Spire
The Beacon on the Seine
September 2018

The American Church in Paris www.acparis.org 65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris
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On the cover
Photo by Alison Benney

Would you like to propose articles, write, proofread, do layout or take photos? Contact Alison Benney at Spire@acparis.org.

Note: Deadline for the October edition of the Spire is Wednesday, 19 September.
Thoughts from
The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God. Ephesians 2:19

Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

_Bonne rentrée!_ is what we hear these days as Parisians come back to familiar work and school schedules. It’s the legendary “re-entry” into Paris for many people getting back to real life after the summer holidays. For some of you reading this, it is your first experience of Paris coming alive after the deceptively peaceful last weeks of August. Welcome to you, and welcome back to everyone!

This is a good time to reach out to old and new friends and ask how the summer went. What’s new? How can we encourage and support you as you jump into this wonderful new world of French culture (and verb conjugations)!! It’s a time in the church for various new beginnings, so please mark your calendars for the annual **Ministry Fair on Sunday, 16 September**, which is an opportunity to explore some options for you to connect with new friends, to grow spiritually or socially with new learning and service choices.

We’ll begin exploring our fresh theme for the coming academic year: “No Longer Strangers.” It’s from Ephesians 2:19, “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God.” It comes in the middle of a larger explanation of the gospel, “for by grace you have been saved through faith.” No Longer Strangers is about the ministry of reconciliation, how God has welcomed those who were strangers to God and one another, and reconciled us back to God and one another, by what Christ has done for us that we could not do for ourselves. It is an inspiring and awesome vision of what God has accomplished through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. What an astonishing assertion that we are “no longer strangers and aliens!”

The problem is, of course, is that too often we still are strangers and aliens... in and out of the church and with one another and with God. I read a number of books this summer that I can’t wait to share with you. One of them is Eugene Peterson’s _The Jesus Way_. Most Christians have heard that Jesus “is the way, the truth and the life,” but haven’t paid a lot of attention actually to _the way_ of Jesus. And so we have been complicit in too much of the sordid injustice, abuse, violence, and corruption that we associate with what Luther called “the world, the flesh, and the Devil” (think here Pennsylvania, Bill Hybels, American Evangelicalism, and politics, racism, bigotry, and gun violence in so many places, etc., etc.).

In July, Kim, Matthew, and I hiked some of the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path. The way was exhausting, but I’m quite sure it doesn’t hold a candle to the challenge of Jesus’ way. As GK Chesterton once said, “The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.” So I invite you to begin to reflect on how we in the church and the way we “do church” promulgates being strangers and aliens to God and the household of God? How do we actually maintain systems and structures that keep others from experiencing the freedom and new life and community that is for all in Christ?

Let’s make this a really _bonne rentrée_ by praying for God’s grace and faith to help us welcome one another, even “the stranger,” and together learn what it means to be the household of God together!

In Christ,
Bible readings for September

2 September  15th Sunday after Pentecost  
Song of Solomon 2:8-13, Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

9 September  16th Sunday after Pentecost  
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125
James 2:1-10, 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

16 September  17th Sunday after Pentecost  
Proverbs 1:20-33, Psalm 19
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

23 September  18th Sunday after Pentecost  
Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

30 September  19th Sunday after Pentecost  
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22, Psalm 24
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

The Thurber lecture series

is an adult community gathering and growth time that is open to all. The lectures take place at the ACP, in the Thurber Room. All are welcome to a light meal at 19h; presentation from 19h45-21h15

Wednesday | 19 September
Renewing the Church  
An African American Perspective  
Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil

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

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

The American Church in Paris
Dinner, lecture and conversation | 19h00 - 21h15
The hero’s journey
by Rev. Tim Vance
Associate Pastor

Superman hung from my suitcoat connected to a white flower. The Incredible Hulk, Steve from Minecraft and Hermione from Harry Potter each hung from our kids’ wedding outfits. My brother and his wife are just nerdy enough to make their wedding this past summer really playful and fun. As the pastor in the family, it was my privilege (and challenge) to marry them off without ruining all the fun with a boring sermon message.

So following the lead of the great fictional characters and stories represented on our flower pins, I tried making the case that my brother and sister-in-law are now on their own hero’s journey. All the great stories seem to follow this pattern. The hero leaves the safety and comfort of home, only to encounter challenging and terrible things along the way. In the end, however, the hero grows and then returns from the adventure with a great treasure (wisdom, new-found strength, a superpower, meaningful relationships, etc.).

For example, in the first Harry Potter book, our flawed hero leaves Privet Drive (home). He takes the Hogwarts Express to his new magical school where he discovers wonderful and terrible things. At the climax of the story he enters into the Chamber of Secrets, where he encounters He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named. But in the end, he emerges with the philosopher’s stone, but more importantly with a new, unbreakable bond of friendship with Hermione and Ron.

In many ways the hero’s journey is similar to real life, which is probably why this pattern resonates so strongly with us in the movies and stories that we love so much. At some point or at several points we all leave the comfort and safety of home (literally and figuratively). Along the way we encounter interesting people and places, with histories and stories both similar and different than our own. We learn new things and there are new challenges and difficult realities to face. And it’s on the journey that we discover what is important and what treasures are truly valuable and worth carrying with us.

