Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

I hope you enjoyed some slower days over the summer to experience rest and refreshment. It was lovely to spend most of the summer here in Paris this year, as the city feels almost peaceful during the weeks of August when so many are away on vacation. The rentrée is upon us and I am praying that all of you will enjoy the re-entry back into healthy and productive work and school routines.

For some of us, the rentrée is a time of seeing old friends after the summer holidays, but for many there is nothing “re” about the rentrée at all. It’s just a rather disorienting entry into a mélange of incomprehensible new language, cultural customs, sticker-shock, and emotionally overwhelming changes. For those of you who are new to Paris, sometimes it’s hard to know where the entry is at all!

Mark Labberton, a friend and mentor, stopped through Paris recently with his wife Janet and their two sons Peter and Sam. It was the first time for them to be in Paris together as a family and so they went to the Louvre as a “must see” with their limited time. Mark was intrigued with the pyramid, and we talked about how fascinating that symbol has become as the entry of the Louvre Museum. The classic ancient yet strangely modern pyramid is now the iconic entryway into the labyrinthine halls of one of the world’s most impressive museums.

Like the Eiffel Tower, the Pyramid caused quite a stir when it was first unveiled in 1989. Commissioned by President François Mitterrand, the pyramid was designed by Ieoh Ming Pei, a Chinese-American architect. The genius of the design takes one of the most universally recognizable architectural objects (pyramid) and makes it the entryway of one of the most complex museums. People are welcomed into the museum from a modern and efficient entrée into the various spokes of the ancient riches of sculpture, paintings and artifacts. Mark posed the question to me, “What is the way for people into the Christian community today?” The question has me thinking... But my first reaction was simply the quote from Paul’s letter to the Romans: “Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God” (Romans 15:7). What an elegant, universally recognizable entry point for Christian community: the warm hospitality of genuine welcome!

As we are hustling and bustling about our way with the rentrée in the coming weeks beginning again Teacher Training, Children’s Worship, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, women’s and men’s studies, Thurber Thursday lectures, installing The Rev. Michelle Wahila and the new Council members on 23 September, getting ready for the 30 September ACP Ministry Fair and the 6 October Bloom Where You’re Planted course and so much more this month, let’s make the iconic doorway into the labyrinthine complexity of the ACP community and traditions a spirit and practice of genuine hospitality! Take the time to say hello, extend your hand and say to those you don’t yet know, “Welcome to you!”

“Bonne rentrée!” and God’s grace and peace be with you as we welcome one another,

In Christ,

Scott
Dear friends,

_Bonjour!_ It is so lovely to finally be among you and to be home! After a long journey, our family is settling in and learning our new routines. Of course, in many ways, those new routines remain somewhat a mystery to us. There is much to learn during this time of transition and beyond.

Our family gives thanks for the incredibly warm welcome given to us. We thank you for the gift of hospitality and the generous staples placed in our apartment. The love and care that has gone into preparing for our family’s arrival has not gone unnoticed. We appreciate the many hands that have helped to make our transition a smooth one.

I give thanks for the spirit of hospitality that our family has experienced already, and I pray that we can continue to offer hospitality to one another in many ways. It is, I believe, part of the task of ministry and a crucial piece of Christian life together. Of hospitality it is written – _whatever gifts_ we have received enabling us to serve, we are compelled to offer freely. The letter of 1 Peter reminds us that it is in offering gifts of service to one another that we act as faithful stewards of God’s abundant grace.

The root of the word hospitality is the Latin word _hospes_, meaning “to have power.” What a joy it is to have the power to share something given so freely to us – abundant grace! My prayer is that we will fully embrace this piece of the faith – to serve with and share God’s grace – for we have been empowered for this very task.

_Bénédictions_,

Michelle

8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:8-11
Thoughts from
The Rev. Dan Haugh
Director of Youth
And Young Adults

Our team spent one week in Libreville working at the Hope House, a home for abandoned children founded by Pastor Israel and his wife. They care for the physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual needs of almost 40 children. Our team was able to create a Vacation Bible School for their children. For the young students, we taught Bible stories using a wonderful interactive book series in French, kindly donated by a member of ACP. Arts and crafts, games, skits, and singing were all a part of our time together. The older students benefited from learning English through song and dance. Each day was special as our team bonded with these beautiful children.

The following week we traveled over three hours northeast into the jungle to a village called Ebel Abenga and worked alongside Gabonese missionaries in a construction project. Every day we toiled towards the completion of a foundation for a new church in the village. Our team members mixed and poured cement, carried barrels of water from the river for hours at a time, and thanks be to God, were able to complete our goals. We also hosted a Kids Club each afternoon for the local village children, and benefited tremendously from the hospitality of the local villagers. We also had the unique privilege of partnering with the renowned Bongolo Hospital for two of their mobile medical clinics. Team members assisted in various tasks ranging from eye testing, taking blood pressure, documenting illness, and providing medicine.

During our time in Gabon, God was revealed in eye-opening ways to each member of our team. You can read about our daily activities and personal reflections on our team blog at: http://acpyouth.wordpress.com

Personally, I was blessed to return to Gabon and reconnect with friends. It was also amazing to watch our students from ACP interact, love, and serve with adventure and abandon the people of Gabon. Through the commonality of speaking French, I witnessed every team member enter into conversations and community in significant ways. God provided for our every need and brought us back to Paris and ACP with full hearts and a broader perspective. It is our prayer to continue in our partnership in Africa and hopefully continue to build upon the relationships we began in Gabon. It is true that experiences can change lives and I fully believe that this summer’s ACP Youth Mission trip to Gabon made an indelible impression upon our hearts and lives.

On behalf of our entire team, I want to thank the members of ACP for your prayers and support of this trip. May we continue to serve as missionaries wherever God leads us!

In Christ,
Rev. Dan Haugh

God’s Grace in Gabon

During 8-24 July, fifteen members of the ACP Youth Mission team traveled to Gabon, Africa in partnership with Envision Culture, a Christian organization based in Libreville. We had an experience of a lifetime, serving, and learning from our Gabonese brothers and sisters.
Thoughts from

Dr. Rev Jeff Powell

Visiting Pastor

Alba and I are delighted to be back at the American Church in Paris for our third July-December sojourn (2002, 2011 & 2012) while I serve as the Visiting Pastor in charge of the wedding and vow renewal services. We enjoyed our recent six months visit in the USA, reconnecting with our family and friends. We've had the best of both worlds spending summers and autumns in Paris and winters and springs in southern California at Seal Beach. It was especially joyful to live only 15 minutes away from Juan, our son, Erin, his wife, and Rosa, our three year-old granddaughter. We enjoyed days at the beach and lots of outdoor activities with them. Trina, our daughter, Chris, her husband, and Maya and Lucas, our grandchildren, live about an hour's drive from our apartment so we were also able to spend significant time with them. It was good to rest up after our volunteer service at ACP and travel in Europe.

