Back to the Rentrée
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Are you inSpired by the Spire? The Spire team needs a production assistant and help with layout. If you enjoy giving shape to ideas, and sharing information about our church and Paris community, you will love volunteer work with the Spire! We need new members on the team now, to prep the September edition. If you’re interested, please contact Alison Benney at Spire@acparis.org
Thoughts from  
The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr  
Senior Pastor

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God - Romans 15:7

Dear Members and Friends,

“À la rentrée !” is a greeting that you will hear around Paris in the summer as people are leaving for vacation; and then as everyone is returning we say, “Bonne rentrée!” as people are coming back into the city after the summer. The simple translations are “Until the ‘re-entry’ (AKA back to school)” and “Have a good ‘re-entry’ (AKA Fall)!” I love À la rentrée at the American Church in Paris because it is not only a time when we see old friends after the summer months of travel and vacation, but also because we have the privilege of welcoming new friends from around the world into our community life. If you have just moved to Paris and/or are new to our community, let me say Welcome to you! The Apostle Paul reminds us that welcome is integral to the gospel: Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God (Romans 15:7)!

We have three new members on our staff team, and I hope you’ll take time to welcome them and get to know them over the coming months: Billy Roberts is our new Director for Youth and Young Adults, and Alyssa McKnight is our new Youth and Young Adult Intern, from Princeton Theological Seminary. Emily Claudio is our new Night Receptionist, and we are so glad to have Emily back after a year’s sabbatical.

There are also many new people arriving to Paris and some new to the church and the life of faith. One of the ways we can all settle in quickly and welcome one another is by joining a small group. You can sign up between services, but on Sunday, 13 September we will be having our Ministry Fair, and there will be an opportunity to sign up at the small group table.

Check out our website for more information on RightNow Media. It’s the Netflix of Christian videos, and as a member or friend of the ACP you have free access to 10,000 videos for children, youth, adults, couples, parents, all designed to help you grow as a Christian and engage in Christian community in a meaningful way. We hope you’ll take time to browse and find resources that will be encouraging to you, and hope that you’ll get together with others and commit to a season of getting to know some other brothers and sisters in a small group. If you have questions or suggestions, or want to help out, please contact Dr. Jeff Powell, as he is overseeing the small groups launch this fall.

Unfortunately, Christian singer Amy Grant had to cancel her concert here on Friday, 25 September, due to illness. We are all disappointed, but pray that she recovers her health soon.

However, there are some exciting events at ACP in the coming weeks. We will be welcoming newcomers to the Bloom Where You’re Planted orientation program on Saturday, 3 October, and hosting a fundraiser ball here on Monday, 5 October. All proceeds will go to support the ministry and mission of the ACP. These are fun events that are open to the larger city and in keeping with our desire to Seek the peace of the city, for there you will find your peace (Jeremiah 29).

Whether it is in small groups, or other ministry and mission opportunities that you can learn about at the Ministry Fair, or at some of the fun events and concerts, I encourage especially you newcomers to “unpack” fast. Get involved. We all need community. That means we need you as much as you need us. I enjoy biking and get out occasionally for a ride. This summer I have been going to the Bois de Boulogne. I go through the woods on my old secondhand mountain bike and then down to the Hippodrome to do some laps with the Big Boys (real bicyclists with fancy equipment). Well, I’m not actually doing laps with anybody else. Actually, I feel like I’m standing still when the peloton blows by me! One day I was trying to do extra laps and was feeling discouraged because it was hard and I was tired. But a father and son passed me and I fell in line just after the young boy (maybe 14 years old)... and I discovered drafting! | draughting |

.../...

ACP Spire, September 2015
.../... Thoughts from the Rev. Dr. Scott Herr, continued

All of a sudden they were cutting a path for me and I easily stayed in the echelon (last, but hey). As long as I stayed with the group, I could peddle easily and my ride was so much more exciting. I learned that drafting can save up to 40 percent in energy expenditures and it helps not only the guy at the end (me!) but the guy up front. Everybody benefits when you make the journey together...

I look forward to the rentrée with all of you, old and new friends, and pray that we all will find a place to fall in, draft a little, and go the next leg of the journey together, learning and growing together in grace and love!

Bonne rentrée... In Christ,
Scott

Mark your calendars

Multicultural couples group: Friday 4 September, 20h00, Thurber Room
Join us for fellowship and cross-cultural discussion. Bring a dish to share. Contact multicultural@acparis.org.

Movie discussion group: Thursday 17 September, 19h30, Room G2
See these films and join us to discuss: Amnesia by Barbet Schroeder, Dheepan by Jacques Audiard, Le Tout Nouveau Testament by Jaco van Dormael and Youth by Paolo Sorrentino.

New Member orientation: Sunday 20 September, 12h30, Library
If you are interested in becoming a member of the American Church in Paris, please save the date and join this class in the 2nd floor library. See the membership table in the Theater during coffee hour after services for more information and RSVP to communitylife@acparis.org.

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8
Dear friends,

There’s nothing like moving to remind you that you have too much stuff, especially if you are downsizing. Boxing stuff alone is usually enough – but unpacking it will solidify the notion of “too much stuff.” Since our family moved recently, we did our due diligence in sorting, gleaning and giving away unneeded and unwanted things. It wasn’t nearly as painful as we anticipated; it felt good to glean. In fact, it felt much like a spiritual discipline. Getting rid of things was an opportunity to make space for more important things and people. The practice provided time for prioritizing what was (and is) important in life and helped us to make more space in our lives for these priorities.

Even before the move, our family had begun the process of living with less. I admit the experiment started in a moment of desperation; but once we immersed ourselves in the endeavor, it was a genuinely good experience that we have carried with us to our new space, our new home, and our new lives together. The moment of desperation was this: two little boys arguing over the same toy. Back and forth yelling that deteriorated into hitting is guaranteed to spark major consequences, and the great toy debacle was no exception.

Exasperated, I tucked the boys in for some quiet time with the promise of “no toys” after the nap. I painstakingly packed away all the toys, art supplies, and games during nap time. I left only some books and their beloved “doudous” behind. My husband was reluctant and predicted that I would have a harder time without things to keep the boys busy. I was reluctant too, but I had to follow through with my threat (I mean… promise). The first day was, by far, the hardest. Cries of “nothing to do” resonated throughout the household. But as dinner prep approached, busy hands were cooperative and kind in the preparation of our dinner; all was calm as we sat to pray before our meal. In the following days, kindness and cooperation were rewarded. Toys were earned back, but only one at a time. The boys were given the opportunity to play with one thing at a time. They had to agree on the item and play with it either one at a time or together.

I was amazed by several things. First, I found the boys easily agreed on what to play with when they realized there was only going to be one item to share. Second, I realized that they gravitated toward the same (and only a few) toys. The ones they love are favorites across time: wooden blocks, train tracks, and matchbox cars. Plastic was for the most part rejected when pitted against the blocks, tracks and cars. Third, books became more important! The boys were much more excited to look through their books, and selected books frequently to look at, both individually and together.

Finally, the best part of living with less was the space we created for one another and for God. A favorite activity became the daily debrief. I have always done this during mealtime, but the activity expanded and became a major focus during our evening. I gave the boys hearts to color, but only two crayons. The only options were red and blue. The question was simply, “Did your heart feel mostly happy or mostly sad today?” and the colors were red=happy and blue=sad. The boys took the time to color their hearts and talk about their days. We had some red, some blue and lots of purple hearts. After coloring, we took time to pray over our days in a more extended and expanded way.

Could we have found joy in this activity with a whole bunch of toys around us? Maybe. But because we had little surrounding us, we had the time, space and focus to talk and share more with one another and with our Creator. In this way, living with less has allowed us to turn our hearts toward what is truly important and tune in to what brings us joy. I will certainly continue our little experiment into our new home and into this new school year. Perhaps our little experiment will encourage you to try living with less and to make space so that you can #tuneintojoy. I hope it does! Bonne rentrée!

