Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

This will be my sixth rentrée here in Paris. The famed rentrée, the “re-entry” of Parisians into the city from summer vacations to the beach, countryside or travels abroad, is an energizing experience. While on vacation this summer at Busch Gardens amusement park in Williamsburg, Virginia, the kids insisted that I try one of the most dizzying roller coasters in the world, called “Griffon.” Like most roller coasters, you are securely strapped in, but nothing can prepare you for this ride. It’s not called a “Dive Coaster” for nothing! After a long climb up to the top of a 62 meter “drop,” the Griffon roller coaster car slowly moves toward the crest of the first “dive” and just hangs there for a terrifying moment… then suddenly drops you free-fall at a speed of up to 114 kilometers per hour! Maybe it isn’t quite so terrifying as the Griffon, but the quick change from that moment of serene stillness to the rushing blur of speed and adrenalin is what the rentrée feels like for me each year.

Many of you have been through the rentrée and will take it all in stride. You have your coping mechanisms and support structures. But for some of you newcomers to Paris, this will be the first time to experience what can be a disorienting and hectic time. Everything is so different here! May I suggest that one of the ways in which you can “hang on” and enjoy the ride is to remember that God is in this place too! God loves the city, with all of its people, energy and creativity. Heaven will not be the quiet pastoral countryside, but a “city on a hill!” That means that as the people of God we are called to be resolute in our commitment to bless this city. God says through the prophet Jeremiah, “Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper” (Jer. 29:7, NIV). The word “peace” translated here is “shalom” in the Hebrew, and is also translated more generally in the NRSV as “welfare.” We are to be a people in the midst of all of the hectic hustle and bustle of the city who seek the welfare of all and who embody the peace of Christ for those around us. Perhaps this is a good “purpose statement” for us during the coming weeks: to “bless the city,” to “seek the peace and prosperity of the city,” and to “pray for Paris”?

Indeed, like any roller coaster ride, the time flies by quickly. The rentrée will be over before you know it! I hope that as a church, whether newcomers or old timers, we can “make the most of the time” as we enter into a new season of ministry and mission together. The month of September has a number of important opportunities for you to unpack fast and become involved, both in community and service. Please note that the Ministry Fair will take place on Sunday, 22 September. This will be a fun time for everyone to learn more about the ongoing and new ministry initiatives of the ACP. I recommend everyone considers the Worship +2 principle for spiritual growth. Commit to participating in corporate worship each week wherever you are; commit to a small group, Bible study or music group where you can receive encouragement and build relationships during the week; and commit to a ministry or mission activity or music group where you can give, sharing your gifts of time and talent to bless others. The Ministry Fair will help you make concrete decisions about the stewardship of your time and talents for the coming months. Please see the coming pages of the Spire for more details on lectures, concerts, studies, and other events here at the ACP in the coming month. It’s going to be exhilarating!

In the meantime, my prayer is that each of you will “enjoy the ride” of the rentrée, and be alert to the worship, ministry and mission opportunities we have to seek the peace and welfare of this city during this special time. Hanging on with you for another rentrée!

In Christ,

Thoughts from
The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor
September, 2013

[Signature]
Behind closed doors: 
Les Journées du Patrimoine

By Alison Benney

Ready for a free tour backstage at the Moulin Rouge? A peek inside the luxurious Banque de France? An explanation of how French metro train schedules are juggled? Get on your walking shoes the 14 and 15 September for the annual Journées du Patrimoine, when normally off-bounds buildings open their doors to the public.

Thousands of historical monuments, government buildings, theatres and a number of very unusual sites offer a privileged walk-through, a guided tour or in some cases workshops or concerts, for just one weekend a year, and the American Church takes part.

This year’s theme of “Heritage Days” celebrates 100 years of patrimoine protection, dating from the 1913 French law that spelled out exactly how a monument or historical object would be classified. Presently, there are over 14,000 classified historical monuments in France, and another 29,000 registered to be. Small numbers really, considering the rich historical treasures in Paris alone.