The wedding ministry at ACP has grown since when I served here a year ago. We averaged 40 wedding blessings per month in July and August 2012 as compared to 25 in July and August 2011. I think that the word is out that ACP is a wonderful place to celebrate the beginning of married life, as well a place to renew wedding vows years later. I don't need to spend time in pre-marital counseling with the couples since people coming for a wedding blessing in a religious ceremony at ACP are required to be already married in a civil ceremony. However, I do spend time hearing the story of their relationship, affirming their lives and offering spiritual resources. I am keeping busy.

Did you know that 85% of the couples who receive wedding blessings at ACP are Japanese? These are bilingual, English-Japanese wedding blessings with an interpreter and wedding coordinator provided by Japanese wedding agencies. I feel a special rapport working with these Japanese couples and agency staff. In a way, I feel like I have come full circle since I began my international ministry as Senior Pastor of the Tokyo Union Church in Japan in 1992. Only about 1% of Japanese are Christian. These wedding blessings further ACP's ministry by sharing the love of Christ through pastoral contact, a Christo-centric weddings service and the presentation to the couple of a beautiful, Japanese-language gift Bible and a DVD in Japanese on the history of ACP plus an Easter worship service. It is a joy for me to sow the “gospel seed” in couples during such a significant moment in their lives. During the wedding blessing I even wear the beautiful white stole that Alba made for me from a traditional Japanese kimono obi.

Alba and I will be traveling back to the USA for a very special wedding on 29 September, when I will officiate at the wedding of Lars, our son, and Maureen, his fiancée. They announced their engagement to the 160 people attending the ACP Thanksgiving dinner last November. We will be away for a week staying at their home in Saratoga Springs, New York, where the couple serves in the US Navy as instructors in nuclear reactor operations.

Blessings in Christ,

Jeff
One thing is true, summers seem shorter and shorter. Hopefully you had a good holiday and came back refreshed and excited.

For you, Vacation Bible School, during the last week of August, marks the transition between summer and fall. We prayed for the leaders, teachers, volunteers and students who focused on “ReNew” using the Parable of the Sower. VBS was Michelle Wahilla’s first responsibility, and we prayed that she would have a wonderful start and would be warmly received. We will be praying for her, and you on 23 September, when she is installed. How we wish we could be there.

It is difficult realizing it was just one month ago that we left ACP. In some ways, I felt like a visitor in my own country when returning to California, where we live. I was struck by the amount of space between tables in restaurants, the size of the portions of food and how quickly we returned to driving rather than walking. True, we live in a valley and have to climb up and down a hill to get to the grocery store. However, other than the heat, it would be good for us to walk. We have been rediscovering our home, since we packed and stored everything while we were in Paris so the couple staying in our house could make it their own. We are enjoying our back yard and hill behind our house, where we BBQ and eat our evening meal. We are blessed that the temperature drops, making it pleasant to eat outside. We have begun looking for a church to attend. It will be impossible finding anything like ACP.

I am grateful for the opportunity of officially thanking you for the seven wonderful months we had at ACP. It was truly a “surprise gift from God” being accepted into your wonderful community of faith and journeying together for those months. Thank you to all who send us encouraging cards and to the Filipino and African Fellowships for their generous gifts. It was a joy participating with you in worship, times of joys and sorrows, delicious meals, and wonderful fellowship. We will be thinking of and praying for all of you as you resume your fall schedule. Thank you for the privilege of assisting in worship each Sunday. We will be thinking of and praying for you as you begin your fall with a new Associate Pastor. King’s Cross by Timothy Keller, is a book that will supplement the Fall Sermon Series, on the Gospel of Mark. Look at Christian Ed for details on this. Perhaps, think about starting a study group!

One thing that made leaving ACP a little tolerable was knowing that we would see you again in October. I have been asked to assist with and be the speaker at the Congregational Fall Retreat on 26-28 October in Houlgate. The retreat will focus on Applying Your Spiritual Gift. I will also be doing a two part series on Thurber Thursdays, 18 and 25 October on Spiritual Gifts. Look for specifics in other parts of this Spire or Sunday bulletins.

Until October. Gratefully Yours in Christ,

Glen Thorp
ACP Membership? Here’s Why ~

For starters, it's free! Perhaps you attend ACP services and participate in ACP events; however, attendance and participation do not make you a formal member of the ACP. A member is someone who learns about what it means to make a public profession of faith in Christ and what Christian discipleship involves through one of our membership orientations. An ACP member either affirms for the first time or reaffirms basic Christian faith as expressed through the Apostles’ Creed. If you think you might be a member, but aren’t quite sure, you can make an inquiry to find out for sure. Just e-mail us at: communitylife@acparis.org. The good news is: If you aren’t already a member, it is easy to become one!

Becoming a member of the ACP can be a way of increasing your commitment to Christ, and is as simple as attending an orientation class and being part of a new member reception during a subsequent Sunday service. Then, you can reap the benefits of ACP membership! First, you will become part of a group of voting congregants who jointly decide the issues of the Church at congregational meetings, elect the council, and ultimately choose the pastoral staff. Secondly, you can exercise your gifts through leadership in the church, and form groups and clubs. Finally, you can choose to be a Regular Member or an Affiliate Member. An Affiliate Member is an ACP member who wishes to remain a member of their home church, even though they are living here, attending ACP and part of ACP membership.

If you are interested in becoming a member, our next orientation class is being held on 16 September at 12h30 in the Library, with confirmations on 30 September, at whichever service is your regular worship time. The orientation lasts for approximately one hour, where Senior Pastor Scott Herr goes over what we believe and takes questions you may have. You are also given a packet that includes the church history and activities that regularly go on at the church, so you can connect quickly into your new church family. If you would like to attend, please make a reservation for the orientation with Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org.

As we start up this new calendar and begin the new school year, I want to take this opportunity as the incoming Council Moderator, with Pam Bohl as Vice Moderator, to thank all of last year’s Council members for all their dedication and hard work. Much was accomplished and we are well positioned for the year ahead. I particularly want to thank Mark Primmer and Mary Crass-Fenu for a well-organized handoff to the new council. Additionally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Associate Pastor Search Committee for the selection of Michelle Wahila. We are blessed to have The Reverend Michelle Wahila, and her family, here and part of our ACP family. The Lord has much in store for us as we discern the ways we can bless this city and bless the world from the American Church in Paris. I hope you have enjoyed your summer, and that you are ready to start the new season! I certainly look forward to working and worshiping with you all during the year ahead.

In His Service,
Radford Laney
Finance and Stewardship

Stan Marcello and Megan Staley

You Who Are Blessed

Some say it’s never too late to get involved in the life of the church – rightfully so!

But we say it’s never too early!