Benedictions,
Michelle
Are you interested in joining together with other brothers and sisters in Christ for mid-week Bible study and fellowship? Are you new to Paris and looking to meet other members of the American Church in Paris community? Why not join a small group?

The American Church in Paris is launching a season of Christ-centered small groups this fall aimed at bringing us together, growing our community and living out our faith in Jesus Christ. Being part of a small group leads to growth by creating more opportunities to come to know God, to practice the teachings of Jesus, and to grow spiritually. It is also a chance to foster new relationships and encourage each other on our faith walk. It is a time of teaching, sharing, listening and prayer.

On the ACP website you can indicate your interest in being part of a small group by using the online questionnaire. Sign-up cards will be distributed at all services throughout the month of September. You can also sign up at the welcome table during Sunday coffee hour. You will be placed in a small group that corresponds to your availability and location. Your group leader will contact you with the details.

Each group will have 8-10 participants and will likely meet twice a month. Groups will be composed of men and women of all ages. The groups will begin to meet the first week of October. The aim is to have as many people as possible join and participate in these new small groups. As groups grow, new groups will form to welcome new members throughout the year. At least one of the small groups will have a family focus and will allow for intergenerational fellowship and learning. Parents and their children ages 8-15 will want to join this family-friendly small group.

So far 10 ACP families have volunteered to host and lead small groups meetings in their homes or at the American Church in Paris. Leaders will be using material from RightNow Media as a teaching resource in addition to Scripture. If you are interested in hosting a group or serving as a group leader, please contact our Interim Associate Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jeff Powell.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. - Hebrews 10:24-25

Small groups, big opportunity!

by Ashleigh Searle

The Rev. Dr. Jeff Powell,

As Jesus-followers (Jesus-apprentices) we learn and mature by modelling our lives on Jesus. Jesus experiences the community of love of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so we too are to experience the community of love of the body of Christ, the Church. One of the central affirmations of our faith is that in Jesus Christ, God became incarnate. The Son became human so that we could experience God in intimate and personal ways. We Jesus-followers are to embody Jesus in what we say or do.

I recently preached on how God wants to "put skin on the gospel of Jesus Christ" through others for us. At times we are ministered to by other people in the body of Christ who mediate God's grace to us. God also wants to put skin on the gospel through us for others. We are called to minister the good news to others through our words and deeds of service. It is a two-way street: receiving and giving. The best way I know to experience this intimate Christian life together is in a small group of Christians meeting regularly in neighborhood homes to support one another through listening, sharing, and praying, and being encouraged and challenged by God's word.

Jesus understood this when he chose a small group of only 12 followers in whom to pour his life and teaching. Although Jesus ministered to crowds of people and individual strangers, he lived his life and accomplished his goals in a community of just 12 disciples. We should do the same. We are starting many small groups this October so I invite you to sign up on Sundays at the information table to be a host/leader or a small group participant, or contact me at interimassociatepastor@acparis.org if you have questions or want more information.

Allow me to share a few personal experiences of participation in small
groups over years as a Jesus-follower:

The first intentional small group I belonged to was in the mid-1960’s while I was a student at Hope College, in Holland, Michigan. A group of Christian students began to meet in my dormitory to discuss Christian books and apply them to our lives. These years were ones of great social ferment on campuses in opposing the war in Viet Nam and working for social and racial justice and civil rights for all. The first book that we read was *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a martyr of the German Confessing Church who opposed Hitler. The Barmen declaration came out of this group that stood up to the Nazi tyranny and broke with the official German Church.

I was inspired by this prophetic community of believers who stood for the Lordship of Jesus even at the expense of their own lives. We tried to apply the Christian principles we learned in our book group. We also spent time in fellowship sharing from our lives as "fellow strugglers" and praying for one another to be faithful disciples of Jesus. Other books we studied and discussed included *The Meaning of Persons* by the Swiss psychiatrist Paul Tournier, *Secular City* by theologian Harvey Cox and *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

During my years at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, I participated in a small group called the Faith Renewal Team that was engaged in mission beyond our bounds as well as being a fellowship of seminary students. Our group studied the Bible, shared our personal joys and concerns, prayed for one another and supported one another. We also had the privilege of sharing the learnings from our "body-life in Christ" with congregations who would invite us to lead in a weekend of renewal meetings at their church.

It was a great “laboratory of learning” for us to put theory (biblical models such as from Acts 2:43-47) into practice (our small fellowship/ministry group) and then into service to the larger Christian community (lead Faith Renewal Weekends in local congregations). Being involved in a Christian ministry/mission small group enabled us to discern and try on spiritual gifts and abilities and have them affirmed or challenged ("speaking the truth in love") by the small group. A light-hearted example of receiving feedback was provided by one of my spiritual mentors: “If everyone in your small group except you believes that you are acting like a horse, then it’s time for you to go out and buy a saddle.”

As an Associate Pastor of a large Southern California Presbyterian congregation in Granada Hills, I facilitated the Singles Support Group. Rev. Stan Jones, my mentor and former editor of *Faith at Work* magazine, was great help in co-leading the group before turning the leadership over solely to me. It was an exciting but challenging ministry that forced me to grow spiritually and relationally. Group members frequently went through a lot of crises and transitions and were seeking support and spiritual direction. We looked to the Bible for insight and guidance. Since group members were seeking new attitudes and behaviors we affirmed new directions in members’ lives and helped hold each other accountable to the goals that we set for ourselves. Prayer and ongoing encouragement and support were very important for this small group. It was an open group so we also dealt with issues of transience and the shepherding of members.

As you can see, small groups may vary according to the nature, the needs, and the goals of the group. There are certain basics, though, in every small group, such as being real (honestly sharing yourself), desiring to listen to and support others, a hunger to learn and grow, an openness to pray, and a willingness to receive affirmation and feedback. Alba and I look forward to hosting or leading one of the small groups. We hope that many people in the American Church community will take advantage of this new opportunity to grow together in Christ.

A fellow Jesus-follower,
 Jeff
You are standing at the cross roads of your life
Trying to decide which path to take...
You have a burning desire to move forward...
But are unsure of which path to take...

You are standing at the cross roads
And time is going by...

**Spiritual Gifts Workshop**
American Church in Paris
**26 September**
9h00-16h30
25 euros, includes lunch
More details coming soon
For information, please contact:
AliciaBerberich@gmail.com

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**Bible readings for September**

| September 6 | 15th Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 18(23) |  
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 or Isaiah 35:4-7a  
Psalm 125 or Psalm 146  
James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17;  
Mark 7:24-37 |
| --- | --- |
| September 13 | 16th Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 19(24) |  
1 Peter 4:7-11  
Psalm 139 or Psalm 116:1-9  
Romans 12:1-8  
Mark 8:27-38 |
| September 20 | 17th Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 20(25) |  
Proverbs 31:10-31 or Jeremiah 11:18-20  
Psalm 1 or Psalm 54  
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37 |
| September 27 | 18th Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 21(26) |  
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 or Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29  
Psalm 124 or Psalm 19:7-14  
James 5:13-20  
Mark 9:38-50 |
There are still mornings that I wake up, look out my window at the roof of the sanctuary, and suddenly remember that my home is now Paris. People the world over dream of living in Paris, and somehow here I am.

The past few months have been some of the most eventful, emotional (not to mention disorienting) months of my life. I’ve said goodbye to friends and family and to the home I began making for myself in Michigan. Deep in the pit of my soul, God has been calling me to something more all along. Something worthwhile and adventurous.

In my first sermon at the American Church in Paris I recalled the scene in C.S. Lewis’ classic novel The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, where a young girl called Susan is asking questions about the king of Narnia, the great lion Aslan. She asks Mr. Beaver, “Is he quite safe?” To which Mr. Beaver replies, “Safe? Who said anything about safe? Of course he isn’t safe. But he’s good.”