With so much to see, it’s best to consult the schedule (www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr) for this year’s Journées du Patrimoine or else check the newspapers for highlights. For instance, while the Paris Weekend blog recommends visiting the fascinating Musée des Moulages Dermatologiques in the 10th arrondissement or the Palais d’Iéna, why limit yourself to Paris? Learn how to make bread as they did in the 18th century in Calvados country, be entertained by music while you visit a funiculaire in the Pyrenees, or climb up to a 12th century chapel in the Corsican hills.

Creating an itinerary in advance is the most efficient way to get the most out of the weekend. Remember to plan for what is sometimes a matter of hours just standing in line, such as at the Elysée Palace, the Assemblée Nationale or to climb the Notre Dame tower. Furthermore, some events may require reservations, which quickly get filled up, like the visit to the clock tower at the Gare de Lyon or the RATP’s tour of the metros.

For those who would rather wander and bump into sites serendipitously, the City of Paris has mapped out 35 heritage trails (http://www.paris.fr/loisirs/se-promener-a-paris/the-paris-heritage-strolls) to explore the city on foot or by bicycle. For instance, check out the vestiges of ancient Paris on the walk “From Rue Saint-Jacques to Rue Monge” or the tour of preaching pulpits: “From Baroque to Art Deco: 10 Examples in Paris”. And of course there are a number of free apps to download, including the city’s Patrimap.

The American Church in Paris will offer guided tours from 10h-17h on Saturday, 14 September, including a rehearsal of our contemporary band from 12h to 14h. We get visits from curious neighbors and tourists from around the world – including those who hear about us from the presentations on the bateaux mouches. It’s a great time for the congregation to come and learn about our heritage, including our own classified Tiffany windows. Or if you’ve already taken a tour, volunteer and share your knowledge. Who knows what you may find behind closed doors?

If you’d like to volunteer for the Journées du Patrimoine at the ACP, contact Alison at communications@acparis.org
Ms. Leymah Gbowee speaks at ACP
Women's Rights Peace Activist
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, 2011

Ms. Leymah Roberta Gbowee will speak on Friday 27 September 17h00-19h00 in the ACP Sanctuary. The event is being organized by Agapé France and the young people's group of Protestants en fête.

Ms. Leymah Gbowee (pronounced LAY-mah BEAU-wee), a social worker by profession, led a women’s peace movement that helped bring an end to the Second Liberian Civil War in 2003 and laid the foundation for peace and a free election in 2005. Fellow activist, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, won the election, making Liberia the first African nation to have a female president. Ms. Gbowee, Ms. Sirleaf and Tawakkul Karman (from Yemen) were awarded the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize “for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women’s rights to full participation in peace-building work.”

Ms. Gbowee was a 17-year-old girl when the war first came to Monrovia. As the war dragged on, she had difficulty focusing on anything but her thwarted opportunities to go to college, and out of bitterness she dodged any political or social involvement. But as time wore on she came to see that it would be up to the citizens of Liberia, especially its women, to bring the country back from the insanity of civil war. She trained as a trauma counselor and worked with the ex-child soldiers of Charles Taylor’s army. The more she worked with them the more she came to see that they were too were victims.

Ms. Gbowee joined the Woman in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET) and quickly rose to leadership thanks to her leadership and organizing skills. She brought all the women of the Christian Churches together into a group called the Christian Women’s Initiative and began issuing a series of calls for peace. Soon she formed a coalition with the women in the Muslim organizations in Monrovia and eventually Liberian Mass Action for Peace came into being. Under her leadership the group managed to force a meeting with Charles Taylor and extract a promise from him to attend peace talks in Ghana. She then led a delegation of Liberian women to Ghana to continue to apply pressure on the warring factions during the peace process.