Like most of the heroes in the stories, each of us will at times feel alone. But what we discover (eventually) is that we are never really truly alone. Each hero, more often than not, discovers the importance of friendship and community. And each hero is carried along by the presence of the divine, or a supernatural guide who provides direction and at times tools, gifts, or “superpowers,” needed for the challenges ahead.

So for our own faith journey the primary “superpowers” or gifts offered to us for our journey include these three: Faith, hope, and love.

Faith draws its power from the past. Its strength comes in remembering our story, remembering God’s story in history, and the many ways that God has been faithful. This is why God continually tells his people to remember, remember, remember!

Hope draws its power from the future. The God who has been faithful will continue to be faithful into the future. So no matter how hard life may get, no matter how scary the challenges may be, there is always a way forward.

The greatest power of the three, however, is the one that is grounded right here in the present moment. The power of love is revealed in our showing up and paying attention to the person standing in front of us.

Ok, so it’s super nerdy to imagine ourselves as heroes in the mold of Superman, Wonder Woman or any other fictional hero we might like. But if we start paying attention to our own journey, to the God who travels with us and to the stories of others we meet along the way, then I am quite certain that at the very least life will not be boring. And at times, heroic.

The Refugee Task Force makes recommendations to the Mission Outreach Committee on ways to motivate members of our congregation to help alleviate the refugee crisis in Paris. The task force is looking for new members. If you would like to join or see what we do, please contact Ursula Perrier at ursulaperrier@gmail.com.
Join us this fall in walking through the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. In addition to reading the scriptures together, slowly, and verse by verse, we will explore questions and ideas raised by the texts while ensuring time to pray for one another. All are welcome!
Wedding blessings 2018  
by Odette Lockwood-Stewart  
Visiting Pastor

By the end of August 2018 ACP has blessed 225 couples through our Wedding Ministry. Every single one of these ceremonies represents an intriguing story of life, love and grace as well as an opportunity for meaningful connection with the church.

Here are just a few recent stories:

...a bride/organist received special permission from Fred Gramann to play ACP’s magnificent pipe organ following her wedding blessing ceremony.

...a couple renewed marriage vows after 30 years, creating a new anniversary date after suffering great and multiple losses. Their whole travel tour group attended the ceremony! A coordinated partnership between airlines, hotel, transport, family, friends, musician, and pastor meant that lost luggage was not a barrier to the blessing.

...14-year-old sweethearts from the US reconnected after 40 years, and their marriage is being celebrated in a beautiful wedding blessing in France.

By the end of August, ACP will have inscribed and given 190 Bibles to couples beginning their lives together. Children from the ages of two to 22 years have participated in moving vow renewal ceremonies for their parents.

Emma Barton administers and coordinates ACP’s wedding ministry. Jim Lockwood-Stewart and I officiate and counsel. Music is supplied by Fred Gramann, with summer assistance from Sara Barton, Kurt Lueders, and Vernon Williams, to fill the sanctuary with beautiful grace notes.

If you are interested in more stories or in a wedding or vow renewal blessing, please stop by the Wedding Ministry table at the Ministry Fair on Sunday, 16 September.

Prayer Chain Team

Do you have a prayer request for our Prayer Team?

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

If you would like someone to pray with you after services, a Prayer Team member is available. Meet in the chapel next to the theater after each service.
Sunday Atelier Concert Series

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 9 September 17h00
Harumi KINOSHITA - harp; Asichord

Sunday 16 September 17h00
Matthew GRAYBIL - piano

Sunday 23 September 17h00
Aaron LARGET-CAPLAN - guitar; Ian POMERANTZ - bass-baritone

Sunday 30 September 17h00
Edouard LILLET - trumpet; Daniel MORALES - organ

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Singing Ambassadors
by Gigi Oyog

A multi-awarded Filipino university choir that has wowed the American Church in Paris and a global audience will return to ACP in September for a concert on Friday, 21 September at 19h30.

The return to ACP of the University of the Philippines Singing Ambassadors (UPSA) comes at the end of a triumphant European tour. UPSA represented the Philippines in four major European choral competitions (Berlin, Germany; Alicante, Spain; Florence and Arezzo in Italy), and won Grand Prizes and Category first prizes in all four competitions.

UPSA has a special bond with ACP. Their first visit to ACP was on 11 September 2001, the same day of the coordinated attacks against the Twin Towers in Manhattan, and the Pentagon in Virginia. Thrust into such unusual and sorrowful circumstances, UPSA provided music during the ecumenical memorial services held in the sanctuary attended by then French President Jacques Chirac and his entire Cabinet. Their concert and music during the 11h00 worship service later in the week were a balm for wounded hearts.

Returning in 2002, 2005, 2008 and 2012, UPSA’s visit to Paris has not been complete without stopping by ACP.

UPSA: In concert on Friday, 21 September at 19h30 at the American Church in Paris. No admission fee, free-will offering.
This is the story of a call heard, confirmed, equipped, blessed, and multiplied at the American Church in Paris. It is also the story of a prison ministry in Ghana giving birth to a prison ministry in Paris.