If you had told me in January that I would be living thousands of miles from home, in another country, on another continent, where people speak another language, I would have laughed at you. But alas, God had other plans. It’s interesting the ways that God calls you to step out in faith, isn’t it? For many of you, God has also placed you in Paris and has called you to live courageously far from all the things that were once familiar to you.

Or maybe God is calling you to something right now. Something that’s uncertain, risky, or scary. My own story has led me to Paris. It has led me to a foreign land and an entirely different way of life. But it has also led me to you. From the moment I landed at Charles de Gaulle airport, I have been warmly and graciously embraced by so many new friends at ACP. You have invited me over for dinner, taken me on tours of the city, helped me find a doctor when I became ill my first week here, encouraged me, laughed with me, and helped make this foreign land begin to feel familiar.

It’s in those moments that I’m reminded of Aslan. Of course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. That sounds an awful lot like God, doesn’t it?

Thurber Thursday with Nicky Gumble
17 September

"A Life Worth Living" is a 9-session video course by Nicky Gumble which explores the New Life in Christ as presented by Paul in Philippians. This course is ideal for those who are starting out as Christians or those wanting to review the basics of the Christian life.

The video presentation is followed by discussion in small groups. All adults welcome.

If dining, please bring a donation to offset costs.
Bloom Where You’re Planted

An orientation program for English-speaking newcomers to Paris

The morning kicks off with a fascinating look at Parisian architecture and history, of course after some Starbucks coffee and French baked goods! Next up a trailing spouse (or a “stabilizing axis” as she calls it) shares her many expat experiences and how to make your new life in a new country and culture not just successful but one you will enjoy immensely. Closing the morning, an expert chef talks about working and cooking in Paris and shares some of the secrets of the trade with us.

After a delicious lunch we invite you to visit the extensive bookstore, along with an author book signing, courtesy of WH Smith. At the same time you can stop by the Exhibit Hall to explore a variety of social, service and business organizations here to provide you with valuable information.

The afternoon consists of several break-out sessions to choose from. This year’s topics covered include: shopping, setting up a home, taxes, real estate, working in France, education and kids, cooking, medical overview, and where to watch your favorite sports... plus much more!

We end the day with a «Wine Down» to toast your new life in Paris! Enjoy one of the many pleasures of living in France (the wine!) and mingle with new friends while you learn about the various regions of La Belle France and her infamous wines and cheeses. Cheers!

Of course, let us not forget our youngest attendees. While you learn and explore all that Paris has to offer you and your family, your children will be well taken care of in our Bloom Kids program, which takes place from 9h to 18h among our professional and always-smiling Bloom Kids team.

Join us on Saturday, October 3, 2015 at the American Church in Paris for Bloom. Space is limited so register today! Visit www.bloom.acparis.org for more info and to sign up.
First impressions

The Rev. Jay McKell
Visiting Pastor

By the time you read this, Elizabeth and I will have been in Paris for over a month. Time truly does fly when having fun. We have taken many walks through the neighborhood, dodged large waves of tourist at the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, etc., celebrated Bastille Day and the Tour de France, visited festive markets, taken advantage of the July sales, picnicked by the Seine with the Herr and Powell families, and helped boost the income of several bakeries around town. And yes, our cats are also enjoying their time in the city. Frequently we find them sitting in the apartment window watching the Eiffel Tower as the pigeons fly by.

But being in Paris is about more than being a tourist. You called me to be in ministry by officiating at the numerous wedding blessings hosted by the American Church, by leading worship and contributing to the welfare of the congregation. May I take a moment of your time to share some reflections about my experiences so far?

First of all, I am surprised, overwhelmed, and deeply moved to worship with you. This may be “The American Church,” but it is not what I expected. Instead this is a congregation composed of people from all over the world. Every week I think of that song I learned as a child, “red and yellow, black and white, we are precious in God’s sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world.” I have no doubt the makeup of this congregation closely reflects what the Kingdom of God is going to look like. I am so thankful to receive this glimpse every Sunday.

Within a few days of our arrival we found ourselves navigating through a crowd of youth who gathered in the reception area each morning prior to going out to Serve the City. How good it was to see the church enabling these youth to put their faith into practice in ways that make the presence of Christ real, both to them and to those they served. Again music came to mind, the hymn “All who love and serve the city, all who bear its daily stress, all who cry for peace and justice, all who curse and all who bless ... risen Lord, shall yet the city be the city of despair? Come today, our judge our glory; be its name, ‘The Lord is there.’” Indeed, the Lord is in this congregation as it serves the city.

I also want to share a word about the wedding blessing ministry. To be truthful, I wasn’t sure what to expect. I was a bit skeptical of this ministry. From a distance it seemed a bit superficial. However, I have learned otherwise. With every couple I have met has come an opportunity to express the hospitality of God who welcomes all, to tell them of God’s love which is offered to everyone, and to encourage them to love one another in the way God loves us – with a patient, kind, that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things,” with a love that never ends. Many of the couples have heard of Christianity, but this is often their first experience of being in a church and hearing of God’s love. How fortunate for us that we can host them on one of the most joyful and significant days in their lives! This is evangelism at its best. I encourage everyone in the congregation to help get the word out across the city about the wedding blessing ministry. Talk it up among your friends, invite them to come to the American Church to have their own wedding blessed, for this is a good thing!

And finally, let me express my gratitude to you for your warm greetings. Another of my favorite hymns concludes with these words: “God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart, how do your children say joy, how do your children say home?” You have helped to answer that haunting question, for here we have found joy, here we have found a home.
Originating in Left Bank studios in 1895, the Atelier Concert Series became part of the cultural activities at the American Church in Paris during the early 1930s. These concerts provide a performance opportunity in Paris for talented musicians of all nationalities.

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

Sunday 6 September at 17h
Works by Popper, Eccles, Koussevitzky, Dvořák, Bottesini, Glière and De Falla

Sunday 13 September at 17h
Harumi KINOSHITA - harpsichord
Works by: J. S. Bach, G.F. Haendel and A. Soler

Welcome our new Youth Intern, Alyssa McKnight

Hi there! My name is Alyssa and I am so excited to have the opportunity to serve alongside you all at The American Church in Paris! I have only been to Paris once, in 2012 after I studied abroad at Ridley Hall in Cambridge, England, and I absolutely fell in love with the beauty of the streets of Paris. I am the fourth of six children and so I love big families and big gatherings and everything that comes with them!

I was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, and have slowly been moving further and further east - unintentionally, of course. I have a Bachelor’s degree in Biblical and Ancient Languages and am currently studying and working very hard to receive my Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. I enjoy school and studying very much, but cannot wait to begin working full-time in the field about which I am passionate.
Come to the ball! Monday night, 5 October, the Sanctuary will be transformed into a ballroom, and we will dance the night away at ACP’s Fundraiser Ball.

The Ball is a great way to reach out to the community around us and draw attention to the ministries and missions of ACP, as well as raising a significant amount of money needed to support our growing ministries. As the Ball is open both to the public and ACP regulars, many different people will get to hear about our church activities as part of our mission to be a beacon on the Seine and show God’s love to the world around us.

Many generous donors and sponsors, ranging from ACP neighbours and French businesses, to those further afield, are covering the expenses of the Ball.

We have an exciting evening lined up! Tickets start at €50 and everyone will get to waltz the night away in the beautiful Sanctuary, with the stained-glass windows backlit especially for the occasion, accompanied by a live orchestra, conducted by professional conductor Franck Chastrusse (a regular face in the ACP choir!), while sipping champagne and being treated to a luxurious cocktail-dinatoire.

There is also the option to come for dinner (the Platinum ticket package), which will be provided by a well-known French chef. The evening will also feature a live auction, with items ranging from the useful to the luxurious all going under the hammer, and the proceeds going directly to ACP. Celebrity and VIP guests who are lending their support will be attending as well.