As we start the “Parisian New Year” with the rentrée, what do you want to change in your life? Start something new perhaps? Or maybe stop a bad habit? In thinking of your answers to those questions, did you think about exercising, learning a new language, staying in touch with friends? Great! Did you think about giving more of yourself to Christ, and discovering your gifts for ministry? Join an ACP discussion group, be a part of the Children’s Worship team, join a choir or learn to play the hand-bells, be a part of the ACP Today Radio show team, help out with the contemporary worship band, be an usher, serve at the Friday Mission Lunch, volunteer your time and talents on a leadership team? If yes, great! If no, why not?

Why not use the Rentrée as an opportunity to recommit your time to Christ? Take time to sit and prayerfully reflect on all the blessings you have, the skills and interests you possess; then think about how you can share and grow those gifts through the ministry and mission of the ACP.

**Stewardship ...** is a way of life, a transformational way of living.

Stewardship is a function of discipleship, and is an all-year, all-around discipline for the follower of Jesus. Stewardship is the responsible planning and management of the resources God has blessed each of us with individually, and collectively, as the body of Christ. Yes, that certainly includes our financial resources, but it also includes our property, health, environment, intellect, and time. For anything we do that is an all-year, all-around discipline, it involves training, and stretching, and refocusing of our minds, bodies and spirits.

Join us at the ACP Ministry Fair on 30 September and take the first step in deepening and strengthening your relationship with God – visit the different tables and find out how you can share your blessings with the ACP. As Frederick Buechner, the American writer and theologian, wrote in *Wishful Thinking : A Theological ABC*: “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

Where is God calling you?

How do you use the blessings Christ has shared with you?
Share your blessings with a Gift of Service through the ACP.

*ACP Ministry Fair : 30 September*
*Grow in your faith, walk with Christ*
*Be a blessing to Paris and the World!*
Nominating Committee
Ursula Perrier and Jonathan Wheeler

Are you interested in serving at ACP in some capacity, but aren’t sure who to contact, or how to find the right fit? Do you have a special skill or talent that you would like to share?

Throughout the year the Nominating Committee connects people to serve on one of the ACP Committees, or participate in the various ACP projects and activities.

Get Connected!
Contact us at nominating@acparis.org
and please stop by our table at the Ministry Fair on 30 September!

Community Life
Camilla Macfarlane and Nathaniel Akajuobi

New Members Orientation Class
16 Sept at 12h30 in the Library

Discover the benefits of ACP membership!
Perhaps you would like to become either a full member or an affiliate member of ACP.
Please RSVP to communitylife@acparis.org so we can have a packet ready for YOU!
Our New Member Confirmations will be held at the on 30 September during the services.

ACP Ministry Fair!
On 30 September, after the 11h00 service in the Theatre come browse and talk with members and leaders about all the ministries that ACP has to offer. Find groups, activities, studies, and many other ways to participate or to share your time and talents!

I want to be a Coffee Hour Meeter, Greeter!
Don’t be shy!!! Your welcoming smile and a quick introduction is just what a newcomer is looking for. It is a MOST important ministry that EVERYONE can share in.
Sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Table.

Leaders Wanted for Mid-Week Supper Club
Would you be interested in helping to put together a Wednesday Night Christian Supper Club? Come discuss work and faith issues with a Christian viewpoint over dinner and/or drinks at a local café. Email Camilla at communitylife@acparis.org if this is something you would like to be a part of!

Rummage Sale Collections
Don’t know what to do with extra stuff that is just taking up room? Donate it to us! Collections will take place every Sunday at the coffee hours or by appointment. Items will be sold by donation to persons in need, and all proceeds will go to our missions! Items must be in good condition. Rummage Sale is being planned for January!
For more details contact us at communitylife@acparis.org
Christian Education
Anne Speicher and Lori Kolo

Thurber Thursday
Lecture Series starts 20 September!
Lecture encounters with famous scientists, theologians, authors, missionaries and other fascinating people!
Come join us for our new season starting 20 Sept at 18h30 (for dinner, with a 5€ donation) and lecture at 19h30.

(for a more complete Fall schedule, see Upcoming Events Section!)

20 Sept ~ Dr. Angela Hancock
The Rev. Dr. Angela Dienhart Hancock is an ordained Minister in the Presbyterian Church. She earned her bachelor’s in music from Indiana University, and M.Div. and Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary, where she won prizes in preaching and church music. Her dissertation is a contextual interpretation of Swiss theologian Karl Barth’s “emergency” venture into the field of practical theology at the University of Bonn in the early 1930s, based on unpublished archival material. Hancock’s next project extends her work on Karl Barth and preaching to the North American context, tentatively titled, “Preaching in Tongues: Post-liberalism and the Rhetoric of the North American Pulpit.”

27 Sept ~ Patti Lafage and Francis Cobbinal
Our very own ACP Members and Missionaries will share their experiences, stories and upcoming needs regarding being a missionaries and teachers in Africa. (Read Patti’s latest article on page 13!)

Fall Reading
King’s Cross by Timothy Keller
This book will supplement the Fall Sermon Series, on the Gospel of Mark. King’s Cross leaves readers from atheist to Christian grappling with the nature and implications of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Divided into two parts, the first~ “The King,” discusses Jesus’ identity, reminding readers that, “You are made to enter into a divine dance with the Trinity” (p. 10), while the second part, “The Cross,” discusses Jesus’ purpose.

Order your copy today!
Perhaps you would like to discuss this book in a Small Group?
If so, let us know. We will set it up, if you want to host!
Worship and Music
Anna Zweede and Chad DuBose

The WMC looks forward to a new season of service!

This very special month of September will bring the double blessing of reconnections, since some of us have been away over the summer, and connections with newcomers.

We are especially grateful to all those who will continue their contribution to worship at the ACP throughout the coming year.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of the “rentrée” dynamic to consider the wealth of opportunities that we all have.

Perhaps the Greeter-Usher Ministry, one of the Children’s Choirs, the Adult Choir, one of the Handbell Choirs, Still Point (Contemporary Service Band), the Technical Support Team, the Altar Guild and/or the Docent Ministry is beckoning to you!

Please contact worshipandmusic@acparis.org for information, and please stop by the WMC table at the Ministry Fair on 30 September!

Communications
John Newman and Alison Benney

Interested in helping out this year?

We coordinate and support communications activities at ACP, which includes the website; the monthly Spire newsletter; the biweekly radio show, Faith Talk from Paris; social media channels, Facebook, Twitter and Yelp; the monthly What’s On calendar; and the members database.

We also support the weekly bulletin and church brochures.

If you would like to volunteer on any of these projects, come along to our table at the Ministry Fair and say hello!
Mission Outreach
Carolyn Bouazouni and Anne Mildred

The MOC focus for 2012-2013, is to be committed to God’s work in mission by feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, aiding the poor, caring for the widows and elderly, providing restoration and reform for the prisoners, giving medicinal care for the sick, assisting the refugees, encouraging the downhearted, mentoring the young.....

