste-heres-how
5) www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/06/microplastic-pollution-in-air-pollutes-our-lungs
6) www.sciencemag.org/podcast/episode/microplastics-in-fresh-water-are-mostly-laundry-list
Serve the City

Are you feeling the urge to help those less fortunate around you, but not sure how? Serve the City Paris meets five days a week at La Caféothèque (75004) at 8h30 to deliver food to the refugees and homeless throughout Paris.

For more information, visit the site www.servethecityparis.com or write to info@servethecity.paris. You will find great opportunities to become a part of the Serve the City movement of volunteers, seeking to show compassion and kindness to the most vulnerable in our city.

The Movie Discussion Group

19h30, Thursday, 24 October
Salle G2 or, weather permitting, courtyard

This month’s movies to see beforehand:

Ad Astra
Portrait de la jeune fille en feu
Le Regard de Charles
Hustlers/Queens

Contact: movies@acparis.org

To sign up, please email Jeff Waters at:
jdubbs927@gmail.com

FIRST CLASS:
SUNDAY, SEPT 29th
15:00-16:30 Room G2

The American Church of Paris

The first part of the course, focusing on the Gospels, will start on Sunday, September 29 from 15:00-16:30 (no class Sunday, November 10) and finish December 15th. The second part of the course, focusing on the Book of Acts, Letters of Paul, Catholic Epistles, and Book of Revelation will start on Sunday, January 12, 15:00-16:30, (no class on Sunday, February 16 and April 12) and finish Sunday, April 26.
What’s up in Paris

October event listings
by Karen Albrecht

A Merce immersion
Groundbreaking American choreographer Merce Cunningham (1919–2009) performed at the first edition of Paris’s Festival d’Automne back in 1972; this year’s Festival is going all out to honor Cunningham on the centennial of his birth. Théâtre de la Ville celebrates his vibrant talent with a long weekend of documentaries and immersive films (12–16 October), while Théâtre de Chaillot is staging performances of Cunningham’s “Cross Currents,” “Pond Way” and “Walkaround Time,” performed by three top European ballet companies (22–26 October). Until 15 December, www.festival-automne.com

Golden oldies and cutting-edge creations
Missed out on last year’s Klimt show at immersive art space Atelier des Lumières? You’re in luck, the 360° dip into Klimt’s gilt-soaked splendor is being reprised for five evenings, between 25 October–2 November. For the more forward-looking, the Atelier is hosting the Immersive Art Festival (18–24 October), a competition between 11 collectives specialized in this hot new medium. Meanwhile, try not to miss out on “Starry Night,” an immersive plunge into Van Gogh’s paintings: it ends 31 December. www.atelier-lumieres.com; immersiveartfestival.com

Best of the Brits
“The Golden Age of English Painting” focuses on the 60-year reign of King George III (1760–1820), a fertile and transformative period for English art. From the slyly stylized portraits of the aristocracy by Joshua Reynolds or Thomas Gainsborough, to the far more turbulent vision of JMW Turner, the show abounds in dramatic moments and delightful detail. On the first Saturday of every month a 75-minute guided tour in English is on offer. Until 16 February, museeduluxembourg.fr

The old song and dance
Impressionist master Edgar Degas (1834–1917) celebrated every aspect of the Paris Opera: the orchestra, the stage, the wings, the audience, and most famously the dancers. To mark the 350th anniversary of the Opéra de Paris, the Musée d’Orsay is featuring Degas’ depictions of life at the Opéra, with a special live dance event at the museum on 11–12 October created by Aurélie Dupont of the Paris Opéra Ballet. Until 19 January, www.musee-orsay.fr

Très Honoré
The house where ultra-prolific novelist Honoré de Balzac (1799–1850) took refuge from his creditors, slipping away via a secret trapdoor, has always been something of a hidden gem. The house has just re-opened after a yearlong facelift, its grounds re-landscaped into a prairie and a flower garden, with a new branch of the acclaimed Rose Bakery making a visit all the sweeter. In addition to Balzac manuscripts and memorabilia, a new exhibit features 50 fanciful drawings by the caricaturist Grandville. Until 13 January, www.maisondebalzac.paris.fr

The fine art of science
Under the motto “À demain”, this year’s nationwide Fête de la Science aims to convince both school kids and the public at large that science and innovation hold the keys to our future. Hundreds of events in and around Paris include everything from open houses at obscure research facilities and the crowd-pleasing “Science en Direct” extravaganza at the Forum des Halles, to a robotics “hackathon” and a sci-fi film event with commentary by real live scientists. 5–13 October, fetedelascience.fr