So put on your dancing shoes and buy a ticket! Both dinner and waltzing tickets are available online at www.acparis.org. Places are limited, so be sure not to miss out - buy your ticket as soon as possible.

We will be offering waltzing classes in September so that beginners (like me) can learn how to waltz and others can brush up their dancing skills before 5 October.

If you have any questions, please contact the ACP Ball team at rsvpball@acparis.org. Also, keep up to date with all the latest Ball news on the ACP Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

Want to come to the Ball but don’t know how to waltz? No problem - we are offering free waltzing lessons. ACP member and dancer Jacqueline Cousineau will teach us all the steps in 3 free classes on Friday 11 and 18 September, and 2 October, from 19h30 to 20h45. Whether you’re a complete beginner or you just want to brush up on your steps, get ready for the Ball by coming along and joining us!

Prayer Chain Team

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

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.
It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Reverend Dr. Stephen Saint John Hall, who passed away 30 July at his home in Sarasota, Florida. He was four days shy of his 81st birthday and two months short of his 59th wedding anniversary.

Steve served as interim Associate Pastor from spring 1996 to mid-1997, working with Pastor Larry Kalajainen. He is warmly remembered for his compassion, his sense of humor, his inspirational capacity for service, and his practical business sense. Among other accomplishments at the ACP, he established an ACP music fund, was instrumental in the basement renovations, and initiated Tuesday pizza nights for young adults.

Pastor Hall was ordained later in life, in 1988. He first worked as an entrepreneur and businessman, including for the Sheraton Corporation and as Vice-President of Administration for Harvard University. He founded the International Institute for Quality and Ethics in Service and Tourism (IIQEST), taught and lectured on business ethics in over 20 countries, and authored four books on quality assurance and ethics in the hospitality industry. He and his wife Marge retired to Sarasota in 2000. He is survived by his wife, four children, 11 grandchildren, and a brother.

Those who would like to send a sympathy card may address it to Marjorie Hall, 8755 Misty Creek Drive, Sarasota, FL 34241. Contributions in Steve’s memory may be made to Neuro Challenge, 5602 Marquesas Cir #211, Sarasota, FL 34233.

European heritage days

Now part of a Europe-wide event, France’s annual open-house of historic monuments is the ultimate opportunity to peek behind closed doors and view opulent architectural marvels, many of which are normally off-limits to the public. The president’s and prime minister’s residences are always favorites, but look out for the quirkier venues dotted all over the city. Admission is free but lines can be long.

And if you haven’t taken the ACP docent tour already, stop by for the historical background of the church Sanctuary, from 10h to 16h30 on Saturday 19 September, here at the American Church in Paris.

Date: 19-20 September, see http://journeesdupatrimoine.culturecommunication.gouv.fr
Also, see the interactive guide at Le Parisien: www.parisetudiant.com/etudiant/agenda/journees-du-patrimoine.html
What’s up in Paris

September event listings

By Karen Albrecht

La Traviata... al Fresco
A spectacular outdoor production of Verdi’s 1853 opera, directed by brainy beauty Arielle Dombasle, comes to the courtyard of the Hôtel des Invalides, complete with over-the-top costumes and lavish ballroom scenes. The tale of love, decadence, misunderstanding and death, based on Dumas's Dame aux Camélias, contains some of the best-loved operatic tunes of all time.

8-12 September, www.operaenpleinair.com

Congo Kitoko 1926-2015
The 350 works on display at the Fondation Cartier span nearly a century of artistic creation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The ground floor hosts up-to-the-minute young artists, brimming with acerbic wit and ebullient color. In the basement are uncannily modern works by self-taught painters from the 1920s and 1930s, the brilliant, cartoon-like canvases of Moko, a futuristic miniature city, and achingly evocative black and white photos of Kinshasa nightlife in the 1960s.

Until 15 November, http://fondation.cartier.com

Madama Butterfly
Puccini’s iconic 1904 opera relates the fatal attraction of a Japanese geisha for the fickle American naval officer who loves her, leaves her, and does return, but with a new bride in tow. Robert Wilson’s stark, geometric staging at Opéra Bastille provides a striking backdrop for Puccini’s luscious music and the weighty themes of love, betrayal, and wounded honor.


The Incas and the Conquistador
This intriguing show juxtaposes the intertwined destinies of the Inca monarch Atahualpa and the Spaniard Francisco Pizarro, commander of the armies that conquered, imprisoned, and ultimately executed Atahualpa in 1533. The colorful woven tunic of an Inca warrior is displayed side-by-side with the shining coat of armor favored by the European invaders, while an innovative video shows how Spanish structures inexorably overwrote the Inca cityscape.


Jazz à La Villette
This festival more than lives up to its motto, “Jazz is not dead.” Living legends Archie Shepp, Melvin Van Peebles, Steve Coleman, and a score of other top acts from the US, Europe, and Africa will be shaking up the Grande Halle, La Philharmonie and a scattering of nearby venues. And an energetic tribute by a motley group of young talents breathes new life into the iconic songs of the late, great Nina Simone.

3-13 September, www.jazzalavillette.com

The title is the street number of the apartment building where Robert Lepage grew up in Quebec City, Canada in the 1960s. This dazzling one-man show, fresh from its European première at the Edinburgh Festival, explores memory and personal history, using film, projection and a voyeuristic view into scale models of Lepage’s childhood home and neighborhood.

9-17 September, www.theatredelaville-paris.com

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When considering entertainment from a Christian perspective, ideally one can seek out stories that portray the world as we would wish it be, or those that portray God at work in our most fallen world.

The Blind Side, a 2009 film, is a delightful version of the first. It received very little media attention for its theater release on this side of the pond, despite being a huge box office hit in the US and receiving a nomination for Best Picture, probably because it’s marketed as an American football drama. The semi-biographical film tells the heartwarming story of Michael Oher, who grew up in extreme poverty, found himself rather surprisingly in a Christian school in Memphis, was adopted by Sean and Leigh Anne Tuohy and went on to become a professional offensive lineman. Quinton Aaron gives a touching performance as the timid strongman Oher, but the real dramatic force of the film is Leigh Anne Tuohy, played by Sandra Bullock, who won an Academy Award and a Golden Globe for her performance. Tuohy is a wealthy Christian woman who has decided to follow Christ’s call to love others, no matter how far out of her world that call takes her.

The 1999 film The End of the Affair, is an exceptional version of the second type of film. It is based on the 1951 novel of the same name written by Graham Greene, the British writer and one-time Communist who famously converted to Catholicism in his early twenties. The New York Times’ review of the novel upon publication compared Greene to Dostoevsky and Gide: “Like Greene, they combined their powers as writers with an equally powerful view of the world under the domination of God.”

Faithful to the novel, the film moves in time between the Second World War and its aftermath, and is set in a beautifully rendered, storm-swept London, for which the film received Academy Award and BAFTA nominations for Best Cinematography. The story examines the obsessions and jealousies of a rising novelist, Maurice Bendrix (played by Ralph Fiennes), his mistress Sarah Miles (played by Julianne Moore, Academy Award nominee for best actress in the role), and her husband, Henry Miles (played by Stephen Rae). As the story unfolds, both men discover that a “third man” is at work in Sarah’s life, one who ravages her with love, and Bendrix, like Sarah, comes to understand that God will use everything — miracles, our own sin, and even our hatred to bring us to Him.

For those more partial to television series, the British drama Broadchurch is one to consider. Set in a seaside town on the starkly beautiful Jurassic coast of Dorset, England, the story unfolds over the course of an entire season. This approach delivers the depth of a novel and allows for a thorough exploration of how the whole town is impacted by the murder of a local child and the ensuing investigation. The suspenseful story poses challenging questions about assumptions, judgements, honesty and forgiveness.