If you would like to contribute or donate in any way to the below missions, please contact us at missionoutreach@acparis.org and we will connect you to the lay-leader in charge.

Local Missions

Friday Mission Lunch Program: The American Church is grateful for volunteers and helping hands every Friday.

Foyer de Grenelle is a Christian inspired social center that provides the needy with meals, mailing addresses for the homeless and assistance to the unemployed. Perhaps you would like to help with the Wednesday Dinners, afternoon babysitting or even become a co-lay leader!

Love in a Box offers needy children colorfully wrapped Christmas presents. You can help by donating items, filling, and wrapping these gifts.

Refugee Ministry offers practical and legal information twice a month at ACP for free. Help in assembling packets and other secretarial help would be welcomed.

SOS Help is an English language telephone service providing anonymous, and confidential listening to those in need. Volunteers can serve as trained listeners, book sales and more.

Global Missions

Beit El Safa in Beirut, houses 15 girls, who are victims of domestic violence. You can help by contributing to their operating costs and renovation projects.

The Cameroonian Presbyterian Church is constructing a church building for its growing French community. They are in need of building supplies! Let us help them get a roof!

Habitat for Humanity seeks to give shelter to families in need. Each summer teams of volunteers from ACP work at home building sites.

King’s Garden Children’s Home is a Christian home which provides health and educational opportunities for abused, impoverished or enslaved children in the Philippines. You can help by collecting clothes, toys and school supplies.

The Living Truth Foundation in Ghana, directed by a former ACP member, conducts outreach in hospitals, prisons and to youth. Help by donating books for prisoners or with funds to purchase land for the construction of a church and a home for released prisoners.

The Rafiki Foundation provides a home, education, and healthcare to more than 525 orphans in ten countries in Africa. Patti Lafage is looking for financial support and instrument donations. See her article on page 13!
Keeping up with Patti!
At Rafiki Village in Uganda

In September 2011, Patti Lafage flew to Uganda to join the Rafiki Village. Rafiki, was built in 2003, is now home to orphans and local children who attend their schools. On these pages, Patti shares stories of “how God has been working to help (her) contribute to His transforming love in Africa.”

Music at Rafiki Village Uganda

Saturdays are very special for 17 of our students at Rafiki Village. As soon as they have finished breakfast, the children find brooms, mops, and buckets to clean the school buildings, or else hoes and baskets to help the full-time gardeners keep our beautiful grounds as neat as can be.

But Yoweri and Kasozi have a special task: transforming the dining room into a concert hall. Teacher Peter, arrives to find his musicians waiting for “Orchestra”. Yes, in addition to music theory classes, recorder playing, piano lessons and choir held during the week for all of our students, Peter devotes his Saturdays to our Children’s Orchestra Project. Seventeen girls and boys have been selected for the Orchestra on based on their talent, dedication and discipline.

The Orchestra Project is ambitious. Under Peter’s direction, the members have learned about the workings of a symphonic orchestra through listening, watching and studying video recordings of New York Philharmonic’s Young People’s Concerts and participating in an orchestra featuring only recorders. Peter has composed several pieces specifically for this “orchestra,” enabling the children to learn to play together and perform.

The time has now come to move ahead to the next level for this orchestra. We need instruments – of course – and we are off to a good start. Friends of Rafiki have donated eight instruments so far. They have just arrived at the Village, giving rise to excitement and expectation on the part of the children. However, more are needed: 6 violins, 2 clarinets, 2 oboes, 2 flutes and a trumpet.

A number of local Ugandan musicians are ready to give of their time and make the 40 mile round trip from Kampala to teach the children. Indeed, they are enthusiastic about the project since many deplore the lack of means for classical musical education in the government school system, so severely taxed by a demographic boom in the school age population.

The Rafiki Children’s Orchestra project is unique. Kampala’s Makerere University’s music program only teaches traditional music, and therefore little possibility for the study of classical. Rafiki’s project to nurture young musical talent through classical music is a singular opportunity to make a difference.

Meet Kizito, eleven years old. Already an accomplished pianist, he loves improvisation and has even composed a symphony. Kizito dreams of learning to play the violin and participating in the Rafiki Children’s Orchestra. **Can you help?** Do you have a musical instrument that you no longer use? Give it a second life and enable a child to develop musically through Rafiki Uganda’s ambitious Orchestra Project.

Contact Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org and help make a difference!
Beeman in Bujumbura
with World Relief Burundi

Michael Beeman moved to Bujumbura, Burundi as a volunteer with World Relief Burundi, where he has spent the last 6 months working with the local church to empower church leaders, support the health system, and rebuild the lives of refugees. Michael shares how the global church is transforming lives—not to mention how it is teaching him a thing or two.

Turikumwe

I wish I had paid more attention to those who told the younger me that time will move more quickly as you get older. Six months at World Relief Burundi came and went in early July when I returned Stateside. My work in Burundi with the support of ACP has opened a door into a lifestyle I could not have imagined just a few years ago. While my submissions to the Spire will end, and I find myself in yet another country, I say turikumwe, “separate, but together”.

With two months now between my departure and writing, I can say that I reflect mostly on the friendships I made in Burundi. My friendships with the university students in the English Club, the taxi drivers I came to know, the various guards on my street, the clerk at the corner general store, and most certainly, my colleagues at WR Burundi. These are the memories and moments most precious to my short séjour in Burundi, and I want to say thank you to ACP for supporting that development.

Equally so, the work has taught me much about God’s grace. The freedom in Christ renews and transforms lives, and I believe that God does so in infinite ways, whether through a large non-profit or an individual act of kindness. So, although I continue work to implement large projects that aim to transform lives, I remain prayerful and focused on how the “ordinary” relationships and run-ins of everyday life keep us all together, as one Church and one body, despite separation.
What Is the Pilgrimage of Santiago de Compostela?
By Tom Macfarlane

In English, it's called "the Way of St. James". Though the routes are numerous, they all terminate at the shrine to St. James the Greater, the Apostle James, in the city of Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain. This renowned Catholic pilgrimage has been made for well over a thousand years by millions of people; in 2010 alone, more than 250,000 pilgrims participated. In 1985, the city's Old Town was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Legend holds that in the year 813, a shepherd saw strange lights in a forest near the town. At the source of the lights, the shepherd discovered what was thought to be the burial site of the Apostle James; upon being reported to the local bishop, the remains were declared to be genuinely those of the Apostle. A cathedral was built on the spot where the remains were found.

