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It is with great joy that this month we celebrate with other congregations the bicentennial anniversary of English-speaking worship in The City of Light.

It’s been 200 years since Americans first began meeting for informal devotional meetings in the apartment of S.V.S. Wilder, an American merchant, and since the first public worship in English was instituted by a chaplain of the British Forces in *Le temple protestant de l’Oratoire du Louvre*. Today English-speaking people in various congregations and from dozens of countries around the world gather in growing numbers as brothers and sisters in Christ to offer worship and praise in Paris.

The American Church in Paris is the oldest private American institution abroad and the first American church founded overseas. We trace our roots back to those early meetings in 1814, and since our official charter in 1857 by Napoleon III, we have enjoyed an inspiring history of ministry and mission. Four United States Presidents - Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson and Dwight Eisenhower - have worshipped with the ACP. Various ambassadors and famous preachers and theologians like Charles H. Spurgeon, Dwight L. Moody, S. Parkes Cadman, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Jürgen Moltmann have spoken from the pulpit.

Businessmen Anson G. Phelps, Jr., Arthur Curtiss James and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. contributed to the building and endowment funds, and Rodman Wanamaker gave two Tiffany windows which are preserved in our present sanctuary. Notable guests to the church include Antoine de Saint-Exupery, Jacques Fath, Art Buchwald, Albert Camus, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Eleanor Roosevelt and Jesse Jackson. Such luminaries as Daniel Berrigan, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, James Baldwin and James Jones attended student meetings at the church.

We have been a generative community where faith has come alive for many, young and old alike. Did you know that Ernest Shurtleff, the author of the hymn, “Lead On, O King Eternal” was once a minister to students here? Did you know that the church participated in the founding of the American High School and the American University in Paris by providing classrooms? The first American Boy Scout troop in Europe was formed through the Sunday School. Alcoholics Anonymous and other support groups were introduced through our socially conscious ministry. With the American Cathedral, we have shared in the work of feeding the hungry for over 20 years with the Friday Mission Lunch, and more recently have begun taking food to those living on the street with our Sandwich Ministry.

You are a part of this amazing legacy of faith, and while I am impressed by our history and the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us, I am more inspired by God’s future and the call to follow Jesus here and now. God has given us the grace to double our worship attendance in recent years, thanks in large part to our contemporary service and openness to an ever wider diversity of people and cultures.

We now support increasing mission projects locally and around the world with support for full-time missionaries in South Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania and Ghana. We must always remember that the Lord has blessed us more so that we can be more of a blessing to this great city and the world!

On behalf of the Council, I invite you to come and join the celebration of 200 years at L’église de la Madeleine on Saturday, 11 October, at 15h30. Fred Gramann is organizing a 200-member choir and we are honored to welcome the Rev. Dr. Mark Labberton, President of Fuller Theological Seminary, as our guest preacher.

He will, I’m sure, remind us that God continues to do a new thing, and is calling us to new faith and commitment so that we may continue to be a bright “beacon on the Seine” for generations to come. Please pray that this will be a service of celebration that inspires us all to continue to proclaim in word and deed the gospel of God’s love for all,

In Jesus Christ,

* Joseph Wilson Cochran, *Friendly Adventurers*, 1931
So many exciting speakers and topics, and so few Thursdays.

We kicked off the season with a “Salon” series of talks on art and faith, featuring invited artists.

Musicians, poets, and visual artists will share their work and discuss the relationship between artists and the church.

2 October
16 October

18h30 dinner served in the Thurber Room
(Please bring a donation to offset the cost of this ministry of hospitality)
19h30 - 21h00 presentation, then Q&A

Called: The Crisis and Promise of Following Jesus
Thurber Thursday, 9 October

Reverend Mark Labberton

We are doubly blessed! Not only will Mark Labberton be speaking at our bicentennial celebrations at La Madeleine on 11 October, he will also be leading a Thurber Thursday session just before. He will undoubtedly be discussing the topic of his latest book, Called: The Crisis and Promise of Following Jesus.

He is the fifth President and Lloyd John Ogilvie Professor of Preaching at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Described as a “Renaissance Man” by the Pasadena Star-News, he is a painter, musician and a well-travelled public speaker - and universally admired by his students. He took his Master’s degree at Fuller and went on for a Ph.D. in theology at Cambridge University.

He speaks of challenges facing institutions of higher education and seminaries today, especially financial and technological: “I think that technology, while it disrupts higher education, also creates opportunities for connections to the wider world.” It is this philosophy of blending worship and scholarship that brings Reverend Labberton to Paris. He says, “There are a lot of different bridges that need to be built and encouraged and that’s a big piece of what I want to do.” The Fuller Board of Trustees Chairman describes him as “a man of incredible breadth. He is a scholar, a pastor and a leader.”

Finally, Dr. Labberton says, “Because I’ve been a pastor for the better part of 30 years, I have a deep sense of what the local church is about. Because I have served in a creative, dynamic place – in Berkeley, California – for most of those years, I have a sense of the way that culture is changing.”

By Amit Pieter
The gift of space

The Rev. Michelle Wahila
Associate Pastor

Dear friends,

We have all survived la rentrée together and now we have the opportunity to spend some time away. The 2014 Fall Retreat is the perfect opportunity to enjoy both time away (in a beautiful setting) and time together (with a partner/loved one, family & the church family). This weekend away, 31 October to 2 November, is an annual “getaway” complete with intergenerational worship, learning, and fellowship.

Why should you retreat? A retreat means taking time away from your ordinary life and situation. It is a special time that can bring inner peace, spiritual renewal and opportunity for growth as an individual, couple or family.

You might be stepping away from a lifestyle that is hectic. You might be taking time away from responsibilities of work, or children. You might be stepping away from an emotionally charged or draining situation. You may just want some peace and quiet for a day or two or space in which to consider your life.

A retreat provides the space in which we can open ourselves to both the light and dark within our lives. It can help to bring understanding of where we are in relationships and can lead to discovery about ourselves that will help us to grow. For many people a retreat can be an awakening to the presence of God in their lives.

Moses went on retreat to Mount Sinai. Joseph ended up in the bottom of a pit. Jonah had quiet time in the belly of a whale. Jesus went to the desert. The Biblical example of retreat suggests that (whether we want it or not) it is important to the development of the spiritual life. When we take such time we are able to reflect upon the landscapes of our hearts; we can begin to look for what “really counts” in life.

Dutch priest and author Henri Nouwen is quoted as saying that we can be “preoccupied with being occupied.” But being too busy (even when it is for the Kingdom!) merely brings about fragmentation and exhaustion. In this, we should be gentle with others, and ourselves, recognizing that perhaps we need the healing of space to be restored. To acknowledge this is simply to seek out Jesus and his grace once again.

The Fall Retreat is, therefore, the gift of such space. It is an opportunity to be with Jesus, along with your own loved ones and many of your brothers and sisters from ACP. Set in the beautiful La Clarté-Dieu Franciscan center, the Fall Retreat will be a time for morning devotions, group sessions, creative worship together, and plenty of time for Sabbath rest.

I hope you will consider taking some time away this fall and to rediscover the truth of the Psalmist words, “Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere.”

ACP Fall Retreat
31 Oct - 2 Nov, at La Clarté-Dieu

Come and see God at work, and be blessed by a weekend with the ACP family in a beautiful wooded setting.

Our guest speaker is Dr. Eric D. Barreto, Associate Professor of New Testament at the Luther Seminary. Dr. Barreto has received numerous academic honors, most recently the George W. Woodruff Fellowship, the Emory Minority Fellowship Grant, and several grants from the Hispanic Theological Initiative and the Fund for Theological Education. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) and the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion. He also published The Bible is Like ... or is It in SBL Forum in 2009 and presented a paper on the same topic in 2007 at the SBL Annual Meeting in San Diego, Calif. For more information or to sign up for the fall retreat, see the ACP website, www.acparis.org

ACP Spire, October 2014 5
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 upcoming concerts, see http://acparis.org
Life for “Twenty-Somethings” can be both exciting and disorienting, especially if adjusting to a new country and culture. These years are full of questions, exploration and discovery, and often also with loneliness and confusion when living far away from home.