Finally, if you want to lose yourself in a delightful drama that pleases both men and women, adults and kids, turn to the ABC series Nashville. Season one streaming now on Netflix is a virtual roller-coaster of fast-paced plot turns and shifts, but what really stands out about this series is the incredibly beautiful music. Even those who do not appreciate country music will be won over by the songs, all original to the series, that play into the heart of the story lines while exploring many musical influences from folk to rock to gospel.

Or, if you’re looking for great online movies designed for Christians, browse the catalog of RightNow Media, the Netflix of Christian video, now available free to the American Church congregation. Read on.
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 7 and 21 September. 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 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.

Friends and visitors, what better way to keep in touch with the ACP family and learn about the latest ACP news? All our shows are downloaded within 48 hours to our website, at www.acparis.org/acptoday. Faith Talk from Paris - it’s a 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.

Get out the popcorn!

The ACP is pleased to offer you the gift of free access to RightNow Media. It’s like the Netflix of Bible study videos, providing online access to over 10,000 videos. There are offerings for all ages and interests, including stand-alone movies as well as Bible study series.

Check the ACP website sidebar for your key to access hours of Christian study through comedy, drama, history, and yes, pedagogy.

Awesome Bible Adventures contains important and exciting Bible stories of faith and action geared towards children. Each show is network television quality with captivating scenes, spectacular special effects, and large production casts. Every lesson is hosted by Julie, a fun, high-energy teenager who loves God and really reaches kids. She helps kids see how cool it is to learn the Bible and to love God. And, in each lesson, kids will learn to apply the Bible to their lives. The 10 great Bible stories in this series are presented with drama, action, and faith for children ages 3 to 8.

Where’s the God who was with me on Sunday? Each Monday it’s a whole new world - hustling off to work and putting out fires. Or maybe dreading work and what might be another boring day. Mondays can be rough for most of us. In fact, Monday is responsible for more heart attacks, work hatred, and stress than any other day of the week. Mondays as we experience them are hurting our work, our marriages, families, and our spiritual life - It’s time for a Monday Switch!

It really doesn’t matter if you love your job or hate your job. God clearly wants more for you than just surviving Mondays and drifting through a spiritually neutral work week. This series (and kit) is based on 10 years of research and practical application that will soon have you saying “Thank God It’s Monday!”

Awesome Bible Adventures

If you long to see God work in miraculous ways in the life of your church, you will love the faith-building, life-giving message found in The Grave Robber. Join pastor and bestselling author Mark Batterson on a 7-week journey as he reveals the incredible power of the seven miraculous signs of Jesus found in the Gospel of John and walks us through the very spots where Jesus chose to reveal himself through these miraculous events.

Miracles are happening all around us all the time, but you won’t see them if you don’t know how to look for them.

Awesome Bible Adventures

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

Add to the colors of India!

ACP is proud to be hosting a mission trip to Deep Griha, India in February 2016. This is the second mission trip partnered between the Deep Griha Society and ACP where we will provide God’s love to the children and women of India. If you are young or old, with a called heart or skill to share, you are needed. The Deep Griha Society is an independent charitable organization that focuses on the nutrition and education programs including:

- Child, Youth & Women Empowerment
- Medical & Health Care
- Disha (HIV/AIDS awareness)
- Rural Empowerment

For more information visit: www.deepgriha.org

In giving we receive

The objective of the mission trip is to give to anyone in ACP congregation and communities, the opportunity to experience Jesus’ commandment: love your neighbor as yourself; by giving to the poor in India, your time, your talents, your treasure, and to bring the Good News by deeds in the interfaith and international community of Deep Griha Society.

The Mission Outreach Committee will be hosting an intergenerational mission trip for the winter school vacation in February 2016. Combined with the international charitable organization, Deep Griha Society, we can spread God’s love through visiting the local slums of Pune, worshipping in St. Mary’s Church, and helping the women and children of India.

Information sessions

**Date:** Sunday, 20 September, 2015  
**Time:** 10h00-11h00, and 12h00-13h30  
**Where:** ACP Library (2nd floor) at 10h00  
Welcome Table in ACP Theater at 12h00

**Email:** pascaledeforge@live.com  
**Web:** www.deepgriha.org
Sharing the dream
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Paris
by Ursula Perrier

In October 1965, less than a year after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. received the Nobel Peace prize, he preached at the American Church in Paris. We were fortunate, because he was here for only a two-day visit, invited by the French Protestant Federation (FPF) to speak about civil rights. It was his first public speaking engagement in France, and he was booked solid during his two-day visit.

On Sunday, 24 October, Dr. King took to the pulpit and preached to an overflow crowd of enthralled admirers at the ACP. That same evening, under the auspices of the FPF, he spoke to 5,000 Parisians at a public conference at the Maison de la Mutualité. His speech, “The Church in a World in Revolution,” was simultaneously interpreted into French. The opening statement appealed to France’s historic past. “It is a great privilege for me to address this assembly. It is in this country that Victor Hugo evoked ideas whose hour has come. It is in this country that J.J. Rousseau proclaimed the responsibility of governments to their subjects.”

The following day, French and foreign pastors and their wives got a private interview with Dr. King, where he explained that his commitment to non-violence grew out of the inspiration he received, first from his study of the New Testament as a Christian, and second from his study of the techniques and philosophy of Gandhi in India. This was responsible for his commitment to non-violence. When asked if he thought it a bit idealistic, he responded that it was the most practically sound method to deal with racial injustice.

Dr. King also had time to record an interview for the TV program “Présence Protestante” that was televised two weeks later. The FPF collected and donated 6,125 francs to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of which Dr. King was the president. He returned to France in April 1966, this time speaking to a huge crowd of 4,000 people in Lyon.

With racism coming again to the forefront in American politics, Dr. King’s political struggle in the light of the gospel applies today. May we be inspired by it, receive it and incarnate it. More information, including a transcript of his speech in French, can be found at the site of the Fédération protestante de France: http://martin-luther-king.protestants.org/index.php?id=31466
Thurber Thursday at ACP is an adult-oriented dinner and speaker event. The speakers are invited to lecture on a variety of topics. The lecture is followed by a question-and-answer time.

Before the lecture, a dinner is prepared and served by a team of ACP volunteers. This year the dinner has taken the form of “Soup, Salad and Sundaes.” The menu alternates between vegetarian and meat-based soups. The salad is in the form of a salad bar, allowing each person to customize their meal according to their preferences. On vegetarian soup days, there is a meat choice in the salad bar.

Here is a nice salad for these Indian Summer days!

**Quinoa Salad**

*Serves 6-8*

100 g sugar  
30 ml vegetable oil (canola, etc. - not olive oil)  
120 ml apple cider vinegar  
190 g (uncooked) quinoa  
475 ml water  
1 medium red (or Vidalia) onion, finely chopped  
2 -3 dashes salt (optional)  
2 -3 dashes pepper (optional)

1 medium green pepper, finely chopped  
1 medium yellow pepper, finely chopped  
1 (4 ounce) jar diced pimientos  
1 (15 ounce) can pinto beans or black beans  
1 (15 ounce) can corn

Rinse and cook the quinoa, then let it cool.

Put the sugar, oil, and vinegar in a saucepan and bring to a boil over medium heat. Continue on a low boil for about two minutes, stirring often. Remove from heat and set it aside to cool.

Next chop the onion and peppers. Drain and rinse the beans and corn. Do not rinse the pimentos. Place all the veggies and the quinoa in a large bowl and pour the vinaigrette over them (add salt and pepper if desired). Toss to distribute evenly. Cover and place in refrigerator to cool and for the quinoa to absorb the dressing.

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**Call for volunteers**

The American Church in Paris will offer guided tours from 10h-17h on Saturday, 19 September, for *Journées du Patrimoine*, and we need volunteers. Would you like to learn and share the history and beauty of our church? Contact Alison at Spire@acparis.org - extra languages are a plus!
Stained-glass missionaries

By Alison Benney

Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.