Ms. Gbowee is the author of a new memoir, Mighty Be Our Powers, co-authored by Carol Mithers, published by Beast Books. She has spoken publically numerous times on the issue of women in conflict situations. She has received numerous honors, including: the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011, the Blue Ribbon for Peace by Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, and the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award® on behalf of her countrywomen.

A selected list of honors includes:

Ms. Gbowee is the founder and executive director for Women, Peace and Security Network Africa (WIPSEN-A), a women-focused, women-led Pan-African non-governmental organization with the core mandate to promote women’s strategic participation and leadership in peace and security governance in Africa. She holds an MA in Conflict Transformation from Eastern Mennonite University. She is the mother of six and resides in Accra, Ghana.
Pray the Devil Back to Hell

The film Pray the Devil Back to Hell will be shown the evening of Thursday 26 September in the ACP Sanctuary. Admission is free, but reservations will be required.

Pray the Devil Back to Hell is the extraordinary story of a small band of Liberian women (Ms. Gbowee among them) who came together in the midst of a bloody civil war, took on the violent warlords and corrupt Charles Taylor regime, and won a long-awaited peace for their shattered country in 2003.

As the rebel noose tightened upon Monrovia, and peace talks faced collapse, the women of Liberia – Christian and Muslims united – formed a thin but unshakable white line between the opposing forces, and successfully demanded an end to the fighting – armed only with white T-shirts and the courage of their convictions.

In one remarkable scene, the women barricaded the site of stalled peace talks in Ghana, and announced they would not move until a deal was done. Faced with eviction, they invoked the most powerful weapon in their arsenal – threatening to remove their clothes. It worked.

The women of Liberia are living proof that moral courage and non-violent resistance can succeed, even where the best efforts of traditional diplomacy have failed.

Their demonstrations culminated in the exile of Charles Taylor and the election of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first female head of state, and marked the vanguard of a new wave of women taking control of their political destiny around the world.

This remarkable chapter of world history was on its way to being lost forever. The Liberian war and peace movement were largely ignored as the international press focused on Iraq. Moreover, the women's own modesty helped obscure this great accomplishment.

Pray the Devil Back to Hell reconstructs the moment through interviews, archival footage and striking images of contemporary Liberia. It is compelling testimony to the potential of women worldwide to alter the history of nations.

Additional information about Ms. Leymah Gbowee and Pray the Devil Back to Hell, including clips from interviews and the film, is available at: http://praythedevilbacktohell.com
Getting to know Andrea

Andrea Chaumont, our new Youth Intern, joined the ACP family over the summer. The Spire caught up with Andrea, as she prepares to start her internship, to find out more about the newest addition to our pastoral staff.

Q: Andrea, tell us more about yourself: what brings you to Paris?
A: I have been in Paris since August of 2009, but previously did an internship here from November of 2007-September of 2008. I am living in Paris because I met my husband here and got married two years ago. I am also currently a student at the Institute Protestant de Théologie.

Q: Where do you like to go to relax in Paris?
A: My favorite places in Paris are the parks, especially the Jardin de Luxembourg and Buttes Chaumont. I love going for a walk in a garden and sitting down to talk with a friend or read a good book. I also really like the local market and all the colors, sounds, smells and street performers you can find there!

Q: Do you have any hobbies?
A: My hobbies are mainly sports; I enjoy playing tennis, running and swimming. I also played a lot of competitive basketball when I was younger.

Q: How did you hear about the ACP Youth Intern position? What made you want to apply?
A: I heard about the ACP Youth Intern position when I stumbled into Dan’s office while waiting for a meeting at the church. I first asked Dan about basketball - I wanted to know if there were any intramural games. Then I came back a second time to explain that I was a theology student and was wondering if there was an internship position. Dan said that as a matter of fact, there was and they would soon be accepting applications. It turns out that Hanna (the previous intern) and I were studying at the same theology school, so we met to talk about the internship and I applied for the position shortly after.