© James Klosty
© Raphael Fournier

©Raphael Fournier
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

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**Sunday 13 October 17h00**
Azamat ZHELTYRGUZOV - baritone; Aigerim MATAYEVA - piano; Erzhan KULIBAEV - violin

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**Sunday 20 October 17h00**
Robert CASSIDY - piano

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**Sunday 6 October 17h00**
Frank HUANG - piano

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**Saturday 5 October 20h00**
Minju CHOI - piano

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**Sunday 29 September 2019 À 17h**

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Un hommage à Maria CALLAS

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Oeuvres de
Verdi
Puccini
Bizet
Gounod

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Diana HIGBEE
soprano
Magali ALBERTINI
piano
David KOH
tenor
Sabine REVAULT
D’ALLONNES
soprano

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Oeuvres de
 Franz Schubert
Klavierstücke, D. 946, No. 1 in E flat Minor
Nikolai Medtner
Sonata Triad, Op. 11
Four Fairy Tales, Op. 26
Olivier Messiaen
Vingt Regards sur l’Enfant-Jésus : Le baiser de l’Enfant-Jésus
Frederic Rzewski
Variations Cotton Mill Blues

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Gabriel Fauré
Nocturne No. 8 en Ré-bémol majeur, Op. 84 (1902)
Nocturne No. 12 en Mi mineur, Op. 107 (1913)
Thème et variations en Do-dièse mineur, Op. 73 (1895)

Philip Lasser
Sonate Les Platanes Blancs (1996)
Olivier Messiaen
Vingt Regards sur l’Enfant-Jésus (1944) : XXI. Première communion de la Vierge
XII. La parole toute puissante
In the summer of 2018, after a year-long battle with stomach cancer, my mother died. I knew she was in a much better place, but the fact that we would never see her again here on earth and her grandchildren would grow up without her loving influence broke my heart. I had so many questions. Why all the suffering? Why did our prayers for healing and comfort seem to go unanswered?

After her memorial service in California, I returned to Paris in a daze. I poured myself into work and taking care of my family. On the surface I seemed okay, but each night as I lay in bed in the dark, tears spilled out of my eyes and onto my pillow. There was a lot of sadness inside me and even physical pain. Some days my chest was tight and on others I felt as if I’d been punched in the gut. I also experienced intense fatigue. I never anticipated the physicality of grief. I knew with time things would get better, but I wondered if there was more I could be doing to take care of myself and work through some of these emotions.

A friend of mine mentioned a grief support group she attended in California and how helpful it was for her after her husband died. I looked for one in Paris, but couldn’t find any English-speaking groups. At the American Church I approached Pastor Tim Vance with the idea of starting a group, and he said he would help in any way he could, including securing a space and helping me find a facilitator. This was our biggest need.

One day while taking the metro to church, my family and I ran into a woman named Brent Brookfield, a therapist specializing in palliative care and grief. We chatted and she immediately offered to facilitate the group. Within the same week, I learned that Pastor Allison Wheeler was on board to co-facilitate! My heart leapt at the thought of this group coming to fruition.

Rainbow Connection Grief Support launched in March 2019. We begin each meeting with the group rules (what is shared there stays there), introduce ourselves, light a candle for our loved ones, and then we have a time of discussion. We learn about the different stages of grief, share our experiences (if we feel like it...just listening is fine too), do a writing or reflection activity, and then we typically end with a guided breathing exercise to help relieve some of the stress we may be experiencing. The death of a loved one is a trauma, and grief takes its toll on the body, so it’s nice to take a few minutes to just breathe and relax.

Being a part of this group has been such an immense blessing. Together we have learned that grief is not a linear process and that there is no “right” way to grieve. Each person’s experience is unique and we’re all muddling through, doing the best we can to navigate this new life before us without our loved one(s) physically present anymore. I can personally say that having a specific time and space to process my grief has been very healing. I feel better, both physically and emotionally, and I know this is what my mom wants for me. The loss still hurts and I do cry from time to time, but I’m fine with that because it reminds me how much I love her and what she means to me.

If you are experiencing grief, I would encourage you to come to a meeting, where you can listen, share, reflect, and find new tools to help you cope and move forward – in your own time. We currently meet every other Monday during the day and Friday evening.

If you’d like more information about Rainbow Connection Grief Support, please contact RainbowConnectionGS@gmail.com

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.
Soundtrack for a Painting

Freiman Stoltzfus was ACP’s Artist in Residence in August and early September. As music is an equally essential element in both his art and his life, Freiman organised an event in the sanctuary on Saturday 7 September: “Soundtrack for a Painting.” A number of our own remarkable artists surrounded Freiman with music as he painted on the spot. The painting now hanging in the Sanctuary.