The stained-glass windows of the American Church were designed to tell a chronological tale. They circle the upper story of the Sanctuary, starting at the northeast corner with the patriarchs and then the prophets, and ending with the American-French alliance window (dating from before WWII), and at the back of the church the biggest window of them all, the Mission window.

I love the fact that when we are worshipping, we face toward the rose window just above the organ, which depicts Christ on the cross, and when we leave and head out toward the back of the church, we look toward the Mission window above the balcony, with the risen and teaching Christ. And it is no accident that Christ’s face with his halo is the brightest spot in the church.

The Mission window highlights the great missionaries from around the world, starting with Christ’s own missionary apostles Paul, Peter, and Barnabas. There are two columns on either side of this central column, and each represents a different area of the world.

The first column, reading from left to right, is that of Asia, with Robert Morrison of China at the top of the column. He pioneered the translation of the Bible into Chinese, and when asked on his arrival in China in 1807 if he expected to have any spiritual impact on the Chinese, he answered, "No sir, but I expect God will!" There is also depicted William Carey of India; Adoniram Judson of Burma; and John Paton of the New Hebrides.

The second column represents Europe, with St. Boniface of Germany; St. Columba of Britain; St. Patrick of Ireland, holding the shamrock he allegedly used to explain the Trinity; and St. Vladimir of Russia.

The fourth column depicts Africa, with missionary/explorer David Livingstone (of “I presume” fame) of the Zambesi; Alexander Mackay of Uganda; Robert Moffat of Kuruman, South Africa, whose daughter Mary married Livingstone; and Mary Slessor of Calabar, Nigeria; she helped to abolish the superstition-driven killing of newborn twins.

The final and fifth column represents missionaries in America: John Eliot, apostle to the Indians; Father Junipero Serra of the Spanish missions in the southwest, who is scheduled, amid controversy, to become the very first Hispanic saint in America, on 23 September; Marcus Whitman of Oregon; and Sheldon Jackson of Alaska, who in 1872 founded the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Collins, Colorado, where Pastor Scott served just before coming to the ACP. And that brings our windows right up to date.
Sunday 27 September at 17h
Works by Tchaikovsky, R. Strauss, Rachmaninov, Debussy, Ravel, Dvorak, Chausson and Spirituals

Sunday 20 September at 17h
Denis GROTSKY - piano
Works by:
Sergei Rachmaninoff
Etude-tableau Op.39 No.1 en Do mineur
Etude-tableau Op.39 No.5 en Mi-bémol mineur
Etude-tableau Op.39 No.6 en La mineur
Etude-tableau Op.39 No.9 en Ré majeur

Bela Bartok
Suite pour Piano, Op.14

Franz Liszt
Sonate pour Piano en Si mineur, S.178

We are disappointed to announce that Amy Grant's concert at the ACP was cancelled due to illness. Please pray for her quick recovery.
As you settle into the new routine that the rentrée has brought before you, and you have filled in most of the family necessities into your calendar, you hopefully have planned for some “me” time and, hopefully for some “God” time in there too!

With the busy-ness of the season, which honestly won’t end till after Christmas, (don’t fool yourself now!), you must put that “me time” and “time for God” to good and practical use. Work your available time smartly, and get the best bang for your buck, so to speak, for this Ministry Fair serves another great purpose, as the kick-off to our stewardship campaign, where we encourage you to give and commit of your time and talent.

Perhaps you’ve been to one of the Ministry Fairs? If so, you know that you have the chance to peruse all the things that go on at ACP, and find that particular group or activity that calls to you, perhaps even pulls at your heartstrings. You know, that certain “thing” that your involvement in would fill that feeling of longing to belong, or that way of contributing that you have been looking for.

Members of the all the committees will be there to greet you and give you information about what they are up to, what is involved, what you can expect, what you will receive. Each committee and each mission is different with its own needs and gifts to offer, and it is the one time of the year that you can see it all in one place!

Whatever project you find that touches your heart, your participation would be a blessing to so many. First of all, it will be a blessing to you, for when you give, you also receive, and then there is the blessing to those you are helping, and let’s not forget the blessing it is to those who are taking the lead in organizing the project. Really, we need all the help we can get!

The other activities and groups you will find to tickle your interests are:

- **Bible Studies: On Sundays and during the week**
- **Communications: Spire- Radio show- website**
- **Building and Property Committee**
- **Children’s worship**
- **Christian education**
- **African and Filipino Fellowships**
- **Women’s and Men’s ministries**
- **The Multicultural Couples group**
- **Wedding ministries**
- **Special events**
  - Baking and cooking
  - Welcoming, greeting and ushering
  - Young Adults, Young Professionals
  - Youth ministries
- **Music: Contemporary, traditional and youth**
- **Meditation and prayer groups**

**Call for volunteers**

Stop by the **Bloom Where You’re Planted** table to sign up as a volunteer. We need helping hands and friendly faces for Reception, Greeters, Children’s Program, Food service and Set-Up/Decoration.

Contact: bloom.volunteer@gmail.com
The Youth Music Ministry at ACP
by Sara Barton

The start of a brand new school year means that the Youth Music Ministry gets going full steam too. Let me take this opportunity to encourage any and all children and youth at ACP to join us - we are going to have an amazing year! In fact, even if you are an adult, we have a place for you in our Spring Concert - read on, read on!

Youth Music Rehearsals will begin on **Wednesday, 9 September** following the schedule below:

- 13h00- 14h00  Angel Choir (ages 3–5), beginning 16 September
- 14h00- 14h30  Junior Choirchimes (ages 6 - 10)
- 14h30- 15h30  Junior Choir (ages 6 - 10)
- 15h30 - 16h30  Youth Handbells (ages 11 – 18)
- 16h30- 17h30  Youth Choir: *Shine* (ages 11- 18)

All choirs will sing together for the first time on **Sunday, 27 September** at the 11h service.

- The **Angel and Junior Choirs** are designed to allow children to learn to sing and play rhythm instruments together, building a gradual understanding of basic musical terms and notation through practical experience, games and activities. The children will sing in church throughout the year, and learn to be part of the worship experience at ACP. Our children’s choirs are a huge amount of fun but we learn a lot and sing well too! Join us!

- The **Junior Choirchimes and Youth Handbells** are our two instrumental ensembles, and help children to learn to read and play music together. The Choirchimes is our beginning level group, while children participating in the Youth Handbells have prior reading experience. Both groups are designed to build general musicianship, and a love of ensemble playing. We play in church throughout the year and always have fun doing so!

- The **Youth Choir (Shine)** is our advanced choral group, and is audition-based. We work on more challenging repertoire and proper choral technique. *Shine* also sings on select Sundays throughout the year.

And if you are an **adult**, and were wondering what that little teaser was at the beginning, let me cordially invite you to participate with the Youth Music Ministry in our **American Church of Paris Spring Concert, Saturday 21 May, 2016**!

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.* In keeping with the ACP theme for next year, the Youth Music Ministry is proud to announce that the 2016 Spring Concert will allow for participation by anyone in the American Church of Paris and wider community, and will feature extended excerpts from three well-loved musicals:

**The Sound of Music**

**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**

**Sister Act**

The mission of this endeavour is to allow for a mutually uplifting project put together by the Youth Music Ministries and the rest of the American Church of Paris, to develop and nurture a sense of the joy of singing together, and to bring connection between those involved in the concert, and with the audience. Our vision is:

Inclusion - Connection - Respect - Professionalism - Education - Artistic excellence.

**Any children, youth or adult singers and instrumentalists** interested in participating can be part of the concert by contacting Sara Barton at ymusic@acparis.org.
Children’s worship: Loud, messy, sometimes sticky - but full of grace

By Allison Wheeler

I am so incredibly proud of, and thankful for, our Vacation Bible School volunteer team. It is because of them, and their love of God and of the precious kids in our care, that we are able to run a program that is fun, safe, and that helps to point the children towards Jesus. Our volunteers give selflessly of their time and their (considerable) energy, and I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude for them.