During the early years of the American republic, John Adams wrote this excellent description of the history of the site:

I have always regretted that we could not find time to make a Pilgrimage to Saintiago de Compostella. We were informed, ... that the Origin of this Shrine and Temple of St. Iago was this. A certain Shepherd saw a bright Light there in the night. Afterwards it was revealed to an Archbishop that St. James was buried there. This laid the Foundation of a Church, and they have built an Altar on the Spot where the Shepherd saw the Light. In the time of the Moors, the People made a Vow, that if the Moors should be driven from this Country, they would give a certain portion of the Income of their Lands to Saint James. The Moors were defeated and expelled and it was reported and believed, that Saint James was in the Battle and fought with a drawn Sword at the head of the Spanish Troops, on Horseback. The People, believing that they owed the Victory to the Saint, very cheerfully fulfilled their Vows by paying the Tribute. ...Upon the Supposition that this is the place of the Sepulchre of Saint James, there are great numbers of Pilgrims, who visit it, every Year, from France, Spain, Italy and other parts of Europe, many of them on foot.

Tradition says that the pilgrimage begins at your door and ends at the shrine to the Apostle, but the most celebrated route starts in northeastern Spain and runs east to west to the city. Masses are held daily for the pilgrims who arrive each day. A pilgrim can earn a “compostela” certificate (in Latin) if he or she has walked at least 100km or cycled at least 200km to Santiago de Compostela.

On the following pages, Suzannah Walsh, a recent visitor to ACP and active in our Young Adult Group, took this journey and shares some of her wonderful experiences.
Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage
Suzannah Walsh, Melbourne Australia
Recent ACP visitor

Since I became friends with God in May 2011 my life has changed drastically, both on the inside and the outside. By Christmas last year I had separated from my husband, quit my job, packed my bags and was at Taize monastery in the south of France. It was the beginning of my year-long pilgrimage to get to know God and myself. Many revelations and adventures have ensued, including spending a very memorable and nourishing six weeks at ACP in May and June.

I was pretty exhausted when I arrived in Paris because I spent the month before sleeping in a different bed every night and walking over 800 kilometres across northern Spain. My aim was to immerse my body and soul in Jesus’ life-giving grace, to put myself wholeheartedly in His hands. I set off on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage trail on Easter Monday and exactly a month later was all teary eyed in front of the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostella where Saint James the apostle’s remains are believed to be interned. I hope my account of a few of the highlights might inspire you to launch out on your own unique pilgrimage someday soon.

Singing in the Rain ...

After launching out on a blissfully sunny day it quickly became clear that getting sunburnt was going to be the least of my worries. Being washed clean (as I liked to refer to it) by rain, drizzle, and even hail was my reality on the Camino de Santiago trail. So my naturally cheery disposition and passion for the outdoors really came in handy. For example, the ‘mud-foot-spa’ day, when I had hardly been able to contain my delight as the bizarre randomness of the situation I was in splashed all over my boots. I mean, there I was traipsing down a random path, somewhere along the coast of Spain with 4 soggy pilgrims ... how on earth did I end up here? So I was enthusiastically encouraging everyone along with comments like, ‘people pay big money to have their skin covered in mud back home and we’re getting this for free ... how lucky are we!’ Throw some karaoke into the mix and I was happy as a pilgrim in mud ... Ain’t no mountain high enough. Ain’t no road long enough. Ain’t no mud patch wide enough ... to keep me from you, James!

Interestingly, I didn’t meet any other active Christians along the way. I met people who had lost their faith, were burnt out, and had burning questions or life priorities that needed reorganising, and others still that were simply on holidays. I, myself was feeling strong and in a good headspace. My anxieties before setting out were ‘do I have it in me?’ Was I going to be able to survive with only 3 pairs of undies and a tatty old bra for 5 weeks? And what about feeling bored, cold, lost and alone?

Some days, I really don’t know what I would’ve done without the awesome distracting power of eye spy, 20 questions or my favourite Vineyard album. Inchng into town, usually around 15-18h, urging my tired legs on with promises of a hot shower and foot rub, mind over matter became necessary for survival. The end is in sight ... or is it? Often in towns the yellow guiding arrows which had stood out so clearly against the green and brown hues of the countryside, are easily lost amongst a barrage of colour and action. If it wasn’t for the fabulous, friendly locals and their enthusiasm for giving long-winded directions with exaggerated arm gestures I would never have made it to Santiago.
Some hardcore pilgrims like Carlos, Markus and Nacho, believe it is necessary to walk every step of the Camino. I, on the other hand, am less hardcore; everyone does their own camino, their own way. Some prefer not to use guidebooks or maps, some have their packs couriered to the next town by car, whilst others ride their bike. Occasionally, there are those of us who upon being confronted by blisters, hail, fatigue and language barriers, might accept the offer of a lift in a luxurious German tourist bus or enjoy the scenery from a warm, dry seat in a local train, bus or taxi. I also had big plans to include a donkey, horse, limousine and piggy back ride to my list of pilgrim transport utilised, but alas, the donkeys in Spain just don’t speak my language. Here is my confession. Of the 802kms, approximately 50 were ‘walked’ on wheels.

God is always in our lives, on the Camino though I felt His presence so tangibly every day. Along the way He taught me about trust and that He will always provide for me. Picture this; there I am leaning against a stop sign observing the hustle and bustle of a local Sunday market and pondering the fact that I have no nuts ... I always carried nuts! When a man with kind eyes and a big smile approaches me, he speaks to me energetically in Spanish and I respond enthusiastically with ‘si, si’ although have not understood anything. Then he turns, scoops up a double handful of nuts from his stand and fills my pockets til they are overflowing. I know right! Our God is awesome! But wait, there’s more. Another day, I had everything I needed for my picnic lunch except for the most important item, bread. I sensed a car approaching behind me and so moved to the side of the track. The car slowed down and as I turned to say hola I was greeted by a fresh bread roll being thrust out of the window. Was God providing for me or what! Amazing!

The Camino for me was a journey towards freedom. Some of the moments that best represent the freedom and peace I felt were when I stopped for lunch. I would find a super special spot, for example a comfortable rock or patch of grass on the side of the road with a stunning view across a valley and over to the mountains. Graceful ... serene ... still. A gentle breeze, two birds playing tag in the tree. Breathe it in. I also cherish the freedom I felt during an uplifting sing-a-long with friends or alone. Dancing my way along a path lined with trees, stone walls and luscious green fields, using my walking stick as a microphone and belting out I’m too sexy, for Milan, New York and Japan ... and I shake my little tush on the Camino ... priceless! There were tough times too of course, tears, periods of doubt, pain and bucket loads of rain, fatigue, fear, and ‘this was a stupid idea, what on earth am I doing this for?’ But walking each day with Jesus AND the Holy Spirit AND God by my side, and taking it one step at a time, it was indeed possible to keep singing ... even in the rain.