Q: Do you have any expectations for your time here as Youth Intern?
A: I expect to grow a lot personally as well as to be able to use and put into practice what I am learning in school. I am hoping for a group that is fun but where we can also get to know God more and have authentic relationships with each other. One of my expectations is that we would be full of grace for each other and that we would discover together how much God loves us and what he calls us to. I am also hoping to invest in the leadership team and learn from Dan, who has a lot of youth ministry experience.

Q: What do you hope to bring to the ACP community during your time with us?
A: I hope to bring fresh teaching to the Youth as well as a presence during the Sunday services. I can offer the ability to understand cross-cultural living, having been in Paris now four years and in a cross-cultural family. I hope to bring my theological training into discussions with the Young Adults and Youth and also the ability to communicate in French and English.
Bloom Where You’re Planted

The premier orientation program for English-speaking newcomers ready to make the most of their new life in Paris

Connecting people in Paris for over 40 years!

Saturday
5 October 2013
9h to 18h30

Visit our website
bloom.acparis.org
Registration open
Space is limited so reserve soon!

The American Church in Paris
65 quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris, France
E-mail: bloom.acparis@gmail.com Tel: +33 1 40 62 05 00
How do you sum up a summer that has passed in a wink, especially when all that marks the passage of time is different?

Friends’ e-mails (how I do love them!) and Facebook posts from Paris decried the unusual (and rather awful, I gather) summer weather.” Since Uganda is on the equator, we don’t have summer (nor winter, nor spring, nor fall...). It is the short dusty dry spells, two each year, that are the seasons. We did have six weeks without rain this year but that is now just over so the Rafiki compound returned, almost overnight, to its lush green colors and red roads.

In June, all three of us permanent missionary staff somewhat reluctantly left our Village for biannual furlough. Directors Carolyn and Mike Enis went first, after giving “millions” of detailed instructions. I remained to welcome the “B Team”, a fantastic group of five former (read “retired”) Rafiki missionaries who came to replace us.

A few days later came a young first-time MiniMissionary who happened to be a math teacher and baseball coach. If ever we were tempted to think we were indispensable, once again God stepped right in to prove us wrong. This team planned and executed two weeks of GAMES activities, many of which were new and different. Sports, drama, picnic, talent show, movies, and art projects delighted the children and Mamas. The excited tales and written compositions when we returned attested to the fun and success of GAMES.

Furlough for me meant a short visit to Paris including a stay in the ACP guest apartment and a Sunday seeing many of you. Visits with all my children and grandchildren (including the brand new one) and many very dear friends on both sides of the Atlantic were a blessing, and I even sang with my old gospel choir. Then about 100 missionaries, directors and friends of Rafiki met at the Home Office in Florida for “Enrichment” training and fellowship.

School Term Three started immediately, on 3 July. It was time to take on, officially and entirely, my new job of Headmaster (as we call it here) of the school. It seems a huge assignment, added to the normal teaching load. Please pray for me to remember all the important details and to keep a serene and listening attitude as 24 teachers and 180 children come minute by minute for questions and help.

These last two months have also seen new arrivals. Four healthy new babies, including twin girls, have been born to Rafiki staff members. Two new Ugandan teachers have joined us in the Secondary School and Karen and Suzanne have just arrived from the US as new long-term missionary staff. Truly, God smiles on Rafiki.
Thoughts from Your
Moderator and Vice Moderator
Radford Laney and Pamela Bohl

As summer winds to a close it is exciting to begin la rentrée with welcoming events throughout ACP. The Council welcomed the new team with a social get-together on the banks of the Seine on the evening of 27 August. We look forward to our all day retreat together on Saturday, 21 September where we will prepare ourselves for the upcoming year of serving ACP together.

Sunday, 22 September is a big day too. The installation of the new council will be take place during the 11h service. Also, the Council will host the Ministry Fair in the theater from 12h30 to 14h00. All the council committees and other groups within ACP will be showcasing their projects and activities with the goal of welcoming new members and participants to join in the fun of being a part of the greater ACP community. We hope many of you will feel called to join a committee or group.