Being with such a diverse, gifted team of volunteers is a true joy for me, and is one of my favorite aspects of my role here at ACP. Of course, I love working with the children (they ensure that I never, ever get to say that my job is boring!), but serving with the exceptional volunteers who come forward at this church is nothing short of inspiring. Although some of them are barely past childhood themselves, these folks, alongside the kids that we serve, continue to give me glimpses of the kingdom.

Please pray about whether you are being called to become a part of this wonderful team; we need plenty of folks for our upcoming year of Children’s Worship. Working in children’s ministry can be loud, messy, and sometimes sticky, but it is so very rewarding. But don’t take my word for it; just ask one of the awesome folks listed below; they’ve got stories to spare! Then please get in touch with me at childrensworship@acparis.org.

And yes, parents, you read that correctly: Children’s Worship is resuming soon, on 13 September. There will be a kick-off potluck on 6 September at 12h15 (in the courtyard in fair weather, and in the 2nd floor library in the event of rain). Please make sure to register your child on our website, at acparis.org. Because of the transitional nature of our community, it is essential that each child is registered at the start of every new school year, regardless of whether they have been registered in the previous year.

Thank you again to volunteers past, present, and (hopefully I’m looking at you!) future. You make the incredibly important work of this ministry possible.

Vacation Bible School volunteers

Station Leaders
Experiments: Carol Brown, Karen Stylianidis
Snacks: Kai Marcel-Grunert, Virginia Jacinto
Storyteller: Marta Hobbs
Games: Eric Taquet, Anomerawani Love
Musician: Nathalia Romanenko
Song Co-leader: Emmanuelle Denfert-Bariani

Adult Team Leaders
Julia Kung
Berita Lutoll-Rexha
Theodore Abakoumov
Pam Bohl
Lynda Pitts
Ashley Miller
Lubna Ajmal
Saul Robert
Christine Dutreuil
Alba Powell

Youth Team Leaders
Lilia Denfert-Bariani
Claire Dutreuil
Raphael Laizeau
Matthew Jourlait
Jack Jourlait
Erik Stylianidis
Faye Muchery
Emma Newman
Chloe Taylor

Set-up Helpers
Pamela Leavy
Paula Taquet
Changes in Uganda
By Patti Lafage

God has worked a number of changes at Rafiki Children’s Village Uganda. We have a new Village Administrator, and new goals of excellence and integrity. It’s a time of growth and challenge for us here.

Changes in the childcare program
In keeping with government policies, orphaned children will increasingly be cared for by their own extended families rather than by organizations such as Rafiki. It is a healthy return to tradition after decades of dire circumstances (HIV/AIDS, wars, post-colonial reorganization…). Families are now more willing, and certainly more able to accept these children in their midst. So our Village will continue to raise our 99 resident children but will not be adding to their number.

Education – Top priority
What is the greatest challenge for Uganda today? Education! Uganda has the youngest population in the world: 52% are under 15 years of age and the average fertility rate is 6.2. Nursery and primary schools, both government-run and private, are racing to expand their facilities. What is Rafiki’s role to be? We are training new Ugandan teachers in our Christian Classical model of education so that the Biblical worldview will spread into tens then hundreds of classrooms. Rafiki will also assist in the foundation of new Christian Classical schools, further multiplying the effect.

Rafiki children – Growing up
Thirty-eight rapidly growing teenagers! How do we manage? One idea that is working is getting these young men and women more involved in the daily work of the Village. Small teams of Rafiki teens are now responsible for washing hundreds of dishes each evening before study hall and serving breakfast to the younger Rafiki children and the 130 Day Scholars. The teens are more than willing. They enjoy the work and the hour or so of chatter.

On Saturdays, under the watchful tutelage of Rafiki’s adult groundskeepers, a few of the boys are learning to operate the big Scag mowers. These are powerful machines which offer a challenge to our young men. Again, they love learning new skills and clearly understand the value of developing these and other life skills.

A new assignment for me
As I enter my fifth year of service with Rafiki, my assignment has changed: after a year of teaching in the schools, I was given the responsibility for running the schools, then last year became involved with the teacher training program. A constant has been coordination of the Widows’ Program, choosing and buying crafts for resale through the Rafiki Exchange on-line shop www.rafikifoundation.org. Now I am appointed Financial Manager for Rafiki Uganda. Who? Me? The same reaction I had when God first called me to serve Him with Rafiki. It is a real challenge with a steep learning curve for me. I need your prayers that God will help me understand both the big picture and the tiny details to accomplish this task with excellence.

How you can help
I ask for your prayers for renewal of financial support needed to continue my work here. Many of you have supported my work over the past four years, and the ACP Missions Outreach Committee has been faithful. The funding initially raised for two years lasted nearly three! Now the time has come for serious prayers so that I may plan for a new 2-year term starting in January 2016. I pray that God will lead you to consider a donation to my work at Rafiki www.rafikifoundation.org/AboutUs/missionarydetail.aspx?id=1132.

See you soon! I’ll be in Paris for a few weeks beginning 24 September, so will look forward to renewing contacts with old friends and making new ones at ACP.
Excellence Computer Technology Center, Ghana
By Destiny Ryales

It was an enormous blessing to return to Ghana in June after a refreshing, purposeful, and ACP-filled 3-month trip to Paris! Humbly, I thank you all for the warm welcome, the children’s clothes, school items and financial support. There is no place like Paris or like ACP!

The students finished the school year by showing off their computer skills. The assignment was to create a 250-word, double-spaced Word document within a short timeframe. They typed a letter from the blackboard and formatted it to include different font styles, sizes and colors. With Word experience, they will have the tools to write secondary school admission letters, future career CVs and much, much more as they mature into adults.

Summer brought a well-deserved 5-week break from school and computer classes in Ghana! I am very proud of their determination, persistence and the spirit to learn more and more about technology. However, we at ECTF did not take a break! The students stopped by the classroom to enjoy drawing, puzzles, board games and football in our compound. By keeping our doors open, we are able to give the students something productive to do in their newfound free time.

The regular computer class will start again in September, and we are planning an expansion into the western region of Ghana. Computer education is a MUST; without it our students would not prosper as adults. We are training them for their future and the digital age has passed by Ghana without a handshake. But with the ETCF, we are bringing that missing technology education right to their doorsteps. So we thank you for your kind support, without which we could not take care of all our students and provide them with valuable experience on computers.

Thanks again to everyone who donated during this 2014-2015 school year! We do hope you can continue your support during the next school year in the form of monthly or quarterly contributions. Monthly or quarterly contributions would allow us to have a firm foundation of funding. The computer classes, nursery program, vacation fun, and such are all tuition fees for the students. We need your support! Your donations can be accepted via our website at www.excellencectc.org, or the ACP’s Mission Outreach Committee missionoutreach@acparis.org, attn: Daniel Grout. For more information, write to me at dryales@excellencectc.org

May God bless you beyond your imagination!

Listening Skills Workshop
9h-16h, Saturday, 10 October

This interactive workshop will be led by the Rev. Dr. Jeff Powell. All are welcome. There is a 15€ fee to cover lunch and resources. Please contact Pastor Jeff at interimassociatepastor@acparis.org to register or for more information.
Welcome to this new season in the Lord’s vineyard here at the ACP! Is this the year you’re ready to reach out to bless others right here in Paris or somewhere else in the world? If so, you may be in for a surprise: as you seek to bless others, the Lord blesses YOU!

You may have heard the saying “If you’re not serving, you’re missing one of the biggest blessings in your life.” It’s true.

You can participate a lot or a little - as you wish, and in a variety of ways: praying for our missions, serving in the local community, going on a mission trip, and making financial gifts to the church. Your involvement and support make all the difference in blessing lives around the world.