Zan walked the Camino del Norte and Camino Primitivo trails.
If you would like any perspective or information from her, she would look forward to hearing from you at suzannah_walsh@yahoo.com.au
NEW TO PARIS? Jump-start your social and professional network at BLOOM! This is Paris’ foremost opportunity for individuals, couples and families to launch a great Parisian experience!

Saturday, 6 October 2012
9h ~ 18h30

Pre-registered participation fees
Individuals €45  Children €15 each

Program includes the Bloom Book, lunch, and a wine & cheese tasting. Child program includes kid-friendly, age appropriate activities and lunch.

Online Registration and Payment: bloom.acparis.org
Contact: acpbloom@yahoo.com

Interested in being part of a choir?

Adult Choir meets on Wednesday evenings.
Hand bells Choirs meet during week ~
Beginning Handbells on Thursday afternoons, Celebration Ringers on Mondays and the advanced Bronze Ringers on Thursdays

Message Music Director Fred Gramann for details on how to join!
music@acparis.org

Stop by our table and the Ministry Fair too!
“Food for the Soul”

The African Fellowship invites you to join them in studying the book of Daniel. The topic is being a foreigner in a foreign land, which is something many of us here at ACP can identify with!

Meet new people and learn what the Bible has to say with this fun and dynamic group that meets at 12h30 in G7.

Additionally, all are invited to our monthly luncheon on the first Sunday of every month.

(A small donation is requested for the lunch)

ACP Café announces Burger Night!

Friday, 21 September in the Courtyard at 7h30

Celebrate! Come for fun, music, burgers, chips and drinks!
(for a small donation!)

Men’s Ministries are looking for a few good servers and cleaner uppers!

Contact Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org if you can come along for the fun and lend a hand!

From our 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.

James 5:13-16 (NIV)

13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
Youth and Young Adult Activities in September
by Lisa Prevett

Young Adult Events (18-30yrs)

Tuesday 4  19h30-21h00  “Rentrée” gathering in the Catacombs and courtyard
Sunday 9  15h00  Sunday Social!  Meet after the 13h30 service at ACP
Tuesday 11  18h00-21h00  Pizza night in the Thurber Room
Monday 17  19h00-21h00  Pub Theology in O’Brien’s pub, Rue St.Dominique
Tuesday 18  19h30-21h00  Bible Study in the Catacombs
Tuesday 25  18h00-21h00  Pizza night in the Thurber Room
Friday 28  20h00  Faith in Film in the Catacombs

Come and join us every Tuesday for either Bible Study, or Pizza Night, as we share fellowship and conversation.

For Pizza Night come at 18h00 to help cook and from 19h00 for dinner and fellowship.

Youth Events (13-18yrs)

Sunday 2  15h00  Youth Leaders team meeting and lunch at the Haugh’s
Sunday 9  15h00-17h00  “Rentrée” youth family picnic at parc des Invalides
Sunday 16  15h00-17h30  Youth Group “Lycée” and “Collège”  Both groups begin in the Catacombs
Saturday 22  19h00  Bowling Blast: open to both Lycée and Collège groups
Sunday 23  15h00-17h30  Youth Group “Lycée” and “Collège”  Both groups begin in the Catacombs
Sunday 30  15h00-17h30  Youth Group “Lycée” and “Collège”  Both groups begin in the Catacombs

Youth Group meets on Sundays from 15h00-17h30 for fun, fellowship and bible study in the Catacombs. Please feel free to bring friends along – they are always welcome at ACP events!

Contact Rev. Dan Haugh (youthpastor@acparis.org) for more information about Youth and Young Adult events. You can also follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/danhaugh), visit the “Youth Ministry” section of the ACP website, or join our online community on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/groups/acpyouthgroup/
**ACP American Dance Team**

This non-competitive team meets once a week in the ACP Gym to dance current trendy moves to the latest tunes. It is one hour of choreography, pom and non-pom routines, at 10h00 to 11h00 on Saturdays, starting 15 September.

Program follows school calendar except the Saturday before school vacations. This activity is free and open to girls ages 13 to 17 years. Regular attendance and purchase of practice uniform required. There is a performance presentation for Christmas and in the Spring, and a short promo video will be shot in September for the Church web site!

To register and for more information contact: shannon@ocd.fr

**Youth and Children's Choirs**

Lifting a joyful noise unto the or through voice and instrument, in praise, prayer, and thanksgiving.

Programs start Wednesday, 12 September for all ages!
- Children’s Handbells 14h00-15h00
- Children’s Choir (ages 7-12) 15h00-16h00
- Youth Choir and Handbells (teens) 16h00-18h30

For further information, including Cherub (ages 4-6) start dates and times, contact Bonnie Woolley at youthmusic@acparis.org

**Americans!**

**Are you registered to vote in the upcoming election?**

U.S. citizens, the deadline for participating in Election 2012 is fast approaching. The Union of Overseas Voters will be registering voters and providing write-in absentee ballots for the upcoming Presidential and Congressional elections on **9 September and 16 September** at the coffee hours of both the 11h00 service and the 13h30 service.

All U.S. citizens who will be 18 years of age on November 6 can register. New federal legislation now makes it imperative that you file an absentee ballot request every year, even if you voted in 2008 or 2012. If you haven’t requested your absentee ballots for 2012, now is the time to do it!

These elections are about your future! The U.S. will elect the President, Vice-President, the entire U.S. House of Representatives, and one-third of the U.S. Senate. A number of gubernatorial races will also be decided, as well as those for state offices around the country. Don’t miss this opportunity to make your voice heard!

The Union of Overseas Voters is a non-partisan, non-profit association based in Paris and governed by U.S. citizens living abroad.
The Atelier Concert Series

2 September at 17h – Sanctuary – free admission
Marie CARLSSON, piano
“A Musical Portrait of Frédéric Chopin”
The most beautiful works: nocturnes, valses, études, mazurkas...

9 September at 17h – Sanctuary – free admission
Harumi KINOSHITA, harpsichord
Music by Purcell, Bach, Handel and others

16 September at 17h – Sanctuary – free admission
Virginie TURBAN, violin
Philippe PENNANGUER, cello
Janis BILHAUT, piano
Trio no.1 for strings and piano in D minor, op. 63 by Robert Schumann
Trio for piano and strings in G minor, op.3 by Ernest Chausson

23 September at 17h – Sanctuary – free admission
Elisa DOUGHTY, soprano
Charlotte BONNEU, piano
"La Belle Epoque"
Music by Debussy, Hahn, Messager, Chabrier, Poulenc,
Delibes, De Falla and Ravel

30 September at 17h – Sanctuary – free admission
Carolyn SHUSTER FOURNIER, organ
Works by Bach, Handel and Vivaldi

SPECIAL CONCERT
Saturday, 8 September 20h – Sanctuary – free admission
The University of the Philippines Singing Ambassadors
From classical favorites to Filipino folksongs –
A great concert for the whole family!