Blessings and welcome to all of you!

In His Service,
Radford Laney and Pamela Bohl

New Members Class

Would you be interested in becoming a member of the American Church? Come and join us on 29 September at 12h15 in the Library to find out what a full membership or an affiliate membership can mean for you.
ACP Ministry Fair
Sunday, 22 September

My mom has a clipping from the local newspaper in Iowa where I grew up of an article I wrote about how I was going to change the world. How ambitious I was as a child! Those dreams of feeding the hungry, helping the poor and hopeless, and... being a radio show host, have eroded over the years to a seemingly complacent acceptance of the world as it is. I found myself in a rut where I would take small actions toward these ideals, but they were far from the life mission they once were. I came to think this was a natural part of “growing up” and losing my naivety, but really I had lost hope in myself as a catalyst for change somewhere over the years.

Either way, I was wrong! I, a single human being, can make a difference. Yes, perhaps implementing a complete global halt to the use of pollutants may be a bit lofty of a goal to achieve in one lifetime, but I was given many gifts by God, as were you, that we can use to make a difference. How? Like me, I am sure you have a list of your personal “ministries” that represent your ideals, the things you believe in, and the impact you want to have. You can act on those ministries right here in our community. ACP is touching individuals, Paris and, ultimately, the world.

I invite you to attend the Ministry Fair on 22 September to find your place in the ministries of our community and to give your time and talents. Be as ambitious as a child and as dedicated as disciple. Be a catalyst for God’s will and a steward of his work. It is fun, rewarding, and a surprisingly fulfilling form of worship. Oh, and you may even have the chance to become a radio show host...I did!

If you would like to create a brochure for your ministry, please contact your committee chair.

Chris Pruszko

Groups and Activities at ACP

Knitting Group starts meeting again on 2 September. While we are primarily a knitting group, we have several new members who crochet, cross stitch and embroider. We knit for ourselves and/or church missions. We welcome all to our fun and diverse group. Contact Susan Owens for more information.

Quilting Group meets on Tuesday afternoons from 13h00 to 17h00 in a member's home for quilting and fellowship. We work on our own projects, teach each others new techniques and share information on new products. We also lend a hand with difficult aspects of a project. Tea is usually involved at some point during the gathering! If you love quilting or have a desire to learn quilting, we invite you to join with us for fun and fellowship. Pictured is Alice Charrington, who made her first quilt while attending the ACP Quilting Group. Contact bBnnie Smith for additional information.

Movie Discussion Group: The movie group's choices for September are: Jeune & Jolie by François Ozon, The World's End by Edgar Wright, Jimmy P (Psychothérapie d'un Indien des Plaines) by Arnaud Desplechin, and The Butler by Lee Daniels. See any or all in the cinema at your convenience, then join the group for discussion on Thursday, 19 September at 19h30 in the courtyard if weather permits, otherwise in basement room G2.

ACP Writers Group meets on the second Saturday of the month at 14h00 to 17h00 in room G2. Contact Laura Kerber at ApollinarisPatera@gmail.com.
The Multicultural Couples Group meets once a month for a convivial potluck supper held in the Thurber Room. We provide a platform for couples to exchange thoughts and experiences on the unique challenges they have encountered throughout the process of cultural adaptation.

Discussion topics we have shared include raising bicultural/bilingual children, cultural differences in holiday traditions and the challenges and joys of our families-in-law. We present information and resources which offer additional support and guidance. We also organize marriage enrichment seminars. Some of our special events have included a Thanksgiving potluck feast, a Christmas party, and a Valentine's Day date night. Our group has developed into a fellowship of couples of all ages, from diverse backgrounds and religions. New members are always welcome! For more information please contact Monica Bassett or Anja Wyss.

Communications Committee

“Join us for scripture, sermons, songs; debate, questions and - we hope - some answers. ACP Today: Faith talk from Paris.” That’s the introduction to the church’s bimonthly radio show but it could also be the motto for the American Church communications committee. Our team is in charge of producing the radio show, the Spire, the website and social media, and we try to make sure that both the content and the look of all ACP communications products express the church’s vision, mission and core values.