Throughout its history the American Church in Paris has been a safe haven for youth and young adults living, visiting or just passing through our city. These are some of the reasons why young adults have found a “home away from home” for decades at 65 quai d’Orsay.

The Young Adults of The American Church in Paris is a community of 18 to 30-year-old individuals living and working in Paris. Though very diverse, the group finds its unity in common belief in Christ and a vision to embrace one another with love, openness and service. We learn from one another and explore the depth of faith as lived out in community. Individuals come from a myriad of cultural backgrounds, nationalities, traditions, denominations and languages, but find solidarity in our shared experiences and encounters of God’s love revealed in Christ.

Each week the Young Adults gather for fellowship, discipleship, outreach, service and fun! Our normal meeting time is on Tuesdays.

The first and third Tuesday of the month, the group meets for Bible study and worship. Some semesters we will read through and discuss a book of the Bible. We have had lessons on the book of James, the Psalms, Philippians, the Gospel of Luke, and the epistles of John. Some semesters track a particular theme, such as “Women of the Bible, Men of Character, the Life and Teachings of Jesus, or Biblical Justice.

The second and fourth Tuesday of the month is Pizza Night. Young Adults gather together to make delicious home-made pizza in our kitchen and share a meal together. This tradition dates back over 50 years and continues to be the most attended event, which is not surprising since everyone appreciates a home-cooked meal!

During these evenings, we often watch a video series and have small group discussions based on current events or relevant topics of interest to our group. This past year we enjoyed a stimulating series of TED talks and also offered a 2-month Alpha course.

In additional to these weekly meetings, the Young Adults gather monthly for social activities on Sunday afternoons to explore the culture and city of Paris. The group also serves the homeless of Paris on Saturdays, plays basketball on Fridays and has special monthly evenings of praise and prayer.

This ministry year, two new groups have also emerged. The Young Adult Women’s Bible Study and the Young Adult Men’s Small Group offer supplementary times for fellowship, support, study and accountability. The women meet Sundays from 12h30 to 13h00 and the men meet on Saturdays from 14h30 to 15h30.

It is our hope and prayer to provide a place of acceptance and Christian growth in the heart of Paris for all young adults.

We invite you to learn more about the Young Adults of ACP by visiting the church website, connect with us online and come join one of our meetings, to discover more about who we are and how we are striving to live out our faith together.

In Christ,
Dan Haugh

www.acparis.org/acp-groups/young-adult-ministry
Facebook: /groups/ACPyoungadults
Twitter: @acpyoungadults
Boo! Americans all know the surprises of Halloween, All Hallow’s Eve, but what about the day it precedes? The French religious holiday of Toussaint is held on 1 November, commemorating all known and unknown saints. In the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches, saints — notably martyrs — were usually celebrated with their own day of the year. But during the persecution by Roman emperor Diocletian between 284 to 305 AD, the number of martyrs grew to a number too great for the calendar.

So in 610 AD, Pope Boniface IV dedicated a day to all saints. These saints in heaven, known as the “Church triumphant” were contrasted with living saints, the “Church militant.”

The tradition of celebrating All Saints Day in France and many other countries has come to mean a time to honor all potential unknown saints or, effectively, all dead loved ones. This tradition is visible today in large cemeteries like Montparnasse (in the 14th) or Père Lachaise (in the 20th) but also in every small churchyard throughout France. Here you will find new flowers, potted chrysanthemums and, often, candles. The French traditionally choose bold and cheerful chrysanthemums for funerals and gravesites.

Toussaint also happens to be the name of the French autumn school vacation, this year from 22 October until 2 November. This is the largest scholastic holiday between the September rentrée and the holidays of Christmas. Even if Anglophones are not familiar with it, children surely will be.

What is a saint?

Excerpt from an article by Reverend Scott Herr

Last year Pastor Scott Herr addressed the issue as well, worth repeating:

But what is a “saint” anyway? The New Testament Greek word for saint is literally ἅγιος (hagios), those people “holy” or “set apart” for God’s purposes in the world. The words “holy” and “sanctified” have the same root (in the Greek) as saint. Saints are people sanctified, or made holy, set apart for God’s work.

But how are they made holy? In I Corinthians 1:2 we read, “To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints...” Paul teaches that it is by being “in Christ Jesus” that we are sanctified, set apart, made holy for God’s work in the world.

Another interesting fact: In order to be canonized as a saint in the Roman tradition, you have to be... well, dead! But all of the saints referenced in the New Testament are alive! In other words, the New Testament assumption is that saints are living people who put their faith “in Christ.”

That means you and me, saved sinners that we are, are now saints, set apart for God’s Kingdom purposes at home, school, work, in the marketplace, and in our church community. In Ephesians 4 we read: “The gifts he [the Holy Spirit] gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry.”

...We’ll talk about it more around All Saints Day, which is always 1 November. But in the meantime, I pray that we all will daily live more and more into our identity and calling as the communion of saints.
New in Paris? Services at your fingertips at Bloom
by Rebekah Hasting

Bloom Where You’re Planted – the daylong orientation program on 4 October offers a rich selection of speakers and workshops, but also opportunities for networking and discovering resources. One of the activities less well-known is its exhibit hall, with over 30 local service providers available to answer questions up close and personal.

Looking for a pre-school? Chat with the teachers at Bilingual Montessori School or the Lennen Bilingual School. Need relocation help? Stop by the Family Zen booth or Paris Rental. If you want to bookmark a few helpful expat sites, AngloInfo Paris steers you in the right direction.

A rep from the American Library is there, along with a volunteer from WICE to show off its educational and social activities for the expat community. Paris Fitness advises on staying fit, while Expat Factor offers career coaching, and the Union of Overseas Voters will help you register for the next elections.

Last year, my family and I attended Bloom and found the exhibit hall particularly helpful because it enabled us to locate services we had been searching for, all in one place. We have a small child so I chose to visit booths that were geared towards childcare, parenting groups, and photography (for family pictures by the Eiffel Tower, of course!).

We were able to meet organization representatives face to face, ask questions, and take home information to help us in the future as needs arose. The process was simple, enjoyable and made our transition to Paris much smoother.

Bloom is all about information at your fingertips. If you didn’t make it to the event this year, be sure to pick up the newly updated info-packed Bloom Where You’re Planted guidebook, which is for sale at the ACP reception.

Bloom Where You’re Planted, Saturday 4 October, 9h-18h. Tickets at door according to place available. See www.acparis.org/bloom-where-youre-planted

Don’t just survive... Thrive!

Volunteers make up the life and spirit of many churches, ours included. Ginger Snyder was one of the founding members of Bloom Where You’re Planted, 44 years ago in 1970. She died in August, and we received the following letter shortly after.

Dear American Church in Paris,

The enclosed donation is in loving remembrance of Ginger Snyder, a former ACP member who has recently died (28 August 2014). The Snyder family were members from 1967 through 1976 and were great friends of my family, the Colvills, who were also ACP members during this timeframe.

While we lived in Paris the ACP was very meaningful in our lives – a space of special comfort and support. Our two families shared a special bond that we hold in our hearts to this day. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ginger’s husband, Ben, and their children: Wendy, Debbie, Becky, Rob and Sara.

Signed,
Terry Colvill Beale for the Colville family: Donna Colvill Crim, Jeff Colvill and Laura Colvill Andrews
Celebrate 200 years

Sing out!

200 Paris voices fete 200 years

By Rebecca Brite

On Saturday, 11 October, don’t miss one of the highlights of this year’s festivities celebrating 200 years of English-speaking worship in Paris.

At 15h30 that day, in the Madeleine Church in central Paris, massed Anglophone choirs will join clergy from English-speaking congregations around the city, including the American Cathedral and the American Church, along with dancers, handbell ringers, six internationally known singers and a prominent guest preacher, in a special worship service.

The event culminates months of planning and coordination. Fred Gramann, ACP music director, wrote a new anthem for the occasion that, along with a work by Irish composer Charles Villiers Stanford, has been rehearsed by some 200 singers from the church choirs of ACP, the American Cathedral, Saint Michael’s and Holy Trinity, as well as Voices Choeur International, Lux Perpetua, the Paris Choral Society and the Paris international chorale, AIME.