A free-will offering will be taken for all Atelier Series Concerts.
Your donations are greatly appreciated!
“ACP Today ~ Faith Talk from Paris”

Have you tuned into ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show yet? The shows are broadcast the first and third Mondays of each month at 20h45. The 45-minute program is an exciting and inspiring mix of music, interviews, sermon highlights and discussion on hot topics.

Tune to 100.7 FM on the radio dial, Radio Fréquence Protestante, and let friends know who may be housebound, or who would simply like more devotional time on a Monday evening, for ACP Today ~ Faith Talk from Paris! Past shows are available on the ACP website, too!

If you have any questions or comments, be sure to contact us at acptoday@acparis.org.

Walking Tour

If you weren't able to take the August tour commemorating the St Bartholomew's Day Massacre, here's another chance!

This free walking tour will be given again on Sunday, 23 September, starting at 15h15 from the square in front of St Germain-des-Prés church in the 6th arrondissement. The walk lasts about 2-1/2 hours, ending near the Louvre.

Please reserve ASAP as group size is limited.
For further information or to reserve:
elainasaunt@gmail.com

Congratulations to ACP Member Darrell Strobel!

For his many and impressive achievements, Darrell Strobel is awarded the 2012 Gerald P. Kuiper Prize in Planetary Sciences.

The Gerard P. Kuiper Prize, was established by the Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) of the American Astronomical Society, to recognize and honor outstanding contributors to planetary science. It is to be awarded to scientists whose achievements have most advanced our understanding of the planetary system. This prize is awarded annually (or less frequently).

Darrell Strobel is undoubtedly one of the most insightful and influential scientists in the field of planetary aeronomy, for which he clearly appears as one of the founding fathers. He has attracted to the field, and guided with dedication, many young planetary scientists, almost all of whom moved to very successful careers.
ACP Bible Studies and Other Discussion Groups

ACP SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY will be reading Ecclesiasticus or The Wisdom of Ben Sirach, not to be confused with Ecclesiastes, and not contained in our Protestant bibles. This text, 51 chapters long, written around 180 BC, can be downloaded at www.catholicdoors.com/bible/sirach.htm. The class, led by Tom Johnson and Kristie Worrel, meets in G2 between services at 10h15 – 11h00. Everyone is welcome to attend.

ACP SUNDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY: meets at 12h30 in G7. All are welcome to join us in the study of the book of Daniel as it relates to a common situation: being foreigners in a foreign land and how to apply God’s word in everyday life.

ACP FILIPINO FELLOWSHIP BIBLE STUDY: All are welcome to attend. Study begins Sundays at 14h00 in the Thurber Room. Contact Virginia Jacinto for more details.

ACP TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY will recommence on Tuesday, 11 September with a study of Ephesians. All are welcome! We will be using Warren Wiersbe’s book: Be Rich: Gaining the Things That Money Can’t Buy. Participants will be responsible for purchasing their own copy (available via internet or through WH Smith bookstore). Come along even if you don’t yet have a copy of the book. We’re good at sharing! The study runs from 10h30-12h30 every Tuesday morning except during school holidays in the catacombs of the church building. Childcare is available for a minimal fee. For more information please contact Jennifer Jourlait.

ACP MEN’S GROUP: Come for coffee, conversation, prayer and fellowship. Any men interested in further information, address and door codes, or in being added to our e-mail list, should contact Ed Hyslip.

Independent Christian Prayer Groups and Bible Study Activities

MOMS IN PRAYER INTERNATIONAL has come to Paris! Are you concerned about your kids? Would you like to join with other moms as we lift up our cares and concerns for our children and their schools to our loving Father? Experience the joy of replacing anxiety with peace and hope when we pray together. Contact Caroline at MomsInPrayerParis@gmail.com for information and join us Tuesday mornings at 9h30 in G2. See also MomsInPrayer.org

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP (BSF INTERNATIONAL) What a great way to discover the gift of God’s Word through BSF’s interdenominational and international Bible studies! This Paris class brings together 50 or so women for in-depth Bible study every Monday evening from 19h00 to 20h50.

NEW GROUPS ARE FORMING! Are you interested in forming or finding a group that fits your schedule? Contact communitylife@acparis.org for information on how to do go about it!
ACP Groups and Additional Fun Activities

**WRITER’S GROUP** meets the second Saturday of the month 14h00 – 17h00 in room G2. Contact Laura Kerber.

**MULTICULTURAL COUPLES POTLUCK** will resume in October!

**RUNNING TEAM** will resume in October. More news in the next Spire!

**THE KNITTING GROUP** will resume meeting on Monday, 10 September. We welcome all newcomers whether beginners or experts or somewhere in between. Some of us even crochet, quilt and cross stitch. Bring your own project and find new friends. For more information contact Antoinette Wolfe or Nancy VerWest.

**THE QUILTING GROUP** will begin meeting on Tuesday, 4 September. All quilters are welcome to this organizational meeting to find a direction for the group. So bring any UFO’s and ideas and we’ll get started. Please contact Nancy VerWest for more information.

**MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP**: The movie group's choices for September are:
- *Magic Mike* by Steven Soderbergh,
- *La Vierge, les Coptes et Moi* by Namir Abdel Messeeh,
- *Margaret* by Kenneth Lonergan,
- *Monsieur Lazhar* by Philippe Falardeau.

See any or all in the cinema at your convenience, then join the group for discussion on Thursday, 13 September, at 19h30 in basement room G2 - or the courtyard if the weather's nice!

Volunteering and Outreach

**CHILDREN’S WORSHIP**: Children's Worship Needs You! Training 15 September!

Volunteers are asked to commit to serving approximately two Sundays every 6-8 weeks. Our Fall training will be held on 15 September from 9h00-12h00. For more information, please contact Jeanette at childrensworship@acparis.org.

**GREETING AND USHERING**: We are seeking new members for this group. If you are interested in participating, please contact Anna Zweede at musicandworship@acparis.org

**FRIDAY MISSION LUNCH AT ACP**: The Mission Lunch Program provides a hot, nutritious and free lunch, every Friday to those in need. Volunteers are needed every week for cooking, serving and cleaning-up. Contact Kristie at missionoutreach@paris.org

**HOSPITALITY TEAM** needs help for set up, cooking and cleaning up for Thurber Thursday events. Please contact Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org if you would like to become part of this team! There are extra special blessings for clean up people too!

**BLOOM**: If you are interested in being a volunteer for this upcoming event, please let us know at communitylife@acparis.org. We need volunteer help in many different areas!
Nico Poux

The Poux family are long-time members of ACP, where they were very active before moving to CA., two years ago, and ACP is still their emotional church home. Perhaps, some of you remember that seven years ago, their son, Nico was diagnosed with leukemia. The following is from a blog: http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/nicopoux, which Liz writes that keeps everyone up to date with the latest news about Nico.