It’s exciting work and we welcome volunteers with skills and ideas to better communicate to the congregation and the community. Send us an email to communications@acparis.org if you’d like to help out or sit in on our next meeting. And be sure to tune in to ACP Today, on the first and third Mondays of each month at 20h45 on 100.7 FM.

Finance and Stewardship

The Finance and Stewardship Committee serves in an advisory and fiduciary role to ensure the financial well-being of the ACP for the benefit of our congregation and its ministries. This includes financial analysis and reporting as well as proactively seeking the financial and volunteer resources to support the growing endeavors of our Christian community.

We are actively looking to recruit additional committee members for either finance or stewardship. If you have finance or accounting skills, you would be an ideal addition to the team. We are particularly in need of accounting analysis and forecasting skills.

For our stewardship endeavors, we are looking for people passionate about supporting our church’s mission and ministries. Communication skills, innovative ideas to grow our resources, and enthusiasm are welcome. If you are interested in learning more about how you can serve with this committee, please contact us at financeandstewardship@acparis.org or visit our booth at the Ministry Fair.
Christian Education

Our ministry at ACP is a vibrant Christian education program that serves our church by offering opportunities to learn and grow in faith, by presenting what it means to be a Christian based on the Word of God. We aim to cultivate Christian discipleship and develop a biblical world-and life-view. We also organize retreats and events such as the Adult Spring Retreat and the All-Church Fall Retreat.

Small groups:

**Saturday Morning Brunch Circle** led by Felicia Henderson.

**Community Bible Study International** will continue an in-depth study entitled *God's Amazing Book*, led by Ariel Brown. Contact Ariel for more information.

**ACP Filipino Fellowship Bible Study** meetings re-start on 1 September when we will be continuing with our Sunday afternoon Bible Studies. This Bible study is not only for the Filipino members of ACP but for all who believe in our Lord Jesus Christ and want to continue learning, sharing and manifesting their LOVE to know more about the Word of God. Contact Virginia Jacinto for more details.

**AFACP Bible Study** meets on Sundays in G7 at 12h45. Please note, there is no Bible study on the first Sunday of each month.

**ACP Women's Bible Study** will be starting up again on 10 September. We will be using John Stott's study on *Romans: Encountering the Gospel's Power*. Copies will be available for purchase at our first meeting but come along even if you don't yet have a copy of the book. We're good at sharing! Come and meet the wonderful women of the Tuesday Morning Bible study! We are a warm group of ladies from many different age groups, nationalities and native languages. Our Bible study takes place in English but we welcome all who come with an appetite for the Lord's word and who crave fellowship with other believers.

Our meeting usually begins with some fellowship time (coffee/tea and snacks) and then after a time of prayer we move into our study session. We also spend time praying for each other's concerns. Many women in the group have become close friends outside of church as well so it is a nice place to develop Christian friendships as well as strengthening our relationship with Jesus.

We meet from 10h30-12h30 every Tuesday and childcare is available for a minimal fee. Please contact Jennifer Jourlait for more details.

**ACP Men's Group** will begin meeting again on Thursday mornings from 12 September at 7h30. Come for coffee, conversation, prayer, and fellowship. Any men interested in further information should contact Dominique Grelet.

**Thurber Thursdays** is an adult community gathering and growth time that is open to all.

We share a meal at 18h30 and the evening program begins at 19h30. Our program this month includes a presentation by Simon Conway Morris Chair of Evolutionary Palaeobiology in the Earth Sciences Department at Cambridge University.

Interested in a ministry?

If you would like to become involved with one of our ministries, become a group leader, or join a group please contact Pastor Michelle Wahila at assistantpastor@acparis.org, Lori Kolodziejczak or Anne Speicher at christianeducation@acparis.org
The ACP Annie Vallotton Christian Lending Library

Open every Sunday from 10h15-15h30.