Watch the video here: https://acparis.org/soundtrack-painting

ACP Ministry Fair

Remember Worship+2:
This is our formula for spiritual health! Whether you are in Paris or traveling, join God’s people for corporate worship.
Then during the week make sure you are feeding your heart, mind and soul with life-giving encouragement and inspiration through a small group, prayer, or Bible study group.
Then, make sure that you are exercising your gifts for ministry and with life-giving service; singing in the choir or playing in the band, teaching a class, helping out with Children’s Worship, preparing food for Thurber Lectures or the Friday Mission Lunch, or taking food out to the homeless, etc.

Register your interest in our various ministries here: acparis.org/minfair

Dévoiler

Interested in learning immigrants’ stories? Got a good level of French? The play “Dévoiler” directed by Richard Maxwell features eight recent arrivals to Aubervilliers who tell their stories, in a new, innovative way to inhabit the theater.
To 6 October at La Commune, Centre dramatique national, 2 rue Edouard Poisson, 93300 Aubervilliers. See http://lacommune-aubervilliers.fr (Free shuttle back to city center after the show.)

The Heritage Society

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
16h on a Thursday afternoon. The first volunteers wander into the American Church kitchen. Bisous with old friends, handshakes and introductions. A short prayer. Delicious instant coffee, anyone? We’re here to cook a meal for the Alpha Course, an introduction to Christianity geared to people who want to talk about life’s big questions in a low-key environment. Alpha nights involve a dinner, a video and a discussion. We make a simple menu, typically salad, main course and dessert, for perhaps 50 people. The work gets started earlier in the week, with a trip to the wholesale Metro grocery store (where one learns the secrets of Paris restaurants) or an order from an online supermarket. We take turns as lead chef. When I’m in charge, I write up the menu, breaking each item down into steps, and post it on the fridge. That way everyone can see when it’s time to panic. Others do it all off the top of their heads. Regardless, you can learn a lot about cooking by watching our talented kitchen team leaders, which includes Kaye, Kym, and Cécile.

When Thursday comes, we try to put the volunteers to work as quickly and efficiently as possible. Some are talented cooks, others are learning by doing. By 17h the pressure is on, and the work is in full swing. The meal needs to be on the serving line, cafeteria style, and ready to go by 19h. Three hours might sound like a lot, but of course, anything that can go wrong, often does, and if the core of the volunteers doesn’t arrive early enough, crucial tasks get delayed, resulting in a big squeeze at the end. While it has been known to run close to the wire, we’ve never yet made our visitors go hungry. Even if things somehow went terribly pear-shaped, because we burned everything or whatever, I’m sure our guests would understand. And honestly, who doesn’t love take-out pizza?

As soon as the cooking is done, the clean-up push gets serious; the last tidying usually ends around 22h. Ideally, a second wave of volunteers arrives around 19h to share this task. Because we have no dishwashing machine, the toughest job in the kitchen is held by the person at the sink who grapples with the soapy utensils, pots and pans with back, body and soul. It’s no joke: The dishwashers don’t get the glory, but they are essential and appreciated.

I love the fellowship of the ACP kitchen work. It’s fun, and there’s a wonderful spirit, one that transcends ages, languages and cultures. It’s called, “Cooking With Love.”

Here’s a successful recipe, which fed 80 people at the Alpha Launch Party on 19 September:

**Chorizo and red peppers, 20 servings**

*Recipe by Cécile Rouzet*

- 9 red peppers
- 2 kg tomatoes
- 2 whole spicy chorizo sausages, cut in half lengthwise, then sliced thinly
- 15-20 cloves garlic, finely chopped

Grill the red peppers in the oven or on the barbecue, until the skins are charred and blistered. Peel and seed the peppers, then cut into matchstick-size strips, then sauté them in a little olive oil.

Meanwhile, peel the tomatoes and cut them into small dice. Add them to the peppers. Chop the garlic finely and add it to the mix.

When the liquid rendered by the vegetables has reduced, about 30 minutes, add the chorizo. Let the pot simmer, uncovered, for an hour or two. Stir regularly. It will “melt” together.

The result should be a kind of confit. If there’s too much liquid, drain it. Serve on Wasa-type crackers, baguettes, pain Poilane, etc. You could grill one or both sides of the bread, depending on the effect you like – soft or crunchy.