The anthem, “The Heavens Reveal the True Glory of God,” also features six soloists, called The Cast (above): sopranos Alison Scherzer and Bryn Vertesi, mezzo-soprano Brigitte Heuser, baritones Till Bleckwedel and Kevin Moreno, and bass Cam Vertesi. All are coming from Cologne, Germany, for the event and will also perform at the ACP atelier concert the next day, 12 October, at 17h.

The guest preacher has an even longer journey to make: Mark Labberton is president of Fuller Theological Seminar, based in Pasadena, California. ACP members may remember his visit three years ago as our inspirational keynote speaker at the annual conference of the Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East.

Also participating in the service are the Académie de Danse Américaine de Paris and the ACP Bronze Ringers. Composer and organist Peter Bannister, an ACP member, will play the great pipe organ, which was originally built by Aristide Cavaillé-Coll and whose past titular organists included the composers Camille Saint-Saens and Gabriel Fauré.

The Eglise de la Madeleine, which is hosting the anniversary service, is one of the best-known
monuments in Paris. This is partly due to its location at the end of Rue Royale in the 8th arrondissement. The street and its sight lines to the Neoclassical portico of the church are perfectly framed by the two stone buildings in the Concorde square designed by Ange-Jacques Gabriel, which today house the luxurious Hôtel de Crillon and the French Ministry of the Navy.

Built in fits and starts between the late 1770s (only the colonnaded front remains from that version) and the 1830s, the church dedicated to Mary Magdalene was intended by Napoleon Bonaparte as a secular temple to the French Army. It was not even dedicated as a church until 1842, several years after its completion.

This history explains why the half-dome fresco above the altar, nominally depicting the history of Christianity, shows Napoleon as its central figure, being crowned emperor by Pope Pius the VII and looming larger than Christ himself, who hovers modestly in the background.

The figure of Napoleon serves, however, as a reminder that it was the emperor who, after reaffirming the Revolution’s restoration of rights to French Protestants, granted the Oratoire du Louvre to their use so he could demolish their previous church to expand the Louvre palace.

It was at the Oratoire du Louvre that English-speaking Protestants began organized worship services in 1814. Pastor Marc Pernot of the Oratoire will join Father Brian McCarthy of the Madeleine in welcoming members of more than a dozen international churches in the Paris area to the celebration of that event on 11 October.

*Editor’s note: We have had a long association with Eglise Madeleine. For instance, in 1980 our single Christmas music concert was so popular, La Madeleine offered to host a second performance.*
This year marks the 200th anniversary of English-language worship in Paris. Each month we will tell the history in 20- to 25-year increments, from the point of view of the American Church in Paris, the first established American church overseas. This month: 1962-1979. By Alison Benney

History in context

1963 - March on Washington
1963 - Martin Luther King Jr. makes his "I Have a Dream" speech
1963 - President Kennedy is shot dead in Dallas, Texas
1963 - Betty Friedan publishes The Feminine Mystique
1964 - Start of the Vietnam War
1964 - Britain and France agree to build a Channel Tunnel
1964 - Beatles become popular in US
1964 - Civil Rights Act passes in US
1964 - Italy asks for help to stabilize the Leaning Tower of Pisa
1964 - Nelson Mandela sentenced to life in prison
1965 - The Rolling Stones’ "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction"
1965 - US sends troops to Vietnam
1966 - Mao Zedong launches the Cultural Revolution
1966 - National Organization for Women (NOW) founded
1966 - Star Trek TV series airs
1967 - First heart transplant
1968 - Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated
1968 - My Lai Massacre
1968 - Prague Spring
1969 - ARPANET, the precursor of the Internet
1969 - Neil Armstrong is the first man on the Moon
1969 - Woodstock
1970 - Kent State shootings
1971 - VCRs Introduced
1972 - M*A*S*H TV show premiers
1972 - Pocket calculators introduced
1972 - Terrorists attack at Olympic Games in Munich
1972 - Watergate scandal begins
1973 - Sears Tower built
1973 – US pulls out of Vietnam
1974 - Mikhail Baryshnikov defects
1974 - Terracotta Army discovered in China
1974 – US President Nixon resigns
1975 - Cambodian genocide begins
1975 - Microsoft founded
1975 - Saturday Night Live premiers
1976 – First Ebola virus outbreaks strike Sudan & Zaire
1975 - Tangshan Earthquake Kills Over 240,000
1977 - Elvis found dead
1977 - South African anti-Apartheid leader Steve Biko tortured to death

Rites and rights

Tough act to follow. When Reverend Clayton Williams retired from the American Church in Paris in 1962 after 36 years of service, his final accomplishment was welcoming in the newly created American College (now AUP).

Yet, three years after Reverend Martin Van Buren Sargent took over the pastoral reins, Time magazine noted his "avant-garde" ministry at the ACP. This consisted of juggling civil rights activism, anti-war protests and art-faith integration with spiritual and political diplomacy.

Sargent’s assistant minister (and artist) Alan Caine created a popular Friday night coffee house in the Catacombs for college students, featuring poetry readings, theater, art exhibitions, sculpture, dance, and music. American activists Daniel Berrigan and James Baldwin spoke, and folksingers Joan Baez and Bob Dylan performed there.

Reverend Sargent also created a Theologians-in-Residence program, similar to today’s visiting pastor program. A professional theatre group, the Studio Theatre of Paris, was created from an ACP theatre program that included discussions led by William Saroyan, Jean Seberg, Mary McCarthy and Janet Flanner.

After Martin Luther King Jr. became the youngest-ever winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, the French invited him to Paris to speak on civil rights at La Mutualité. He also graciously agreed to speak at the ACP; so on 24 October 1965, Reverend King preached to an overflowing crowd in the Sanctuary.

The following year, the ACP supported the “Festival de lutte contre le racisme” at the Palais des sports. This fundraiser featured Martin Luther King Jr. and Harry Belafonte, and their French peers, Nobel Prize winner Jacques Monod and folksinger Hugues Aufray.

It was not all peace and love, of course, and the student revolutions in the '60s weren’t restricted to national boundaries. In May 1969 the SNCC, a Black Power student group, interrupted a service at the American Church, demanding $500,000 dollars from the church for the James Forman Fund. This was followed by an attempted takeover of the Thurber Room and a two-day sit-in in the Sanctuary. Two Viet Cong flags were briefly hung over the entrance to the church house (also the American College entrance).

Ch-ch-ch-change
Edwin H. Tuller, ACP pastor, 1971-1978

By Reverend Bruce Morgan, ACP Visiting Pastor

Ed was a dear personal friend, who first introduced us to the American Church in Paris many years ago. I was actually Ed’s pastor in the closing years of his life. He lived to be 95. His wife Rose died of cancer shortly after their return to the US in 1978. Ed was selected as pastor for ACP partly because of his strong administrative skills and management gifts. He had served as the Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches, USA, for many years before retiring from that position to come to Paris. He spoke French, loved and collected French art, and served the church with distinction.

The Tullers had 4 children. Last year I had the privilege of officiating at the wedding of Abby Tuller, Ed’s granddaughter, in the ACP sanctuary. Ed was a practical, down-to-earth person, loved by all. He was a personal friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and shared the podium with Dr. King in Washington, DC, when he delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech. Dr. Tuller helped encourage Dr. King to affiliate his church with the American Baptist Churches, USA, so that King could participate in our denomination’s excellent life insurance and retirement plan, which helped sustain Coretta Scott King after Martin’s death. Ed was a humble, unassuming man, with great Christian character.

Reverend Sargent resigned in March of that year, and our interim pastor, Dr. Emerson Hangen, managed to effect a number of innovations. He created a church newsletter in 1970, *The Spire on the Seine* – which makes this publication 45 years old this year! That same year the Women of the Church kicked off the church orientation program now known as Bloom Where You’re Planted, thanks to leaders Ruth Dixon and Elizabeth Chase.

Furthermore, a new church constitution was drawn up, and authority previously vested in three different committees was re-formed into the Church Council. And by the end of 1970, the American College had transferred its classrooms out of the ACP.

Dr. Edwin Tuller arrived in January 1971 to an effectively clean slate. He expanded the operating hours of the church house and created a new source of income by renting ACP facilities for use by over 40 local organizations. Finances stabilized, and Rose Tuller expanded our benevolence program, providing funds to French groups, including the Golden Age Club and a program for mentally handicapped young people. A mini Meals-on-Wheels was set in motion for shut-ins, and in 1974 the church helped create the SOS Help Line (see article next page).