The library has more than 1,800 items available to consult or borrow, including books, CDs and DVDs. For more information, contact Nathaniel N. Akujobi (Head Librarian) at lendinglibrary@acparis.org.

Mission Outreach

Our committee’s mission is to fulfill the second great commandment: to love our neighbors as ourselves. Our aim is to awaken each member of our congregation to God’s personal call to mission service and to provide opportunities and support for all who respond.

Local Missions, for helping people right here in Paris, include Friday Mission Lunch Program, Foyer de Grenelle, Tiffany Musica, Love in a Box, SOS Help and Refugee Ministry.

Abroad, we support Global Missions such as The Living Truth Foundation in Ghana, the Rafiki Foundation in Tanzania and Uganda, the King’s Garden Orphanage in the Philippines, the Excellence Computer Technology Center in Ghana and the Cameroon Presbyterian Church.

We also continue to support the Youth Mission trip to Africa, Habitat for Humanity and we are currently studying opportunities for women’s group trips and intergenerational trips so families can serve together, so stay tuned!!

For more information on all of the Missions that we support and how you can get involved, visit our booth at the Ministry Fair or contact missionoutreach@acparis.org.

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, starting on 9 September, from 19h00 to 20h50. Contact Thelma Fuchs for more information.

Mindful Meditation: This group, being offered on Saturdays from 12h00 to 13h15 in G2, is for those who already have a meditation practice, as well as for those who are interested in beginning a practice. Mindfulness meditation is a way of learning to pay attention to our life as it unfolds moment by moment. It is open to church members as well as to the larger community. Norma Jean Deak, a clinical social worker, has taught Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction for 14 years. Contact Norma Jean with any questions.
# Young Adult Activities

## Young Adult Events (18-30yrs)

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10</td>
<td>19h30-21h00</td>
<td>Welcome Party</td>
<td>Champs de Mars or ACP Thurber Room</td>
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<td>Sunday 15</td>
<td>14h30</td>
<td>Sunday Social</td>
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<td>after the 13h30 service</td>
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<td>Tuesday 17</td>
<td>19h30-21h00</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
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<td>Monday 23</td>
<td>19h30-21h00</td>
<td>Pub Theology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24</td>
<td>18h30-21h00</td>
<td>Pizza Night *</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27</td>
<td>20h00-22h00</td>
<td>Faith and Film</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
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* For Pizza night please come at 18h30 to help cook or 19h30 for dinner and discussion.

The Young Adult group meets every Tuesday evening for Bible Study (1st and 3rd Tuesday) or Pizza Night (2nd and 4th Tuesday). We are from many different countries, cultures and backgrounds but are united by our passion for Jesus. Whether you are passing through Paris or here to stay for a while, we invite you to join our community. If you want to grow your faith, learn more about God or if you simply have lots of questions, then why not come and join us on a Tuesday night.

We look forward to meeting you!

For more information about who we are and what we do at **ACP Young Adults**, please visit our group page on the church website: http://www.acparis.org/acp-groups/young-adult-ministry or contact Rev. Dan Haugh at youthpastor@acparis.org.

We also invite you to connect with us online for community and updates on all young adult activities and gatherings:

- [www.facebook.com/groups/ACPyoungadults](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ACPyoungadults)
- [www.twitter.com/danhaugh](http://www.twitter.com/danhaugh)
Youth Activities

(Youth 11-18 years old)
Please feel free to bring friends along – they are always welcome at ACP events!

ACP Youth is an active community made up of students 11-18 years old from many nationalities, traditions, and backgrounds. All youth ages 11-18 meet every Sunday in the afternoons starting at 15h00 in the ACP catacombs.

The second Sunday of every month is now Youth Sunday and we invite all youth to participate in the leading of worship during the 11h00 worship service.

Join us for the Youth Group Welcome Back Party on 15 September from 15h00-17h00.