Mission Outreach

Local missions

**Homeless Ministry:** ACP Young Adults distribute food twice monthly around Paris through the Breakfast and Sandwich Ministries; we are developing a Homeless Mission Lunch program, where hot lunches “to go” will be distributed monthly at the ACP.

**Friday Mission Lunch:** In partnership with the American Cathedral, volunteers provide a hot nutritious sit-down meal at the Cathedral every Friday to those in need.

**Foyer de Grenelle:** A Christian-inspired Paris social center where volunteers provide meals for the needy, assistance to the unemployed, tutoring for children, French lessons, legal help and mailing addresses for immigrants.

**Tiffany Musica:** ACP singers and musicians bring the joy of live music into places where it is not usually performed: where meals are served to the homeless, and in rest homes, hospitals and prisons.

**Refugee Ministry:** Every other Wednesday afternoon free individual consultation is provided for people facing difficulties such as immigration, getting papers, divorce and apartment problems.

**SOS Help:** An English-language telephone crisis line - compassionate, anonymous and non-judgmental help is provided daily by trained volunteers recruited semi-annually.

**Marché de Noël:** Christmas gift items are sold at this market held annually at the ACP in early November. Proceeds go to benefit ACP missions.

**Love in a Box:** Organized by the American Cathedral, the ACP participates in this program through which Christmas gifts are delivered to underprivileged children in France and Europe.

**ACP Mitten Tree:** Mittens are collected in December on our “Mitten Tree” for donating to people in need at the Foyer de Grenelle, one of our partner missions.
Other global missions:

King’s Garden Children’s Home in the Philippines: ACP supports this orphanage through prayers, shipments of clothing, school supplies and toys, and university endowments.

Cameroonian Presbyterian Church: The ACP donates financially to help in the construction of this church in North Douala, which houses a 500-member congregation.

Mission trips:

Deep Griha, In Pune, India: ACP partners with this NGO, sending inter-generational teams to work with the Women’s Empowerment Program and with orphaned children.

Youth Mission Trip: ACP youth travel annually to locations in Europe or Africa to participate in mission work.

Habitat for Humanity: This ACP partner organization seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness, and provide decent shelter. ACP sends teams every year to locations in Europe to build or renovate houses.

Have any of these missions grabbed your interest? Pulled at your heartstrings? Or just plain gotten your curiosity up? If so, please contact us! We have Lay Leaders for each mission who would be glad to tell you more about their missions and how you can get involved. You can email us at missionoutreach@acparis.org

Please let us know what you would like to read about from the Mission Outreach Committee in future articles in the Spire. What matters to you, matters to us.
## Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

### Breakfast Ministry
- **Preparation:** Friday 19h30, meet at ACP Reception
- **Distribution:** Saturday 08h00, meet at ACP Reception

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jurie Ane Feleo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Sept</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>homelesssandwich</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8h00</td>
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<td>@acparis.org</td>
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### Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner
- Fellowship and discussion on topics such as raising bicultural/ bilingual children and cultural differences. Bring a dish to share.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4</td>
<td>20h00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monica Bassett &amp;</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Anja Wyss</td>
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<td>multicultural</td>
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### Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner
- Families with children ages 3-10 are welcome to the Children’s Worship team for a “rentrée” potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to share.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 6</td>
<td>11h15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Allison Wheeler</td>
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<td>childrensworship</td>
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<td>@acparis.org</td>
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### Atelier Concert - Stanislas KUCHINSKI, bass and Nathalia ROMANENKO, piano
- Free admission, with free-will offering

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 6</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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### Celebration Ringers rehearsals resume

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 7</td>
<td>11h00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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### ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show
- Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 7</td>
<td>20h45</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Fréquence Protestante</td>
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</table>

### Youth Choirs rehearsals resume
- **13h00-14h00 Angel Choir (ages 3-5)(meets biweekly beginning September 16)**
- **14h00-14h30 Junior Choirchimes (ages 6-10)**
- **14h30-15h30 Junior Choir (ages 6-10)**
- **15h30-16h30 Youth Handbells (ages 11-18)**
- **16h30-17h30 Youth Choir: Shine (ages 11-18)**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10h00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sara Barton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ymusic@acparis.org">ymusic@acparis.org</a></td>
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</table>

### Adult Choir rehearsals resume

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10h00</td>
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<td>Fred Gramann</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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</table>

### Spire Ringers rehearsals resume

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10h00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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</table>

### Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)
- Every Friday a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. ACP is responsible for the meal on the second Friday of each month, but we are grateful for help with cooking, serving, and cleaning up every Friday.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 11</td>
<td>10h00</td>
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<td>If you are interested,</td>
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<td>please first contact:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kristie Worrel</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>fridaymissionlunch</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>@acparis.org</td>
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### Children’s Worship resumes

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Contact</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 13</td>
<td>11h00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Allison Wheeler</td>
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<td></td>
<td>childrensworship</td>
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<td>@acparis.org</td>
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</table>

### Ministry Fair - ACP Council committees and other groups will showcase their projects and activities to welcome new members and participants to join in the fun of being a part of the greater ACP community.

<table>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Carol Brown</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>communitylife</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>@acparis.org</td>
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</table>

### Youth Program resumes

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Alyssa McKnight</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>youthintern</td>
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<td>@acparis.org</td>
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</table>
## Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Harumi KINOSHITA, harpsichord</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 13 Sept</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Thursday - A Life Worth Living</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 17 Sept</td>
<td>18h30; 19h30 Dinner;Lecture</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Jeff Powell <a href="mailto:interimassociatepastor@acparis.org">interimassociatepastor@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Launch of a nine-session video course by Nicky Gumble, which explores the New Life in Christ as presented by Paul in Philippians</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 17 Sept</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Room G2 or Courtyard</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite <a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Positive Discipline workshops for parents</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 17 Sept</td>
<td>19h30-21h00</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
<td>Denise Dampierre <a href="mailto:denise@home-is-fun.com">denise@home-is-fun.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Launch of a 7-session course by Denise Dampierre.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sandwich Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Friday 18 Sept</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jurie Ane Feleo <a href="mailto:homelesssandwich@acparis.org">homelesssandwich@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation: Friday 19h30, meet at ACP Reception</td>
<td>Saturday 19 Sept</td>
<td>13h30</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution: Saturday 13h30, meet at ACP Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New Member Orientation</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 20 Sept</td>
<td>12h30-13h30</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Brown <a href="mailto:communitylife@acparis.org">communitylife@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:communitylife@acparis.org">communitylife@acparis.org</a> to join the class. All are welcome!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Denis GROTSKY, piano</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 20 Sept</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 21 Sept</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spiritual Gifts Workshop - Alicia Berberich</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 26 Sept</td>
<td>9h00-16h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Jeff Powell <a href="mailto:interimassociatepastor@acparis.org">interimassociatepastor@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get a clear understanding of your spiritual gifts. You’ll leave with a template to help you make decisions.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Nicole TAYLOR, soprano and Debra TAKAKJIAN, piano</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 27 Sept</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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### October

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<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bloom Where You’re Planted</strong> orientation program</td>
<td>Saturday 3 Oct</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bloom@acparis.org">bloom@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support ACP’s missions and ministries by joining us for this black-tie event. Waltz the night away in our beautiful Sanctuary, accompanied by a live orchestra, and take part in the auction!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fundraiser Ball</strong></td>
<td>Monday 5 Oct</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Reserve at:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support ACP’s missions and ministries by joining us for this black-tie event. Waltz the night away in our beautiful Sanctuary, accompanied by a live orchestra, and take part in the auction!</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.acparis.org/">www.acparis.org/</a> acpball</td>
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Bloom Where You’re Planted

Connecting people and helping newcomers settle in and feel at home in Paris!

Saturday
3 October, 2015
9h to 18h30

For more info visit: bloom.acparis.org
Registration now open!

Don’t just survive... Thrive!!!

American Church in Paris
65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris
bloom.acparis@gmail.com
+33 1 40 62 05 00