The all-volunteer Community Life kitchen team also swings into action for the Thurber lectures and whenever duty calls, including at Thanksgiving and Easter. Many and diverse are the opportunities to serve. To join the crew, drop a message to Daphne and Kaye at communitylife@acparis.org or scan the QR code above with your smartphone camera.
YAYA 2020

“Another World is Possible // Another World is Here”

For the 2020 season, ACP Youth and Young Adults will read portions of the Prophets along with different selections of art, tapping the genres of Magical Realism, dystopia, science fiction, and horror.

By centering the "already but not yet" kingdom of God next to the poetic imagination of the prophets bearing witness to a world as it really is, as it still can be, and as it will be one day, we will turn to our own world and ask: Is another world possible? Is another world here?
I recently told a French friend that I was going to the new museum dedicated to the Liberation. “The Liberation of what?” he asked. “But of Paris!” I replied, slightly surprised, as the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Paris had been in the news all summer.

Inaugurated on 25 August this year, the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Paris, the Musée de la Libération de Paris brings history to life through images, artifacts, and true stories of patriotic military men and civilians who risked their lives to fight for their country during WWII and the Occupation. Adding to the experience is the fact that the new museum, relocated from a smaller venue in Montparnasse, sits atop the very command post used by General Rol-Tanguy, head of the French Interior Forces (FFI) for the Paris region during the Liberation.

The curators have gathered over 300 items, photos, letters, personal effects, archival videos, and testimonies to animate the museum’s three floors. The visit is chronological, beginning with the complicated political context in Europe following WWI, when economic crises led to political and social uncertainty, paving the way for extremist regimes to come to power.

Against this background, two men in France who would become war heroes, were just establishing themselves. They were both driven by a patriotic spirit and inspired by General de Gaulle’s call to the nation in June of 1940. The museum’s full name (see title) honors these two remarkable individuals: General Leclerc and Jean Moulin.

Philippe Leclerc de Hauteclocque came from an aristocratic family and attended the prestigious Saint Cyr military school. He served on several campaigns between the wars and then in combat in 1939, before the fall of France in 1939. He was one of the first to make his way to the UK to join the Free French under General de Gaulle. He successfully led forces in Africa, his 2nd Armored Division fought in the battle of Normandy, and it was his division that got the order to liberate Paris. General Leclerc was at De Gaulle’s side when they made their triumphant descent down the Champs Elysées on 26 August 1944.

Jean Moulin began his career as a civil servant working up through the ranks of prefectural administration, where he made key political contacts. Through a series of events, he became General de Gaulle’s envoy, entrusted with the mission to coordinate and unify the various resistance movements towards a common goal. Moulin embodied the spirit of a heroic resistance fighter: he carried papers with a false name, travelled clandestinely across Europe, parachuted into France after meeting de Gaulle in the UK, and at one point hid his Resistance activities while officially claiming to be a landowner and farmer who operated an art gallery in Nice. Captured and tortured on several occasions, at one point by the infamous Gestapo officer Klaus Barbie, he died in the train that was transporting him to Germany, before crossing the border.

The path through the museum takes the visitor through defining moments of the Occupation, including the flight for refuge as the Germans invaded, the Vichy government’s collaboration (including the role it played in assisting the Germans to round up and exterminate Jews in France) and of course the rise of the Resistance movement. Panels tell the personal stories of men and women who lived through this time. Particularly moving is the image of a young soldier, Henri Plusquellec of the 2nd Armored Division, who burned to death in his tank in Normandy. This tragic reality of war is brought home by an adjacent showcase featuring a collection of dog tags taken off the fallen soldiers, a chilling visual.

Be sure to request a ticket to the basement, to see the original command post. Formerly a bomb shelter, now open to the public for the first time, the command post for the Resistance boasted numerous offices, a telephone center, and electricity provided via a bicycle generator. Reserve a virtual reality headset in advance for an immersive experience. But note: access is via a stone stairway, roughly 100 steps down and back up.

This museum is a treasure trove of Occupation history. To appreciate it in full will take several hours. The museum is free to the public, which makes it easy to return.