In 2004 ACP began supporting our missionary of the Living Truth Foundation in Ghana, in the prisons, hospitals and schools of southern Ghana. As members of ACP’s Mission Outreach Committee prayed for this ministry, our missionary invited Carolyn Bouazouni to come visit in 2009 and attend a ceremony for prisoners who completed ACP’s Disciple Bible study program – the first 12 prisoners of hundreds of men who have now completed this program.

While Carolyn felt drawn to prison ministry, she also had doubts about going inside a prison, as prisons had never been on her "radar screen." However, after stepping into the first prison in Ghana, all doubts and concerns simply vanished.

In 2014 Carolyn felt a stronger call to prison ministry, and in 2015 she retired early from her job to respond to this call. Visits to a number of prisons around Paris with Chaplains of the French Protestant Federation (FPF) confirmed her belief that she was being called to this ministry, and Pastor Scott Herr encouraged her discernment.

In 2016 Chaplain Félicien Mas Miangu, the Paris Regional Chaplain of the FPF, invited Carolyn to be trained as a Chaplain. For one year she was trained by Chaplain Miangu in a Paris men’s prison. At the end of that year, he asked her if she still felt called to go into the prisons, and if she felt adequately equipped for prison chaplaincy. She said, yes, she was ready and wanted to serve in the prisons.

Based on the recommendation of the FPF, France's Interregional Penitentiary Services authorized Carolyn to serve as a Chaplain in a French prison.

Since the summer of 2017, Carolyn has served as Chaplain to the women in a prison near Melun. She is one of 35 Protestant Prison Chaplains in the Paris area. During this first year of ministry, she also completed a Diploma in Prison Chaplaincy offered by the University of Strasbourg. Her studies included 20 course/modules including: history of the French State and the Church; laws on secularism, confidentiality and prisoner rights; theology; Christian interpretation of the Bible; Islam; Judaism; interreligious dialogue; listening skills; conflict resolution; mental health; spiritual accompaniment; suicide...

At the prison Carolyn has two primary functions. First, she leads regular group meetings of singing, Bible study, worship, prayer and fellowship. Secondly, she meets with individual women in their cells.

I have been blessed to accompany Carolyn to the prison and will continue to join her. I look forward to leading a prayer workshop there later this fall.

ACP members Patti Turquet and Paula Taquet-Woolfolk regularly attend another Paris prison and assist in translating the Protestant Chaplains’ worship services for English-speaking women inmates. Without the translations, these women would understand very little - if anything - in the services. The women are very grateful.

ACP is finding new and diverse ways to participate in this ministry:

- Monthly support from the Prayer Group
- Four members shared their musical gifts at the services
- Donations of women's clothing and knitted hats and scarves
- Donations of Christian books and music CDs, candy and chocolates, and Christmas cards sent by MOPS group.

Carolyn says, "Every time I walk out of the prison, I feel richly blessed. The faith of these women, and their search for spiritual guidance and growth is very inspiring. It brings me great joy."

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

ACP ALL CHURCH FALL RETREAT

Stranger: The Gospel according to Ruth
by Ashleigh Searle

Join us for our All-Church Fall Retreat led by Pastor Tim Vance, 12-14 October, as we explore the theme “Stranger: the Gospel According to Ruth.” This will be a special weekend of worship, small-group conversations, special workshops, fun activities, quiet time and mealtime.

Location:
The retreat will take place the Massabielle Retreat Centre in St. Prix (95) – a 20 minute train ride from Gare du Nord.

Schedule
Participants will be greeted at the station on Friday evening and taken to the Centre by shuttle. Upon arrival, there will be a time of fellowship with a welcome buffet. We'll play games geared at getting to know each other.

Saturday morning we’ll begin the day with worship before launching into teaching. Pastor Tim Vance will lead the retreat as we explore the book of Ruth. While adults discuss and share in small groups, children will have their own time of learning.

After lunch, there will be time for creative thinking, exercise, games, and walking in the nearby Montmorency forest. There is also time to simply rest and enjoy the natural setting of the Massabielle Retreat Centre.

In the evening, we'll join together for further fellowship and teaching, sharing with each other our experiences of the day. An evening of music, fun and games awaits the children.

On Sunday, we will take time to worship together, conclude the teaching and enjoy lunch before going back to Paris in the early afternoon. Shuttles will be available to transport participants from the Centre to the St Prix station.

Cost
The retreat will cost €125 for adults, €75 for Young Adults, €140 for an adult and child, €250 for a family (2 adults and up to 2 children) and €40 for an additional child. There is an additional €20 charge if you would like a single room. The price includes all meals, 2 nights’ accommodation, sheets, and shuttle from the St. Prix station. Please do not let money keep you from joining us for this retreat. Scholarships are available.

Register
Watch the ACP Website www.acparis.org/ for online registration or register at the welcome. For more information about the weekend, please contact the Associate Pastor (associatepastor@acparis.org).
Letter from the Council
by Michael Ott, Moderator

Dear congregation of the American Church in Paris,

I hope that you have been able to take some time over the summer to relax and spend time with family and friends. As ACP gears up to resume many of its activities, I would like to provide an update on some of the work that Council did last year as well as what we will be engaged in over the coming year.