In December 1972, Reverend Tuller was the proud recipient of the Medalle d’argent from the city of Paris, in recognition of the vital part the church was playing in the life of the 7th arrondissement.

But our outreach wasn’t just about missions. Jim McKissic, director of young adult programs, created a music program called *Entra’Acte*, which along with the students’ atelier concerts, were so popular that there was often standing-room-only in the Sanctuary. Thanksgiving dinner tickets were sold out almost before they were printed.

Our high-profile music director Edmund Pendleton (left) retired in 1975 after 41 years of service. Mr. Pendleton had studied the organ with Marcel Dupre, composition with Paul Dukas and conducting with Charles Munch. He composed choral works for the American Church and was choirmaster of the Philharmonic Choir of Paris for 25 years. He was also music critic for *The International Herald Tribune*.

Now we start tapping into contemporary history. Of all the church events in 1976, perhaps the most far-reaching decision taken was to hire a young organist from Washington State to replace Mr. Pendleton.

Fred Gramann is described in a recent blog as “a very cordial gentleman who originally came to Paris from Enumclaw, Washington 30 years ago and never left.” Fred discovered only after he was hired that the budget had been cut, which meant that the all-paid choir no longer existed. However, by 1978 he had built up a volunteer choir of 40 members, plus created a youth choir and a church orchestra.

Today – well, the ACP boasts a handful of acclaimed vocal choirs, plus three handbell choirs, a successful atelier concert series, sell-out Christmas concerts, and a jaw-dropping music program of weekly worship. Fred is known internationally as a conductor, composer, director of workshops, and an all-around nice guy. You can read more about him on the next page.

Next month we explore the ACP in the ’80s and ’90s, when the dollar was high and the living was American.
Fred Gramann
Notes of inspiration

When Fred arrived in Paris in 1972, it was to study with a master organist, Marie-Claire Alain, for nine months. Still here four years later, he was hired as ACP choir director and church organist, and soon became director of music. As he remembers, “When I accepted the job I knew about the changes that would accompany it: the all-paid choir was disbanded (I had 3 singers at my first choir rehearsal), the music library belonged to Mr. Pendleton and was removed, the organ was dying, and the pianos were in very bad repair (the Steinway had coke spilled on the sound board, chipped ivories and a seriously scratched case).”

Today ACP has a large adult choir, an excellent music library, a restored Steinway grand from 1888, a beautiful Yamaha grand piano, a 3,328-pipe Beckerath organ, and several sets of handbells run by three adult handbell choirs directed by Fred.

When he was first handed the schedule for ACP’s weekly Sunday evening concert series and told proudly that the church was booked for three weeks in advance, he thought, “Is this the best we can do in a city full of young musicians?” Today his popular Atelier Concert series is booked solid for two years in advance, with a waiting list.

Fred is an internationally recognised composer of handbell music, directs handbell and vocal choirs around the world, and with his institutional memory can spin an entertaining story about pretty much any place in the building.

As longtime tenants and parents, Fred and Nancy have acted as commonsense counselors to new pastors and their families as they arrive and learn to live with church community life literally underneath their feet. But experience is not everything. When Fred and Nancy’s son Ben and his own young family visited recently, it was easy to see from grandson Noah’s handling of the drums that music is in the genes.

The history of the American Church is blessed with bright human sparks of talent, dedication and inspiration; Fred Gramann surely counts as one of the brightest, who hasn’t stopped asking, “Is this the best we can do?”
Hosting the 500
City to City Europe conference at ACP
28-30 October
By Natalie Raynal

“We’re trying to answer a series of questions... what does gospel-rich urban ministry look like in our time and place? - Timothy Keller

500 pastors! From 28-30 October the ACP will welcome 500 pastors and church planters from all over Europe for the City to City Europe conference. The keynote speaker will be Reverend Tim Keller, Christian apologist (in the theological sense), founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City and acclaimed author of books such as *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism* and *The Prodigal God*.

Noting that the world’s population is steadily moving towards cities and the gospel must be there to reach it, Tim Keller and Redeemer Presbyterian founded City to City in New York in 2001, which now equips church planters all over the world, the Americas, Europe, and Asia-Pacific. Keller makes a compelling biblical argument for Christians to be in the city, different from the city and passionately for the city. He cites the examples of early Christians who effectively spread the gospel by being anti-materialistic, civic-minded and full of integrity.


Our contemporary worship band, Still Point, has the great privilege of leading corporate worship for the conference each day, in the Sanctuary. William Bartlett of the French Protestant church, Église Évangelique Baptiste de Paris, and Holly Nugent, a worship leader from Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in California, will also join Still Point for this special event. Each day’s prelude and corporate worship time will include modern arrangements of hymns and contemporary worship songs by composers like Matt Redman, Chris Tomlin, David Crowder, Joel Houston, and groups Indelible Grace, and Page CXVI.

For more information: www.citytocityeurope.com or www.redeemercitytocity.com

The ACP is privileged to host 500 European pastors and church planters from across Europe who convene from 28 - 30 October for the “Gospel within the City” conference.

The event is organized by City to City Europe. It seeks to catalyze and serve a Europe-wide movement of leaders who create new churches, new ventures, and new expressions of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the common good.

The event will feature the participation of Tim Keller, Senior Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church of New York City, and bestselling author.

If you have questions about the conference or would like to volunteer, contact Kimberly Hunt at kimberly.hunt@gmail.com.
Woebegone for Lake Wobegon

We are still looking forward to seeing Garrison Keillor and the Prairie Home Companion at the American Church in Paris, sometime in the future. Until then, here’s a bit of soul food from his book.

Excerpted from The Keillor Reader:

"...I go to church on Sunday because I want to be there. It’s very cheerful to be with the others who want to be there and hear the Scriptures and chant the psalm together and listen to the sermon or not – sometimes the minister tries too hard to be profound and loses us in the first two minutes and we turn our attention to the hairstyles of the people in front of us – then rise and go sailing through the Nicene Creed and go forward for communion, singing Laudate omnes gentes, and then a big closing hymn, and the pastor stands in back and tells us to go forth into the world where there are things to be done that won’t be done unless we do them, and out we go into Sunday morning, feeling mightily blessed and looking for those things."

SAVE THE DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 October</td>
<td>Bloom Where You’re Planted</td>
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<td>5 October</td>
<td>Children’s Worship Volunteer training</td>
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<td>11 October</td>
<td>200th Anniversary Service, Eglise de la Madeleine</td>
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<td>31 Oct. – 2 Nov.</td>
<td>All-Church Fall Retreat</td>
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<td>7 November</td>
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<td>27 November</td>
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<td>13 December</td>
<td>Candlelight Christmas Concerts, 17h00 and 20h00</td>
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<td>14 December</td>
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<td>20 December</td>
<td>ACP Family Christmas Party</td>
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Location, location, location

Looking for a place to worship in English? In addition to the American Church of Paris there are 21 other churches in which an Anglophone may worship in an English-speaking culture. Have we missed one? Let us know at Spire@acparis.org

American Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, 23, av Georges V, 75008
Baptist Church, 48, rue de Lille, 75007
Church of Christ, 4, rue Dédéat-de-Sevrac
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 12, rue St. Merri, 75004
Conservative Synagogue, 8, George Bernard Shaw, 75015
First Church of Christ, Scientist, 36, blvd St. Jacques, 75014
Second Church of Christ, Scientist, 38, rue Titian, 75008
Third Church of Christ, Scientist, 33 bis, blvd Bourdon, 75004
Great Synagogue, 44, rue de la Victoire, 75009
Greek Orthodox Church, 7, rue Georges Bizet, 75016
Kehilat Geshar, The French-American Synagogue, 7, rue Leon Cogniet, 75017
Liberal Synagogue, 24, rue Copernic, 75016
Mosque AbuBakr As Siddio, 39, rue de Belleville, 75018
Russian Cathedral, 12, rue Daru, 75008
St. George’s Anglican Church, 7, rue Auguste-Vacquerie, 75016
St. John’s Lutheran Church, 147, rue Grenelle, 75007
St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, 50, av Hoche, 75008
St. Michael’s Church, 5, rue d’Aguesseau, 75008
The Scots Kirk Presbyterian, 17, rue Bayard, 75008
Trinity International Church of Paris, 58, rue Madame, 75006
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Paris, 127-129 rue Marcadet, 75018
In the 1970s the “Common Market” was opening trade barriers. Paris was welcoming large numbers of foreigners, including many English speakers. Staff at the American Hospital observed an increase in English-speaking people experiencing psychiatric emergencies. Missing the support of family and friend networks, expatriates were open to loneliness and depression, often magnifying personal problems. Crisis lines existed, but only accessible to those who spoke fluent French.