Happy Birthday Boris!

We found out last year that the two umbilical cords that Nico was to receive for his bone marrow transplant were from Slovakia and Taiwan. That information was supposed to remain secret so the doctors refused to tell us the nationality of the cord that became dominant. Since Nico is proud to be French and because France is in Europe, Nico decided that the marrow that “won” was from Slovakia. The most Eastern European name that he could dream up was “Boris”, so that is he named his marrow.

We threw a party for Nico the weekend before, but Philippe, Alex and Isabelle were not there. They had left the day before, for France. Nico was dreadfully sad when we dropped them off at the airport because he was tired of being “left behind”. I don’t think I can properly describe his feelings after a year of staying at home while the rest of us went to church, school, work, ran errands, visited friends, etc. Only those who have been house bound or on house arrest could understand. For me, the day was like Good Friday: heavy, depressing, hard to manage. But like the good news of Easter, I knew that things would change dramatically.

On Boris’s birthday, we drove to Yosemite. The views of the granite mountains and beautiful waterfalls reminded us of the wonder and majesty of God. Linda, Jeff (my sister and brother-in-law) and I marveled as Nico scrambled up and down rocks, biked the valley trails, and swam in the lodge pool. His energy and enthusiasm were remarkable and for one glorious weekend, Nico was able to put aside his chronic fatigue. We spent the weekend thanking and praising God.

This time last year, Nico had just completed the chemotherapy and total body radiation. His mouth was pitted with massive cold-sores and he was very sick. His health continued to decline through the beginning of July 2011, battling blood poison in the hospital’s intensive care unit because his immune system was inoperative. To see Nico enjoying the national park one year later was, and continues to be cause for praise.

What joy we all experienced that birthday weekend. We praised God for the beauty of his creation and for carrying Nico though the past year. You all are also a blessing to us and we are so very grateful for your faithful prayers. We certainly feel that Nico’s current good health is indeed an answer to prayer, and that his story inspires people to continue to believe that God answers prayer and that God is good......even if the circumstances are not.
Getting to know ~ Freda L. Changat

ACP — It's About Family

Becoming a volunteer to the Children Sunday Worship has been the best experience I could have ever encountered at ACP. Being with the kids, storytelling, and greeting the happy faces of every parent who brings their children to the children’s fellowship is such a great joy! It’s truly a place where each child can make friends and experience the meaning of Christian formation regardless of color, race and language. Every child is free to "wonder" if God is black, white, yellow or brown...

How do you describe this thing — the American Church in Paris or as many call it, the ACP — that pulls you into its web? Many people who come the first time are encouraged to come back and become a part of the church family. Yes, many consider it their family —their home, their place of belonging every Sunday. Men, women, youth and children that speak Spanish, German, French, Dutch, Tagalog, Russian, Japanese, Chinese, English, and many other languages gather each Sunday to celebrate their faith in Jesus Christ. More than twenty-five countries from around the world are represented. It’s almost like a mini United Nations. And “united” is really what they are. The political divisions that seem so troublesome around the world move to the background as people come together as “brothers” and “sisters” in the family called ACP.

It was through a friend’s invitation that I came to know about this church for one year and seven months. When I came to Paris after finishing my TESOL course study in Barcelona, I was led to this house of worship. It has become a family to me, a place I run to when I need a word of encouragement and when I need to feel safe.

When you’re away from home and your family, there are two things I think you miss the most: the food from home and hearing your mother tongue. ACP is a truly home away from home where people will often get together to celebrate their food and language and to share God’s love. I’m thankful too for finding the Filipino Fellowship in this international church in Paris.

Most of us are looking for answers to the meaning of life. Some of us have come to Paris for that very reason. We may have visited to Lourdes, France to experience miracles. Some might have traveled to Tibet or China to see if the wise men in those mysterious places can shed some light on how to live and know inner peace. ACP for many is a journey. We come from traditions that were important to our parents but seem to have little meaning to us. Not having the luxury of choosing our brand of religion from back home, we find ourselves drawn into this collection of people from all over the world that are also on a spiritual journey. The American Church in Paris — it’s about family, it’s about home, it’s about a journey, but most importantly it’s about God.
ACP’s Fall Retreat in Houlgate, Normandy

26-27 of October

Join us at ACP’s All-Church Retreat!
Pastor Glen Thorp will be leading us as we spend a weekend in fellowship exploring "Spiritual Gifts".
Registration will open soon.
If you feel called to serve as the Fall Retreat Coordinator, please contact us at christianeducation@acparis.org.

Upcoming Thurber Thursday Events and More!

20 September - Dr. Angela Hancock

27 September - Patti Lafage and Francis Cobbinal

4 October - Dr. Woodberry from Fuller on Christianity and Islam

11 October - Enuma Okoro on her upcoming book, Silence...

18 October - Glen Thorp on Spiritual Gifts, part I
25 October - Glen Thorp on Spiritual Gifts, part II

1 November - Toussaint holiday (church closed)
8 November - Toussaint holiday (no Thurber Thursday)

15 November - TBA

22 November - Thanksgiving Special Outreach Event (not a Thurber Thursday!)

24 November - Saturday 19h30 Thanksgiving Dinner

November 29 - TBA

December 6 - TBA

December 13 - TBA

December 20 - All Church Christmas Party

December 27 - Christmas holidays (no Thurber Thursday)
Thanksgiving Planning

If you would like to be on a committee for this incredible event, please email Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org.

We are looking for volunteers for set up, decorating, cooking, clean-up and breakdown.

Cooks and Clean Up volunteers eat for free! ;-)

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Advance Notice!!

November 1-4
AICEME Youth Conference in Wittenberg Germany.

Open to all "lyceé" students.

Please contact Rev. Dan Haugh for more information at YouthPastor@acparis.org
The Hospitality Team did a great job of organizing the **ACP’s 4th of July Party and Picnic**!

The weather held out and things went on as planned!

There were “three legged races, and red, white and blue cupcakes!

**Dr. Julie Canlis** gave a talk called, “Downloading Spirituality: Why Going to Church Doesn’t Seem to Matter in this Virtual Age” at ACP in July. Her talk was very thought provoking and all that were there enjoyed it thoroughly.

If you weren’t able to be there, you can download it at:


……..but still come to church on Sunday!

Everyone had a great time!

Thank you to

Kai-Marcel Grunert,

Elodie Lasserre

and Claudia Miranda!

Your efforts really made a difference!
July 8-22 Pastor Dan and a team of ten from the Youth Group, traveled to Gabon in Africa to do mission work with the organization Envision.

Read more about this in Dan’s article on page 4!

Habitat for Humanity went to Poland in August to work on a home being built there for a family in need.

All came home happy and enriched from this great experience!
The American Church in Paris is a member congregation of the Association of 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: http://aiceme.net/.

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