The theme for the last year was "Making All Things New" and the three Council goals were: 1) enhancing connections within ACP, 2) promoting greater inclusivity in the ACP family through unifying discussion of difficult issues, and 3) reviewing ACP governance. For the first goal, enhancing community connections, the Council has made an effort to be more visible by reading Scripture, participating in various programs (including Alpha) and fellowships, and mingling with the Congregation after the services in the theater.

For the second goal, unity, Council members participated in a retreat, led by an external Christian mediator, where we learned how to discuss difficult issues by focusing on the other person and their experience rather than on the opinion they hold. This type of conversation is not meant to change positions or to necessarily reach agreement, but to learn to love other people in their different experiences, and is applicable to families, small groups (e.g., Bible studies), as well as the wider congregation. This year, Council will decide how we can best widen the use of this tool in the church.

Finally, for the third goal, governance, a task team led by John Benson was formed to examine ACP founding documents (including the ACP constitution) and ACP policies to ensure that they remain applicable today, and to update them where needed. This work is ongoing, and we hope to have it completed by Christmas so that it can be presented to the congregation in the spring.

At the same time, each committee is developing a set of procedures to ensure consistency and continuity as the members serving on Council members change each year.

The theme for the upcoming year is “No Longer Strangers,” which follows nicely from last year’s theme, and in particular goals two and three. At the upcoming Council Retreat on 22 September, we will consider how we can continue to enhance connections within ACP (between the Council and congregation and among the congregation) and, as noted above, explore together how to have meaningful discussions for the purpose of learning to love one another.

In addition, Council will explore new goals for the year and will look at how we can continue to address the written questions submitted at the March 2018 Congregational Meeting. We are also working with the AFCU to develop a long-term strategy for ACP, including considering updates to the mission and vision statements.

A reminder of the Ministry Fair on 16 September: ACP committees and programs will have information available, as well as people to answer your questions regarding the work they do and how you can volunteer and get involved. Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the many activities and programs at ACP, as well as the many ways individual members can contribute to the life of the church.

Finally, I encourage you to talk with a Council member if you have questions or concerns about the work of Council or programs of the church, or if you have suggestions about different ways ACP might build up the church and its members, strengthen talents, increase enthusiasm for Christ and outreach, and grow understanding and love within Christ’s body. If you do not know who we are, you can find our pictures and short biographies in the glass case in the reception area.

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

@AmChurchParis /AmericanChurchParis
Women's ministry activities in September

Please join us as we kick off our 2018/2019 activities with two wonderful opportunities this month. All women are welcome, and childcare is provided for all our activities. Come find a warm place to meet and fellowship with other women, and be encouraged in your faith journey. For more information contact women@acparis.org

Sunday Women's Fellowship 9 September, 12h15-13h30, Thurber Room

Join us for a time of fellowship with coffee and light snacks. Our speaker will be Odette Lockwood-Stewart, speaking on Stir into Flames the Gift of God within You: Women as Transformational Leaders. Drawing upon life experience, Scripture, and current theories of adaptive leadership we will pay attention to gifts of God within us. We will explore transformational leadership as a calling for all women disciples of Jesus.

The Reverend Odette Lockwood-Stewart grew up in Connecticut and California, receiving her Masters of Divinity at Boston University School of Theology, Summa Cum Laude. She was ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church in 1977. Odette has pastored congregations and campus ministries for 41 years. She has provided leadership at international, national, regional, and local levels of the Church, served in a seminary faculty position at the Pacific School of Religion and is now the Visiting Pastor at ACP. She is married and has four grown children and eight wonderful grandchildren.

Women's Bible Study on the Lord's Prayer

September 2: Discussion of why and how we pray
October 7: Our Father who art in Heaven
November 4: Hallowed be Thy name
December 2: Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven
January 6: Give us this day our daily bread
February 3: And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us
March 10: Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
April 7: For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever
May 5: Amen
June 2: Recap, discussion, praise

This study of The Lord's Prayer will be led by Teri Lee Valluy and meets one Sunday each month, from 12h15-13h15, in room F2 (first floor). All women are welcome and free childcare is provided.

The new children's class for ages 7-12 will also be held at this time. For more information contact Teri Lee Valluy at women@acparis.org.

The Heritage Society

The American and Foreign Christian Union (AFCU), our US partner in ministry, has established endowment funds to help sustain our long-term ministry. Gifts from estates are a fundamental way these endowments are funded. If you would like to participate in growing these endowment funds, please contact the AFCU at AFCUHeritage@ AFCUBridge.org
When my mother shared the phrase “Bloom where you are planted” with me many years ago, it was to encourage me as our family of five made corporate moves with David’s career. Little did either of us know then how impactful that phrase would be to me as an empty-nester many years later.