These professionals, with the support of the Pastor of the American Church, decided to open an English-speaking suicide prevention line. The first objective was suicide prevention, the second a listening service for callers wishing to discuss any problem of any magnitude, and provision of practical information.

Chad Varah, who had created the first suicide prevention line “The Samaritans” in the UK in 1953, agreed to come to Paris to share his experience. SOS Amitié, which had opened their first post in France in 1960, provided an umbrella for the organisation.

SOS Help came into existence as a federated “poste” of SOS Amitié thus gaining registered charity status. The American Church provided an address for the siège social. Finally, the American Hospital offered the initial premises and SOS Help service started on 1 October 1974 for 4 hours a day: 19h-21h. In March 1980 the listening hours were extended with a second shift, 15h-19h.

Forty years later, SOS Help is still a phone call away. Certain aspects of the organization have evolved with time, but the basic principles and philosophy remain unchanged. Our priority remains the caller. The service is confidential, anonymous, non-directive and non-denominational. Callers may express a variety of concerns, including thoughts of suicide. It may be a one-off call, more frequent contacts if a caller is undergoing a life challenge, and for callers suffering from mental illness, we are part of their regular support network.

Volunteers are trained by a professional and the training course includes “ears on” listening with an experienced listener. Normally trainees solo on the line after about 3 months – or when they feel comfortable. As the service is confidential, listeners attend monthly “partage” meetings, facilitated by a professional, where they may share their feelings about listening.

Next recruitment sessions are at 19h00 on Thursday 2 October and Wednesday 8 October at the American Church. The training course starts Saturday 25 October. Full details: www.soshelpline.org
Ministry in maximum security
Joining a prison visit with the Living Truth Foundation in Ghana
By Eliane Kakpo

For years I’d been wanting to visit Francis and Anna Cobbinah, our missionaries in Ghana and Founders of The Living Truth Foundation. But the time was never right, and then Francis suddenly passed away in March. So I decided I absolutely had to go visit his wife, Anna, during my vacation this summer. When I ran into Carolyn Bouazouni one Sunday in July, I learned she was going to attend some ceremonies in Ghana in August. We confirmed the dates and my husband, Bruno, and I made plans to join her there.

Only later did I understand the ceremonies I would attend were not for Francis, but for the prisoners graduating from his Disciple Bible study class – and for the inauguration of three more classes starting in September!

The first ceremony was scheduled for 12 August, so we arrived in Elmina, Ghana, on the 11th. Carolyn came to meet us at the station, explaining that Anna was busy at home working on the preparations. We arrived at the mission house to find activity everywhere – large pots were on the stove in the kitchen and on several gas stoves set up in the backyard. I asked what was going on, and Anna explained she was cooking for the ceremony the next day.

Seeing the enormous amount of food being prepared, I asked how many people were to be fed. She answered 1,000 people: 850 prisoners and 150 officers and guards...

I offered to help, but Anna just laughed and said “no.” With so much food to prepare, though, I just put on an apron and joined in the cooking anyway.

The menu was grilled marinated chicken, spicy rice and tomato sauce, with salad and dressing. By 2h00 we had finished cooking the chicken. I went to bed, leaving Anna cooking the rice as she waited for more people to arrive to help.

When I woke up at 7h00 the work was still in full swing. By 8h00, we started putting the food into individual Styrofoam containers, then we packed them in large containers that were loaded into several vehicles.

At 9h00 we set out for the Maximum Security Prison. I had never set foot in a prison before.
The height of the prison walls left quite an impression on me. We deposited our cameras and cell phones in the guards’ office, and after praying and singing, we entered the prison around 11h00.

We went through barred gates, secured metal doors, more barred gates and more metal doors before finally arriving inside the prison where there was a large field, like a soccer field, surrounded by buildings that we learned were the prison blocks. For the ceremony, 500 chairs had been set up, and they were all full, with prisoners also sitting on the grass and standing around to watch. The prison choir sang as they marched in, followed by the graduating prisoners.

We sat down and the ceremony began. It lasted about 3 hours, and I was filled with many emotions.

I was impressed by the number of people present, by the beautiful ceremony with prayers, singing and dancing by everyone: the prisoners, the officers and guards, and the guests.

I was filled with the joy of being there and participating in this amazing event and the joy of knowing the tremendous impact the Bible study has on the prisoners.

I suffered from the frustration of learning that, although 24 men graduated, there were double – or triple! – that number who wanted to attend the classes. But because of the limited number of Bible study manuals, which are quite costly, the prisoners drew lots to select the 24 who would participate.

I felt great sadness at seeing all these young men, many quite intelligent, locked away behind the bars.

I experienced the pride of seeing the enormous good that Anna, and before that, Francis, are accomplishing with the support of our church.

Much work has been accomplished by the support of our church, and by the hard work and sacrifice of Anna and previously Francis.

My prayer is that the Lord will guide us to find a way to help these prisoners. I was unable to attend all of the ceremonies, but did attend one of the officers’ services that are held every Friday. On that occasion, The Living Truth Foundation was highly complimented and greatly thanked for the important role they play at the prison.

The Missions Committee eagerly welcomes any and all suggestions on how to support this ministry and encourage its growth. May the Lord be glorified. AMEN!

The Living Truth Foundation with friends and supporters preparing to enter the prison

Anna and Eliane

Asanti—Former student, now a teacher!

Eliane with Anna and Francis’ daughters, Kate (L) and Jenny Cobbynah (center)
Faith in action among the poorest

ACP local mission, the Foyer de Grenelle

By Ann Mildred

The Foyer de Grenelle is a Christian-inspired Paris social center which provides the needy with a weekly Wednesday evening meal, assistance to the unemployed, tutoring for children, French lessons, legal help and mailing address for immigrants.

The Foyer's vocation is to “vivre et manifester l’Evangile dans le milieu populaire,” to live your life centered in the Gospel. Its mission involves helping and acting on behalf of those who are weak, vulnerable and in need.

It promotes social fellowship and solidarity, including secular debates where everyone’s words are respected and one opinion does not dominate. The mission of witnessing to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is always present with the message that with God’s unconditional love, His Peace is possible, here and now.

Currently, volunteer opportunities for ACP members include helping provide childcare during the hours of the Women's School classes and helping with the Wednesday evening dinners.

ACP also supports the Foyer with a financial donation from the MOC budget. Recently, the ACP’s Refugee Ministry has started an exciting collaboration with the Foyer’s Dom’Asile and Dom’Grenelle programs which have already helped several of ACP’s own members.

The Foyer is located in Paris 15th, Metro La Motte-Picquet. For more information, please contact Ann Mildred at missionoutreach@acparis.org

Volunteer opportunities

The Foyer de Grenelle urgently needs: Volunteer(s) for daycare two hours per week between now and December school vacation; Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays, 14h00-16h00 to help take care of children 3 years and under while their mothers are taking French classes at the Foyer. Speaking French is not required. The Foyer is located in Paris 15th, Metro La Motte-Picquet. Please contact Ann Mildred at missionoutreach@acparis.org

Like reading The Spire? Wouldn’t you love to contribute? We need volunteers to help write, edit or proofread articles, provide photos or images, or distribute. Any help is appreciated, big or small. Drop Alison a line at spire@acparis.org
He is from Elmina, not too far from our late Pastor Francis Cobbinah’s home. So Francis’ wife, Anna Cobbinah, has interacted with him on multiple occasions. He has attended church at Holy Fire since childhood; he took a break from attending church but rekindled that fire while we were dating. Tony was even in the choir for many years!