4 Avenue du Colonel Henri Rol-Tanguy, 75014 Paris (opposite the Catacombs) Open Tuesday through Sunday, 10h-18h. Text and subtitled videos are presented both in French and English.
## Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alpha Course</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</td>
<td>3 Oct</td>
<td>19h45</td>
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<tr>
<td>basics of the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and friendly</td>
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<td>program</td>
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<td>environment. This 10 week course – to be held every Thurs through</td>
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<td>28 Nov.– is free and open to everyone.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alpha Course</strong></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>From 20h</td>
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<td>Daphne 30plusfellowship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explore the meaning of life, ask questions and learn more about the</td>
<td>4 Oct</td>
<td>email contact for location</td>
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<td>acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>basics of the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and friendly</td>
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<td>28 Nov.– is free and open to everyone.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bloom Where You’re Planted</strong></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9h30-17h</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bloom@acparis.org">bloom@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>New to Paris? Come join us at this full-day orientation program for</td>
<td>5 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>newcomers to the “City of Light.” bloomparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>20h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minju CHOI - piano</td>
<td>5 Oct</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Women’s Monthly Bible Study - Focus on forgiveness</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>12h15-13h15</td>
<td>F2 (first floor)</td>
<td>Teri Lee Valluy            Sundaywomensbible  @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>All women welcome to study what the Bible says about forgiving</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>and being forgiven. Free childcare is provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kid’s Monthly Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>12h15-13h15</td>
<td>G7 (English);</td>
<td>Allison Wheeler            childrenenshirtoworship  @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>All children ages 7-12 welcome to study the “Who’s Who” of Bible</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
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<td>Catacombs (French)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Characters. The course is taught in English and French.</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>
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<tr>
<td>Frank HUANG - piano</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
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<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 Protestantale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
<td>7 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10h-14h</td>
<td>The American Cathedral</td>
<td>If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Every Friday a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless</td>
<td>11 Oct</td>
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<td>and needy. ACP is responsible for the meal on the second Friday of</td>
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<tr>
<td>each month, but we are grateful for help with cooking, serving, and</td>
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<td>cleaning up every Friday.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP MOPS (mothers of children ages newborn-18)</strong></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10h-12h</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mops@acparis.org">mops@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Free childcare available.</td>
<td>11 Oct</td>
<td>email for location</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Writer’s Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>14h30 - 16h30</td>
<td>email contact for location</td>
<td>Tendayi Chirawu            <a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>The ACP writer’s group meets once a month to sharpen each</td>
<td>12 Oct</td>
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<td>other’s writing tool kits and support fellow members’ writing</td>
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<td>projects.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Women’s Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>12h15-13h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Kim Herr / Kate Snipes            <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fran Michalek will speak on <em>Letting Go … in Community</em>. Fran will</td>
<td>13 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>discuss how it is vital to share our struggles with each other so</td>
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<td>that, with support, we are able to grow in our Christian walk. All</td>
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<tr>
<td>women are invited. Childcare is provided in G1.</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>
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<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td>13 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Azamat ZHELTYRGUZOV - baritone; Aigerim MATAYEVA - piano; Erzhan</td>
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<tr>
<td>KULIBAEV - violin</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Brilliance Concert</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>20h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Information and tickets at <a href="http://www.acparis.org/thebrilliance">www.acparis.org/thebrilliance</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Gungor and John Arndt, the band The Brilliance, will play live, joined by an expanded string quartet and choir from our ACP community.</td>
<td>19 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Holidays / Vacances Scolaire - Toussaint</td>
<td>Saturday</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>19 Oct - Sunday 3 Nov</td>
<td>20 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atelier Concert</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>20 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert CASSIDY - piano</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>20h45-21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite <a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
<td>21 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Movie Discussion Group</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite <a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie selection: Ad Astra, Portrait de la jeune fille en feu, Le Regard de Charles, Hustlers/Queens</td>
<td>24 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>See any or all in advance; join the group for discussion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>All-Church Fall Retreat - Run Away: The Gospel According to Jonah</td>
<td>Weekend</td>
<td>Massabielle Retreat Center, 20km outside of Paris.</td>
<td>Tim Vance associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastor Tim Vance will lead our weekend of teaching and fellowship. Details and registration on our website at acparis.org/retreat.</td>
<td>25-27 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atelier Concert</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<td>27 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toussaint</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Church house and office closed for public holiday.</td>
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Did you know you can follow the American Church in Paris on social media?

@AmChurchParis /AmericanChurchParis
David Gungor and John Arndt, the band The Brilliance, will play live at ACP on Saturday 19 October, joining an expanded string quartet and Ensemble Lumina from our ACP community, starting at 19h. Their eclectic songs combine symphonic, classical, pop and electronic elements to explore issues of social justice and inspire reflection and connection with others. They will perform songs from their latest album, *Suite No. 1 Oh Dreamer* which was inspired by the stories of immigrants known as “dreamers” in the US, pieces from their yet unreleased album *Suite no. 2 The World Keeps on Spinning*, and well-loved favorites, such as their peace-making opus *Brother*.

A champagne and cake reception will follow in the Theatre. Our very own Devon Graves will open for The Brilliance that night. Don’t miss this very special evening! Tickets on sale now at acparis.org. Ensemble Lumina will debut a piece from the yet unreleased album “The World Keeps on Spinning.”

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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