After traveling to Europe multiple times and finding ourselves particularly drawn to Paris, we decided in 2016 to “seize the day” and, while on a trip to Paris, began to make plans to retire to Paris for a time. We became acquainted with ACP and the Bloom event and even ordered a book from an earlier event. We spent the next several weeks pouring over its wealth of information and resources as we began our plans for a March 2018 retirement/move.

The poem’s lyrics are easy to say, but putting down roots can be a challenge when you’re living in a foreign culture, speaking a different language, and struggling to get used to a new city. Every expat has been through it, and that’s why the congregation at the American Church of Paris has been holding out a watering can of assistance to newcomers for over 50 years.

David and I are excited to work with ACP this year through the Bloom event helping expats in Paris adapt to the intricacies of Paris life and culture.

Want to thrive not just survive in Paris? Join us Saturday, 6 October, at this year’s Bloom Where You Are Planted event. You can find the full program at http://bloom.acparis.org, where you can also register to attend.

See you at Bloom!

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NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

If you are interested in becoming a member of the American Church, please attend the orientation class on Sunday 30 September, at 12h15 in the Library. Childcare will be available.

Please RSVP to laycaregivers@acparis.org.
Rentrée reviews
by Rebecca Brite

All film buffs to the set, please! The ACP Movie Discussion Group marks its 24th rentrée this month with a wide-ranging selection for your viewing pleasure. The movies chosen for the September meeting are:

- **BlacKkKlansman** by Spike Lee. The latest from a prominent African American filmmaker tells a true story that took place in the late 1970s but has resonance for today. Starring John David Washington (son of Denzel) and Adam Driver.

- **A Silent Voice** by Naoko Yamada. This award-winning animated feature from Japan deals with the difficult subject of bullying in school and how a former bully finds redemption.

- **Burning** by Lee Chang-Dong. Based on Haruki Murakami’s short story “Barn Burning,” this South Korean mystery won the International Federation of Film Critics Prize at Cannes.

- **Guy** by Alex Lutz. The director takes the title role in this mockumentary about a fictional French variétés singer whose heyday was the 1960s-90s.

All the films are playing in Paris-area movie theaters. See as many of them as you can, in the cinema of your choice, then join us at the meeting to discuss them. (Note that **Silent Voice**, as it’s titled here, is not in as wide release as the others, so should be seen as soon as possible.)

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 13 September, at 19h30 – either in the courtyard, weather permitting, or in room G2 on the lower level. We provide wine, water and snacks, and take up a free-will collection at the end to defray the costs.

If you have any questions, contact movies@acparis.org.
What’s up in Paris

September event listings
by Karen Albrecht

The beat goes on
Not quite ready to let go of summer? Trendy bus-station-cum-nightclub Glazart will keep its canal-side beach party La Plage rolling all through September. Those in search of endless summer can enjoy sand and deck chairs at the “afternoon chill-out” parties, plus Wednesday concerts and all-night clubbing action Thursday-Sunday with DJs spinning house, micro, techno, trance and dub.

Until 29 September www.laplage2018.com

What’s up in Paris
September event listings
by Karen Albrecht

Flights of fancy
Iconoclastic arts venue La Maison Rouge, which opened in 2004 in a former factory near Bastille, will close down for good next month. Don’t miss its last hurrah “L’envol,” gathering artworks from many continents, centuries, and media around the concept of flight. From oddball flying contraptions to gracefully crafted wings (some complete with feathers), from beaked African masks to a mobile of flying superhero action figures, from the 1902 proto-sci-fi film “A Trip to the Moon” to an absurdly lyrical video of plastic-bag figures dancing in the wind, this valedictory show is wistful yet whimsical, strangely otherworldly yet eminently accessible.

Until 28 October, lamaisonrouge.org

Walk this way
This year’s sprawling Festival d’Automne is honoring avant-garde Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker. Alongside the hundreds of theater, art, film, and dance events in and around Paris, there will be performances of 11 of De Keersmaeker’s creations, which are famous for plumbing the depths of both classical and contemporary music. On Sunday 23 September, De Keersmaeker invites Parisians to participate in a meditative, 5-meter-per-minute “Slow Walk” she and her dancers will be leading along five itineraries around Place de la République.

10 September-31 December, www.festival-automne.com

Dino-mite
Trixie, this summer’s surprise superstar and a huge hit with the younger generation despite her advanced age, is extending her Paris run. This remarkably complete Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton was unearthed in Montana and lovingly reassembled by Dutch researchers, who nicknamed her in honor of their monarch. The result is dramatically displayed at the Museum d’histoire naturelle, where you can get up close and ogle Trixie’s impressive proportions, shapely legs and winning smile.


Making an Impression(ist)
The Petit Palais is showcasing the French artists who sought asylum in London in the 1870s, fleeing the Franco-Prussian war and the bloody Paris Commune. Seminal, early-Impressionist works by Pissarro, Monet and Sisley share the stage with delectable society scenes by James Tissot and Carpeaux’s masterfully muscular sculptures. See page 18 for more.


Here’s to heritage
One of the very best times of year to be a Parisian, the annual architectural heritage weekend known as “Les Journées du Patrimoine” offers a rare opportunity to take a peek inside many of the city’s most exclusive historic buildings. It’s also a chance to check out quirky, lesser-known sites. The lines can be long, but everything is gloriously free of charge: especially fitting for this year’s theme, “The art of sharing.”