I was taken aback by Tony’s curiosity, but God knew what He had in store for us. So our friendship grew into dating. Tony is somewhat shy and didn’t share his feelings with me in the beginning. But after a month or so of questions, friendly outings, encouragement, support and subtle hints, Tony let his secret out of the bag. He thought I was the one who he should marry. And the more we found out about each other, the more God showed us that Tony was right.

On 9 August, we had a simple courthouse ceremony in Cape Coast with 30 family members and friends, including Carolyn Bouazouni from the ACP! Then lunch and drinks for 50 guests were served at the Cobbinahs’ house in Elmina. We smiled, laughed, danced, and celebrated our God-filled union.

I’m blessed! No one has to tell me. Coming to Ghana was an adventure to which I was called by God. After the computer ministry was established, my God Almighty provided me with a mate. Yes, I’m blessed!!
Somewhere between the walk from the school building to my car, it hit me. I had just lied to 20 teenagers.

Each year I deliver a presentation to high school juniors and seniors about international business with developing countries, specifically Uganda. I rattle off my usual list of what poor countries don’t have: Electricity. Running water. Paved roads. Good education. Strong health programs.

I paint a picture of hard-working men and women, toiling on plantations of tea. I discuss my very small piece of the commerce pie – a nonprofit support of five women artisans who make jewelry from recycled paper and baskets from banana leaves.

I realized this time that I didn’t say enough about what these so-called “developing countries” do have – faith in Jesus Christ. It is a faith that far surpasses what we know in the US. As I left the school parking lot in a car equipped with stereo, Bluetooth, outside temperature gauge and other gadgets, it hit me.

The United States is a developing country – that is, we are under-developed in faith. Developing countries are generally defined as those with a low level of material wealth. The World Bank identifies them according to their Gross National Income (GNI) per capita. Countries with a GNI of $11,905 or less are in that category.

Only 10% of Ugandans have electricity in their homes. They exchange recipes and chat while potatoes are sizzling over an open fire, in contrast to our small talk over television and stereo noise and iPhone texting. And Ugandans take the time to pray. A lot.

My husband and I hosted a college intern from Uganda Christian University in our home for three months last fall. When Sarah Lagot Odwong was living with us, we prayed a lot more. In debriefing her before her return to Uganda, she mentioned much of what she loved about the US and one aspect that fell short – faith. During a lunch with staff of a highly prestigious PR firm, she asked if she should pray before their meal. “We don’t do that here,” the American associate told her.

Every time I eat with friends in Uganda, including during a lunch with ACP’s Patti Lafage and others in Kampala, Uganda, last fall, I pray. In this East African country that is so associated with poverty, the richness of prayer is everywhere.

A week after my high school presentation, I happened upon two Catholic priests who were visiting the central Ohio area from Arua, Uganda. Why are you here, I asked? “America needs evangelism,” Father Zema replied. “We are here to bring the Word.”

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

The United States is a developing country – that is, we are under-developed in faith.

There are more than 2 billion Christians in the world. The US is listed as one of the top three largest Christian countries, with a reported nearly 80% of the population professing to be Christians. About half of the 18- to 35-year-olds in the US believe that God exists. And from 10-50% of that 80% are practicing Christians – determined by regular church attendance, which has been declining since the 1950s. In European countries, including France, the picture is even more dismal.

I wished the pastors farewell with my assertion that we need to pack up more Christian leaders – correction, more Ugandan Christians period – and ship them to the States. An estimated 84% of Ugandans are Christians with nearly all practicing. While Uganda needs development aid to help their stability with education, skill and employment for girls and women, we need faith development boosts from them.

Getting back to the lie: it’s true that my above-mentioned presentation that day was in a public school, which toes the line of separation of church and state. And I wasn’t asked to talk about the meaning of “development” as it pertains to our entire being. But perhaps, the next time, I should.

Journalist Patty Huston-Holm, sister-in-law to ACP’s Tim Holm, works at the Ohio Department of Education and DeVry University. She is the author of Shattered: True Story of an American Teenager. Since 2009, she has been doing mission work with two nonprofits connected to Uganda, including 16 weeks of work in the villages of Mukono, Arua, Busia and Jinja. Her focus is on education and income sustainability for girls and women. She can be contacted at hustonpat@att.net or www.holmworks.org.
Intercultural marriage counseling

Our parish associate, Rev. Jean-Christophe Bieselaar, who is also a Ph.D candidate at King’s College University of London researching on intercultural marriages, will be offering coaching sessions, in French, to intercultural couples and those who intend to enter into an intercultural marriage, at the Genesis Center, 15 rue des Lavandières Sainte-Opportune, 75001 Paris.

The goal of these meetings is to develop awareness and sensitivity to cultural differences. They are also a time of fellowship and mutual encouragement and will be held on a monthly basis starting 8 November at 17h00. Refreshment will be served.

Jean-Christophe is also available at The American Church in Paris for premarital counseling in English. For more information please contact him directly at intercoupleculture@me.com

Multicultural Couples Group
20h, Friday, 10 October in the ACP Thurber Room

Calling all multicultural couples: You are warmly invited to bring a dish to share and join the fun. There is always great fellowship and fascinating cross-cultural discussion.

For more information contact Monica Bassett or Anja Wyss at multicultural@acparis.org

A word from your ACP Council

Members and Friends of ACP,

Grace and peace to you during this season of return (rentrée). One of the most wonderful characteristics of our Church is the rich blend of spiritual and cultural backgrounds within our community. In many ways, our Church Council is a living example of this diversity.

There is a lot going on, as you can see here in this new edition of The Spire, and our committees are working hard to keep things going. We are blessed to have a gifted and committed team serving on Council this year; leading and supporting a vast array of programs and ministry activities. I am thankful for the enthusiasm and commitment to service exhibited by our Council leaders at the ACP Ministry Fair on 14 September.

At the same time, we are also blessed by the many “quiet” acts of faithful service that go on behind the scenes. We all contribute in our own way to the ACP family, and we are healthier, wiser, and spiritually stronger thanks to the inspiring faith-driven commitment and tireless devotion to serve this place of worship.

There will be many new opportunities and openings for individuals to contribute to our ministry activities. I encourage you to take advantage of the season and to explore how the Holy Spirit is at work within you.

In Christ,
Mark Primmer
ACP Vice Moderator

ACP Spire, October 2014 23
More of You

Now available for purchase on iTunes

the new album by Still Point
Hammer or humor?
Positive Discipline for Parents at the ACP
By Denise Dampierre

The Problem-Solving Dilemma

What is this child doing? Abraham Maslow said, “If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail.” This child is solving a problem, and since he has a hammer.... Maybe he is modeling his mother’s behavior. Yikes, I’m the mom!

For many years these pictures describe my parenting: my hammer was my voice, sometimes tapping softly with a gentle reprimand and other times whamming out a shout.

Was it effective? Yes and no. Too gentle a tap produced no change. I felt ignored and disrespected. Too tough a wham took away joy and trust in our relationship. Problems were resolved in the short term...yet they often re-occurred. The hammer rarely produced a change of heart. Besides, what values was I passing along? Was my behavior pointing to Jesus? How was I preparing my children to thrive (vs. survive) in life?

Thus began my search for alternative tools and I discovered a wealth of options, including humor, which I seek to share with other parents.

Positive Discipline for Parents

Discovering and applying creative parenting tools is what happens during the Positive Discipline for Parents workshops. It’s a new venture for the ACP. We are launching a seven-week parenting class to learn and practice these tools for you.

Try the first session on Monday, 6 October, for free. Dates & Times: Mondays, Oct. 6 & 13, Nov 3, 10, 17, 24, and Dec 1, from 9h00-11h00.

This workshop helps parents focus on first things first: our values and hopes for our kids. Then we identify tools to apply in everyday life which enable us parents to prepare our children for vibrant professional, personal, and spiritual lives.

The Positive Discipline approach is open to people of all faiths. Participants are invited to stay after each class to informally explore sharing faith in Jesus and strengthening Christian values at home.

Kind AND Firm

In this photo, our youngest son is helping me make apricot jam. The apricot’s almond adds flavor to the confiture. To release the tasty nut from its shell requires a balance of gentle and firm taps. Too slight and the treasures stay hidden. Too hard, and they become smuuuuush!