The beat goes on
Not quite ready to let go of summer? Trendy bus-station-cum-nightclub Glazart will keep its canal-side beach party La Plage rolling all through September. Those in search of endless summer can enjoy sand and deck chairs at the “afternoon chill-out” parties, plus Wednesday concerts and all-night clubbing action Thursday-Sunday with DJs spinning house, micro, techno, trance and dub.

Until 29 September www.laplage2018.com
The Alpha Course is back!
by Lisa Prevett

Having welcomed approximately 100 guests over the past two courses, Alpha is back this September and kicks-off with a free Launch Party on 13 September at 19h30. The course then runs weekly from Thursday 20 September with a meal at 19h00 followed by a video talk and small group discussions. We’ll be using the Alpha film series, in English with French subtitles, featuring the course’s creator, Rev. Nick Gumbel, and interviews with Bear Grylls, Jackie Pullinger and Father Raniero Cantalamessa, among others. Each week the video looks at a different question around faith and they take us on a journey around the globe, as we explore the meaning of life and ask challenging questions about the Christian faith.

Alpha is for anyone who is curious about Christianity and provides a safe space to ask questions, share opinions and learn more about the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and friendly environment. No question is too big or too hostile.

How can I get involved in the course?
There are many ways that you can be involved with the Alpha Course. If you’ve never experienced Alpha or you have questions about the Christian faith, then Alpha is for you. Come along to the Launch Party and see what Alpha is all about!

Another really important way is to invite people along - a personal invite is most effective and easy to do, so take the plunge and ask a friend if he/she would like to accompany you to the Launch Party. There are many people who are now part of our ACP family because someone reached out and invited them to “come and see” what the Christian faith is all about. It’s not always easy to tell friends, family and colleagues about God but we all know someone who has questions about life and faith. Giving them an Alpha invite and personally inviting them along to the Alpha Course is one of the easiest ways to do this!! You can find invites in the bulletin on Sundays in September or stop by the Alpha table after the worship services. Let’s reach out this rentree to the people around us...a simple invite could turn out to be life-changing!

You can also get involved by supporting Alpha through prayer. Your prayer support is essential, so please keep the Guests and the team in your prayers throughout the course. You could also pray for three people you know, who you would like to be able to invite to Alpha, and then reach out to the person that you feel God is calling you to invite. You could even offer to accompany them to the Launch Party.

Is there more to life than this? Come and join us at the free Launch Party at 19h30 on 13 September and let’s find out together. Over 29 million people around the world have done Alpha – have you?

For more information, please contact alpha@acparis.org. Details about the Launch Party and the course are available via the website at acparis.org/alpha and our social media channels.

What people said about Alpha on the last course at ACP

“I enjoyed sharing and learning from others”

“I have a better understanding of the relationship with Jesus Christ and I have hope”

“I came here as a non-believer and now I think that life without God and faith makes no sense”

“Great food, great atmosphere, great discussions”

“I enjoyed the general, welcoming atmosphere...and I gained confidence and lost a lot of my anxiety”
C’est la rentrée! As we’re all settling back into routine you may have heard from God over the summer. Has He stirred a calling in you to dedicate some of your time to feed the homeless, visit prisoners, or be active on the Refugee Task force? Has He put a thought in your mind to finally do a Bible study, be part of the lay care ministry, prayer chain, or join a small group? Like to cook, play in the band, or discuss movies?

The ACP Ministry Fair will inspire you, providing ideas for how you can use your particular talents and/or find groups of your interest to experience the joy of serving and spending time with brothers and sisters in Christ. We invite you to pray and ask God to guide you on how to be involved in His kingdom here at ACP, in this city and beyond.

Come and explore, ask questions about the many ministries and committees, Bible studies, fellowship groups, and activities, including:

- Bible studies, on Sunday and during the week
- Building and Property committee
- Children’s worship, Christian education,
- Communications: Radio show, Spire magazine, website, social media
- Community Life: Kitchen team and events organisation
- Clerical, accounting, human resources
- Fellowships: African, Filipino, movies, knitting, writing
- Lay care ministry, prayer chain
- Missions: Prison ministry, feeding the homeless, refugee (administrative) assistance
- Multicultural Couples group
- Music: Choir, contemporary, handbells
- Women’s and men’s ministries
- Sunday’s worship: Welcoming, ushering, reading, communion
- Youth & Young Adults ministries

ACP Ministry Fair
Sunday 16 September

Explore the church ministries and services after the 11h and 13h30 services
in the Theater

By Daphne Elfferich, Chair of Community Life

Sunday Worship at the ACP

09h00:
Traditional Service, with weekly communion

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

13h30:
Contemporary Service, with children’s worship service, and live band accompanying sung worship
Impressionists in London
French Painters in Exile 1870 – 1904
by Karen Marin

Impressive - following on the heels of the Tate Britain in London, the Petit Palais is now hosting Impressionists in London: French Painters in Exile 1870 - 1904. This title is a bit misleading since the exhibit is neither limited to impressionists nor to painters. It focuses rather on the artists who were forced to flee France when the Second Empire fell, after the disastrous Franco-Prussian War. Those who could left France, often seeking exile in London.

The ensuing Paris Commune was a particularly bloody moment in French history, and was depicted by some of the exiled painters. These painting conjure up feelings of loss, suffering, despair, and hopelessness. Some of the painters kept their works in their personal collections, perhaps to remind them of the horror they had survived.

Once in London, though, the painters shifted their themes to the peace of the countryside and the festive social events of high society. James Tissot (born Jacques-Joseph) not only anglicized his name, but also adapted his style to please the British public. His tableaux focus on urban life and read like fashion plates. Each painting tells many stories. *Hush!* for example, portrays a lavish party at which a young woman with violin has stopped trying to entertain the guests. On one side of the room, a group of people are completely involved in their own conversations while on the other side, a small group of people, including what looks to be Indian potentates, struggle to appreciate the musician. The lace, the fans, the hair ribbons, the ruffles along with the chandelier, the mirror, and the crown molding all point to Tissot’s attention to detail.

When Claude Monet and Camille Pissarro moved to London they met Paul Durand-Ruel, a well-connected art dealer who was instrumental in building their careers. Though neither painter could boast the commercial success of Tissot, they were both inspired by London. Monet dedicated a full series of paintings to the Houses of Parliament, depicting the same subject numerous times, at different hours of the day under various weather conditions. The exhibit features five works from the series of 19, gathered from around the world, hanging frame to frame; it’s a marvelous opportunity to appreciate these masterpieces.

In addition to the painters, significant space is given to the sculptors Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux and his student Jules Dalou. Carpeaux, who had been very close to the Emperor and Empress, followed the Royal Family in their exile. The exhibit includes several busts, and a particularly life-like rendering of Napoleon III.

The exhibit closes with André Derain’s fauvist version of the Houses of Parliament. Markedly different from Monet, the washes of color blurred by a foggy climate are replaced by a colorful, unnatural palette with a luminous sky untouched by inclement weather.

*Through 14 October, at the Petit Palais*

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**International churches in Europe and the Middle East**

If you are traveling and looking for a place to worship, please consult the AICEME website for our sister congregations: [www.aiceme.net](http://www.aiceme.net)
One of the core values of ACP is to be a beacon of light and life on the Seine, calling out to our community to come in and be a part of the mission of Christ. There are multiple points of entry for members of ACP and our Parisian neighbors to serve those in need and our community through volunteer opportunities. If you are looking for a way to contribute, here is a list of opportunities.

**Nursery /children’s fellowship**
Looking for volunteers who love children, enjoy playing with them and are comfortable holding and caring for infants. A letter of reference can be provided for qualifying volunteers. Volunteers are needed for the following time slots:
- 11h and 13h30 Sunday services,
- Sundays for women’s fellowship, 12h-14h (ages 3-11)
- Tuesdays 10h-13h30
- Second Fridays 9h30-12h30
Contact Pamela Gonder: gonder.pamela@gmail.com

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

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

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

**Ushers**
The commitment and willingness to serve with a friendly and welcoming smile is all that is required to usher during the Sunday services.
Contact: secretary@acparis.org

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

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

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

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

**Bloom Where You Are Planted 2018**
The team is still looking for volunteers to help and lead with website updates and design; event decoration; set up and clean up; day of operations, registration, and administration.
Contact: bloom@acparis.org

**Community Life**
The Community Life ministry is responsible for the organization of community events such as Thurber Lecture dinners, the Thanksgiving dinner, Easter breakfast, and more. We welcome new, extra hands who enjoy being a part of creating a welcoming and hospitable environment.
- Help decorate and set up and/or tear down our events.
- Help with food preparation (washing, peeling, cutting, and chopping) as well as baking or preparing desserts, cookies, preparing cheese platters, and other small buffet-style snacks. If you’re a cook (non-professional is ok) who doesn’t shy away from helping prepare a basic meal to fill over 50 plates, be sure to contact us!
Contact Daphne: communitylife@acparis.org
What’s going on?
Tune in to ACP Today radio

Have you ever listened to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show? Join us on Mondays at 20h45 — this month on 3 and 17 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, at www.acparis.org/ACPtoday, or the ACP mobile app.

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

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

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

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

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

Bring up the Bulletin

Did you forget your copy of the Bulletin in the pew? Want to find the email addresses of one of the pastors? Confirm the date of an event? Do it with the ACP app!

1. Download the app, and launch it.
2. Click on “messages” at the bottom.
3. Click on “Bulletins” at the top.

Please help recycle this publication. When you’re through reading it, instead of tossing it in the bin, return it to the Welcome desk.
Auditions for all voice types for the 2018-19 season are being held for Ensemble Lumina, an a cappella chamber choir under the direction of Caroline Drury.

An auditioned, volunteer choir of the American Church in Paris, its members have several different nationalities and come from both within and outside of the ACP community. The diversity of the group lends itself well to an international blend of sacred and secular repertoire, including compositions in many different languages, written by composers from around the world and across all eras.