Through activities and role-plays Moms and Dads practice balancing being kind and firm. Join us! To sign up, click the link Positive Discipline for Parents at the ACP or write denise@home-is-fun.com

P.S. Ten years later we still make apricot jam together.

Hammer or humor?
Positive Discipline for Parents at the ACP
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A parent’s guide to social media

Parent Forum
Sunday, 26 October, 15h00-17h30
Free, open to the public

Adam McLane, co-author of A Parent’s Guide to Social Media says: “Delete Snapchat!”

Adam McLane declared war on Snapchat in a blog post and the public is responding. His post, "Why You Should Delete Snapchat" received nearly 4 million views drawing national media attention, requests for interviews, and invitations to speak at public schools across the country.

More than a presentation, The Six Healthy Habits of Social Media equips teenagers, teachers, and parents with language, and facilitates healthy dialog on the issue. Speaking from a place of knowledge and experience, not fear and judgment, Adam brings a healthy, balanced, positive approach to using social media. He knows firsthand that connecting with teenagers takes patience, persistence, transparency—and a little creativity.

For more information on Adam McLane or A Parent’s Guide to Understanding Social Media, visit AdamMclane.com For more information on this event, write to Dan Haugh at youthpastor@acparis.org.

ACP’s Journée du Patrimoine, 20 September

It was a lot of fun and a huge success last month giving tours of the Sanctuary for the Journées du Patrimoine. We had at least 200 people stop by this year, from a dozen different countries, from as far away as the Mauritius Islands and Iraq. Most of our visitors were French, though, with the usual queries about whether only Americans are allowed to enter our doors (mais non, tout le monde est bienvenu!), and wondering how we differ from the American Cathedral (nous : Protestantes non confessionnelles, eux : épiscopales).

Everyone had only praise for our beautiful church, and a number of people enjoyed listening to Still Point practicing for the contemporary service.

This year we offered American snacks cooked up by Kent and Fabian. Everyone knew what chocolate chip cookies were, but it was a hoot explaining rice krispie treats, and they were highly appreciated by all the visitors.

If you’re interested in learning the history of the American Church and giving tours of the Sanctuary, get in touch: Spire@acparis.org
**Autolib’**

**The little Bluecar**

By Tendayi O. Chirwau

A testament to innovation and green living, the autolib may also be your green solution to getting around in Paris. Manufactured by Renault, the electric Bollore Bluecar dramatically cuts down vehicle cost thanks to independence from petrol. And with 3,000 autolib parking spaces around the city, the nightmare of bumper-to-bumper parking or a 40-minute hunt for a parking space (not an exaggeration) is eliminated.

The autolib works much like the velib bike-sharing system. Signing up is made simple either online or in one of the many kiosks around Paris. The tariffs depend on whether you will use it for a week, a month or all year-round. You will need a valid EU or international driver’s license, an ID photo and your credit card. After you sign up you receive your autolib card from the kiosk machine, or in the mail, if via online subscription.

Once you have your card, Paris is your oyster! Download the autolib app and you will be directed to the nearest autolib park. The app allows you to reserve a vehicle for up to 30 minutes in advance; but if you don’t collect it, you get charged for it. At the autolib station, flash your card in front of the distributor and it will show you which car is yours. Flash the card again to unlock the car and in you get.

The car will need to be unplugged before taking off. The keys are attached to the car so there’s no chance of losing them. The car’s GPS conveniently talks you through its functions. The Bluecar comes with an automatic gearshift, and looks deceptively spacious, with squeeze room for four, and a trunk.

A yearly subscription costs 120€, but you also get charged after the first 20 minutes. It is forbidden to take the Bluecar outside of Paris; because, since the car is electric, running out of “fuel” would present a real problem. For more information, visit: [www.autolib.eu](http://www.autolib.eu)

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**What’s going on? Tune in: ACP Today**

Have you tuned in to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show yet? Join us on Mondays at 20h45 - this month on 6 and 20 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 housebound or who simply like more devotional time on a Monday evening. Don’t like the radio? Listen online at [http://frequenceprotestante.com](http://frequenceprotestante.com) or tune in at your leisure via the ACP website.

What better way to keep in touch with the ACP family and learn about the latest ACP news? All our shows are downloaded within 48 hours to our website, at [www.acparis.org/acptoday](http://www.acparis.org/acptoday). Faith Talk from Paris - plug us in during your morning commutes.

*If you have any questions, comments, ideas or would like to contribute to the show, be sure to contact us at acptoday@acparis.org.*
- Friday 3 **Sandwich Ministry** 19h30 Breakfast preparation. Ask at the reception for the meeting point. Email: homelesssandwich@acparis.org for more information

- Saturday 4 **Sandwich Ministry** 8h Breakfast distribution: feeding the hungry homeless around the city. Ask at the reception for the meeting point. Email: homelesssandwich@acparis.org for more information

- Saturday 4 **Men's Bible Study** 14h30 Topic: God created man in His image as: LOVERS. Stay tuned on www.facebook.com/groups/acpyoungadults for location or email: youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- Saturday 4 **Nuit Blanche** - Contemporary art journey through Le Marais. Meet outside ACP at 21h. Email youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- Sunday 5 **Women's Bible Study in the Catacombs**, 12h – 13h30 Topic: The Nature of Sin. Check www.facebook.com/groups/acpyoungadults or email: youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- Sunday 5 **Sunday Social** - meet in the church theatre after the 13h30 service for a funday Sunday. Visit the Paris Museum of Modern Art at lénà. Email youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- Tuesday 7 **Pizza Night** in the Thurber Room 18h to help bake and set up; 19h30 for scrumptious home-made pizzas and fresh discussions. Email: youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- Saturday 11 **Men's Bible Study** 14h30 in the catacombs. Topic: God created man in His image as: LEADERS. Email: youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- Saturday 11 **Saturday Social** - Tour from Saint-Michel to Luxemburg Palace. Meet outside ACP at 16h30. Email youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- Sunday 12 **Women's Bible Study** in the Catacombs, 12h – 13h30 Topic: The Nature of Sin. Check www.facebook.com/groups/acpyoungadults or email: youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- Sunday 12 **Sunday Social** - meet in the church theatre after the 13h30 service for a funday Sunday. Visit Victor Hugo's House at Place des Vosges. Email youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- Monday 13 **Pub Theology** 20h The Wall, 51 rue Lacépède, just off of Place Contrescarpe, Paris 75005 (metro: Place Monge). Chew the fat over a pint and digest hot faith topics at a Parisian watering hole. Topic: Hell: what is it and who goes there? Email youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- Tuesday 14 **Bible Study** in the Catacombs 19h30 THE ESSENCE OF PRAYER: Delve into the Spirit of communion with God and study the heart of mighty men and women in the Bible who walked and talked with God. Including studies on: Jesus, David, Elijah, Hannah, Daniel, Esther, Samson and Paul. Find out more details on Facebook (/groups/acpyoungadults) or email youthpastor@acparis.org for more information
activities calendar

- **Friday 17 Sandwich Ministry** 19h30 Sandwich preparation. Ask at the reception for the meeting point. Email: homelesssandwich@acparis.org for more information

- **Saturday 18 Sandwich Ministry** 13h30 Lunch distribution: feeding the hungry homeless around the city. Ask at the reception for the meeting point. Email: homelesssandwich@acparis.org for more information

- **Saturday 18 Men’s Bible Study** 14h30 in the Catacombs. Topic: Men need healing as well: THE WOUNDS WE TAKE. Email: youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- **Saturday 18 Women’s Bible Study** in the Catacombs, 12h-3h30 Topic: The Nature of Sin. Check www.facebook.com/groups/acpyoungadults or email: youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- **Sunday 19 Sunday Social** - meet in the church theatre after the 13h30 service for a funday Sunday. Visit the Carnavalet Museum in Le Marais. Email youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- **Tuesday 21 Pizza Night** in the Thurber Room 18h to help bake and set up, 19h30 for scrumptious home-made pizzas and fresh discussions. Email: youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- **Saturday 25 Men’s Bible Study** 14h30 Topic: God made women in His image as: Co-HEIRS. Check www.facebook.com/groups/acpyoungadults or email youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- **Saturday 25 Prayer & Worship Night** in the Catacombs 19h. Join us as we go through the sacraments of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (A.C.T.S) for an evening of remembering back to God. Stay tuned on www.facebook.com/groups/acpyoungadults or email youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- **Sunday 26 Women’s Bible Study** in room G1, 12h – 13h30 Topic: The Nature of Sin. Check www.facebook.com/groups/acpyoungadults or email: youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- **Sunday 26 Sunday Social** - meet in the church theatre after the 13h30 service for a funday Sunday. Picnic at Champs de Mars or Quais de Seine. Check www.facebook.com/groups/acpyoungadults for location or email: youthpastor@acparis.org for more information