Ensemble Lumina has an intrinsic link between the American Church in Paris and the greater communities and therefore welcomes members of all faiths, both within and outside of the church community. We perform several times a year, both at the American Church in Paris and at other venues.

For an audition, please visit our website at www.ensemblelumina.fr/auditions.
## Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday Women’s Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 2 Sept</td>
<td>12h15-13h15</td>
<td>F2 (first floor)</td>
<td>Teri Lee Valluy <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>All women welcome to monthly study on the Lord’s Prayer. Free childcare is provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday Children’s Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 2 Sept</td>
<td>12h15-13h15</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
<td>Allison Wheeler <a href="mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org">childrensworship@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>All children ages 7 and older welcome to monthly Bible study. Children have the option of attending the course taught in either English or French.</td>
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<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 3 Sept</td>
<td>20h45-21h30</td>
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<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
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<td><strong>Youth Choirs rehearsals resume</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 5 Sept</td>
<td>19h</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>Sara Barton <a href="mailto:ymusic@acparis.org">ymusic@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>13h30-14h: Angel Choir (ages 3-6), 14h-14h45: Spirit Choir (ages 6-10), 14h45-15h15: Junior Choir Chimes (ages 6-18), 15h15-16h: Ethereal ensemble (ages 10-18).</td>
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<td><strong>ACP Rentrée Café</strong></td>
<td>Friday 7 Sept</td>
<td>19h</td>
<td>Courtyard</td>
<td>Natalie Raynal <a href="mailto:cmusic@acparis.org">cmusic@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Come celebrate the rentrée with live music in the courtyard by Still Point and friends. Free entry. Dinner will be served to raise money for an upcoming songwriting retreat. Invite your friends!</td>
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<td><strong>Adult Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Friday 7 Sept</td>
<td>From 20h email contact for location</td>
<td>Daphne <a href="mailto:30plusfellowship@acparis.org">30plusfellowship@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Singles and pairs, join us for fellowship every first Friday of the month in a lounge café setting, sharing testimonies, talking about the highs and lows of your life with brothers and sisters in Christ.</td>
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<td><strong>Writers’ Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 8 Sept</td>
<td>14h30 - 16h30</td>
<td>Room G5</td>
<td>Tendayi Chirawu <a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Sunday Women's Fellowship – Odette Lockwood-Stewart will speak on “Stir into Flames the Gift of God within You: Women as Transformational Leaders”</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 9 Sept</td>
<td>12h15-13h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Kim Herr <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Drawing upon life experience, Scripture, and current theories of adaptive leadership we will pay attention to gifts of God within us. We will explore transformational leadership as a calling for all women disciples of Jesus. Childcare available on the garden level of church house.</td>
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<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 9 Sept</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Free admission, with free-will offering Harumi KINOSHITA - harpsichord</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alpha Course launch party</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 13 Sept</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alpha@acparis.org">alpha@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Alpha Course is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life, ask questions and learn more about the basics of the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and friendly environment. This 10-week course is free and open to everyone, and kicks off with a launch party.</td>
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<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 14 Sept</td>
<td>10h-14h</td>
<td>The American Cathedral</td>
<td>If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel <a href="mailto:fridaymissionlunch@gmail.com">fridaymissionlunch@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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Curious about Christianity?
Got questions about the meaningfulness of life?
You’re not the only one.

Find out more at the Alpha Launch Party

19h30, Thursday 13 September

American Church in Paris, 65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris

Alpha is a 10-week course exploring different aspects of the Christian faith. No question is too simple or too tough, and everyone is welcome. For more information, contact alpha@acparis.org connect with us on Facebook or see our website at www.acparis.org
The American Church in Paris has been welcoming newcomers to the City of Light for over 50 years! We delight in sharing our experiences on how to make the most of your stay in Paris. This year is even more exciting than ever.

**Authors and books:** We have an impressive line-up of authors to present their books and their lives in Paris. This will be followed by what promises to be a lively Q&A so you can ask those burning questions.

**Peter Caine,** author of *Paris, Then and Now,* and owner of Paris Walks, shares his passionate and informative description of the history and evolution of Paris.

**Adrian Leeds,** French property expert, HGTV personality and published journalist, teaches how to maneuver and outsmart the French property market.

**Janine Springall,** owner of L’Assiette de Paris, shows how to shop the markets for fresh food while learning ingredient differences, enabling you to prepare tasty French food.

After a career in publishing, **Lisa Anselmo** wrote *My (Part-Time) Paris Life,* her story of loss and love and the magic of Paris.

Owner of the diner Breakfast in America, **Craig Carlson,** will share his memoir, *Pancakes in Paris.*

**Toni McClintock** shares her family’s adventures in *All Abroad: 3 Kids, 2 Years 1 New Perspective; An American Family in Paris.*

The authors will also be available that day to sign their books at The Red Wheelbarrow pop-up boutique.

**For the kids,** there is an age-appropriate, full-day orientation, activities, and lunch.

We hope this has whetted your appetite and you will want to join us for a fun and informative day. Come visit us at [http://bloom.acparis.org](http://bloom.acparis.org) for full details and online registration.