- **Tuesday 28 Bible Study** in the Catacombs 19h30. THE ESSENCE OF PRAYER : Delve into the Spirit of communion with God and study the heart of mighty men and women in the Bible who walked and talked with God. Including studies on: Jesus, David, Elijah, Hannah, Daniel, Esther, Samson and Paul. Find out more details on Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/acpyoungadults) or email youthpastor@acparis.org for more information
## ACP Spire Diary – October events, meetings and concerts

(please check www.acparis.org/diary for updates)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Thursday - Salon series</strong>&lt;br&gt;A “Salon” talk on art and faith, featuring invited artists. Music from French songstress Dawn and Family; visual art from Richard Vander Aa.</td>
<td>Thursday, 2 Oct</td>
<td>18h30; 19h30 Dinner; Lecture</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Michelle Wahila associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Breakfast Ministry</strong>&lt;br&gt;Preparation: Friday 19h30 at ACP&lt;br&gt;Distribution: Saturday 08h00, meet at ACP</td>
<td>Friday, 3 Oct&lt;br&gt;Saturday, 4 Oct</td>
<td>19h30&lt;br&gt;13h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jurie Ane Feleo homelesssandwich @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bloom Where You’re Planted</strong>&lt;br&gt;Popular orientation program designed to help English-speaking newcomers settle into their new life in Paris.</td>
<td>Saturday, 4 Oct</td>
<td>9h00-18h00</td>
<td>bloom.acparis.org to register</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Children’s Worship Volunteer training</strong></td>
<td>Sunday, 5 Oct</td>
<td>12h30-13h30</td>
<td>ACP Library</td>
<td>Allison Wheeler <a href="mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org">childrensworship@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New Member Class</strong></td>
<td>Sunday, 5 Oct</td>
<td>12h30-13h30</td>
<td>ACP Library</td>
<td>Carol Brown <a href="mailto:communitylife@acparis.org">communitylife@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Parent Forum - Global Education Experience</strong>&lt;br&gt;A program to help students and their parents better understand applying to Anglophone universities.&lt;br&gt;FREE event, open to the public.</td>
<td>Sunday, 5 Oct</td>
<td>15h00-17h00</td>
<td>ACP Library</td>
<td>Anastassia Sharpe <a href="mailto:youthintern@acparis.org">youthintern@acparis.org</a> to reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong> - Free admission, with free-will offering&lt;br&gt;Eric Astoul - piano</td>
<td>Sunday, 5 Oct</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tune in for inspiring music, interviews, and sermon highlights.</td>
<td>Monday, 6 Oct</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Thursday - Dr. Mark Labberton,</strong>&lt;br&gt;President of Fuller Theological Seminary&lt;br&gt;<em>Called: The Crisis and Promise of Following Jesus</em></td>
<td>Thursday, 9 Oct</td>
<td>18h30; 19h30 Dinner; Lecture</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Michelle Wahila associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Every Friday a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. ACP is responsible on the second Friday of each month, but we are grateful for help with cooking, serving, and cleaning up every Friday.</td>
<td>Friday, 10 Oct</td>
<td>10h00-14h00</td>
<td>The American Cathedral</td>
<td>Kristie Worrel&lt;br&gt;If you are interested, please contact: fridaymissionlunch @acparis.org</td>
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<td><strong>Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner</strong>&lt;br&gt;Fellowship and discussion on topics such as raising bicultural/bilingual children and cultural differences. Bring a dish to share.</td>
<td>Friday, 10 Oct</td>
<td>20h00</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Monica Bassett &amp; Anja Wyss multicultural @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Writers’ Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, 11 Oct</td>
<td>14h30 - 16h30</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td>Tendayi Chirawu <a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>200th Anniversary Service</strong>&lt;br&gt;Paris’s English-speaking places of worship will join for a special service. See page 10. Come and bring friends to this special celebratory service.</td>
<td>Saturday, 11 Oct</td>
<td>15h30</td>
<td>Eglise de La Madeleine</td>
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<td>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</td>
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<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong> - Free admission, with free-will offering “THE CAST” Alison Scherzer soprano, Bryn Vertesi soprano, Brigitte Heuser mezzo-soprano, Till Bleckwedel baryton, Kevin Moreno baryton, Cam Vertesi basse avec Dimitrij Morosov piano</td>
<td>Sunday 12 Oct</td>
<td>17h00 Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Thursday - Salon series</strong> A “Salon” talk on art and faith, featuring invited artists. Music from the soulful Petit Shade; surprise guests.</td>
<td>Thursday 16 Oct</td>
<td>18h30; 19h30 Dinner;Lecture Thurber Room</td>
<td>Michelle Wahila associatепastor @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong> Movie selection is A Most Wanted Man, Pride, Elle l’adore, and The Tribe. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion.</td>
<td>Thursday 16 Oct</td>
<td>19h30 Room G2</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite <a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sandwich Ministry</strong> Preparation: Friday 19h30 at ACP Distribution: Saturday 13h30, meet at ACP</td>
<td>Friday 17 Oct</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Jurie Ane Feleo homelesssandwich @acparis.org</td>
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<td><strong>School Holidays / Vacances Scolaire - Toussaint</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 18 Oct - Sunday 2 Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong> - Free admission, with free-will offering Birute Vainiuinaitė - piano</td>
<td>Sunday 19 Oct</td>
<td>17h00 Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong> Tune in for inspiring music, interviews, and sermon highlights.</td>
<td>Monday 20 Oct</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<td><strong>Council Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday 21 Oct</td>
<td>19h30 Thurber Room</td>
<td>Pam Bohl councilmoderator @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Parent Forum — A Parent’s Guide to Social Media with Adam McLane</strong> FREE event, open to the public.</td>
<td>Sunday 26 Oct</td>
<td>15h00-17h00 ACP Library</td>
<td>Anastassia Sharpe youthintern@ acparis.org to reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong> - Free admission, with free-will offering THE ATLANTIC ENSEMBLE Kirsten Cassel Greer violoncelle, Jennifer Q. Mcguire piano, Seanad Dunigan Chang alto, Wei Tsun Chang violon</td>
<td>Sunday 26 Oct</td>
<td>17h00 Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Fall Retreat - Led by Dr. Eric D. Barreto</strong> Associate Professor of New Testament at the Luther Seminary.</td>
<td>Friday 31 Oct - Sunday 2 Nov</td>
<td>Retreat center, La Clarté-Dieu</td>
<td><a href="http://www.acparis.org">www.acparis.org</a> for information and to register</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For more information on weekly Bible Studies and meetings, including BSF International, Moms in Prayer International, and Youth and Young Adult events, please go to “What’s on at ACP” at www.acparis.org.
CELEBRATE 200

Saturday 11 October 2014 at 15h30
At the Eglise de la Madeleine

Message by MARK LABBERTON
President of Fuller Theological Seminary

A 200-Voice Choir
with Alison Scherzer & Bryn Vertesi, sopranos
Brigitte Heuser, mezzo-soprano
Till Bockwedel & Kevin Moreno, baritones Cam Vertesi, bass

The ACP Bronze Ringers
The Académie Américaine de Danse de Paris

Sponsored by
- The American Cathedral in Paris - The American Church in Paris - The Bridge International Church
- The Danish Church - Eglise Evangélique Un Coeur Pour Paris - Emmanuel International Church of Paris
- St. George’s Church - Holy Trinity Church, Maisons-Lafitte - Kehilat Gesher - The Punjabi Church
- St. Joseph’s Church - St. Mark’s Church, Versailles - St. Michael’s Church
- St. Peter’s Church, Chantilly - The Scots Kirk