For more information about who we are and what we do at ACP Youth, please visit our group page on the church website: http://www.acparis.org/acp-groups/youth-ministry, or contact Rev. Dan Haugh at youthpastor@acparis.org.

Join our Facebook group and stay connected with our online community:

www.facebook.com/groups/acpyouthgroup

Young Professionals

Are you between 25 and 39 years old? Experiencing the corporate world in Paris and surrounding areas? Then come and share your experiences with us.

Our “rentrée” will be Wednesday, 25 September at 19h30.

We are hosting a meet and greet event so that we can get to know each other and present our upcoming book studies for the fall semester. Feel free to bring a dish/drinks to share!

For more information, see the ACP website www.acparis.org/yp or join our Facebook group: ACP Young Professionals.
Worship and Music

Music is a vital ministry at ACP which endeavors to add spiritual depth to the lives of those who enter our sanctuary, whether it be for a service of worship or to attend a concert in a sacred space. It has been my experience that we can encounter and give praise to God through music in a direct, personal and vibrant manner. I believe this is what draws people to participate in our music ensembles.

As Director of Music my goal is to bring the finest possible traditional sacred music into the everyday lives of as many people as possible. I direct the adult ensembles which include the vocal choir and three handbell choirs aimed at different levels of experience. I also organize the Atelier Concert Series held on Sunday evenings at 17h which presents prize winning classical artists in concert which anyone may attend for free.

Under the exciting leadership of Bonnie Woolley there are unique offerings for young children through teens, with the various rehearsals filling up Wednesday afternoons in the theater. They participate in worship and also take their talents out into the community.

If you feel drawn to this ministry, please speak with me either in person, on the phone or via email. As with any ministry certain qualities are necessary and there is a time commitment to consider. But “be not afraid.” Come see me.

Fred Gramann,
Director of Music

Come kick off the rentrée with a live concert by the musicians of Still Point
Friday, 6 September in ACP’s courtyard.

Under the direction of Natalie Raynal, Still Point leads worship every week at our 13h30 contemporary service.

To join us in serving in the 13h30 service as a musician, visual artist, or tech support please contact Natalie at cmusic@acparis.org.
September Atelier Concerts

Sundays at 17h in the ACP Theatre

Free admission

1 September
Brink Bush, organ
Frank Mitchell Bush, piano
Works by J.S. Bach, Francaix, Scarlatti, Schubert, Chopin and Prokofiev

8 September
Rebecca Wascoe, soprano
Nicole Leug Hanig, soprano
Jeffrey Peterson, piano
Programme includes works by Tchaikovski, Dvorak, Wagner, Puccini and Ravel

15 September
Guan Xi Masse, violin
Harumi Kinoshita, harpsichord
Works by J.S. Bach, A. Corelli and G. F. Handel

22 September
“ACP Members Concert”
Philip James Glenister, baritone
Laurana Mitchelmore, piano
Carol Mundinger, clarinet
Laura Potratz, organ
Nathalia Romanenko, piano
Debra Takakjian, piano
Paula Taquet-Woolfolk, soprano

29 September
“Arte Pomposa”
Jeanne-Marie Angles, soprano
Jerome Chaboseau, viole de gambe
Jorge Ivan Molina, baroque guitar and archilute
Pascal Szymczak, baroque violin, viola pomposa and vielle
Works by Vivaldi, Marais, Boismortier, Rameau, Monteverdi and Frescobaldi
Opportunities to Serve the Community

**Children’s Worship:** Children's Worship Needs You!
Volunteers are asked to commit to serving approximately two Sundays every 6 to 8 weeks. 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 during the services, please contact Anna Zweede at worshipandmusic@acparis.org.

**Friday Mission Lunch** at the American Church in Paris. Each Friday from 10h00 to 14h00, a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. The American Church is responsible for providing the meal on 13 September (the second Friday of each month) but we are grateful for volunteers and helping hands every Friday. If you are interested and available, please contact Kristie Worrel.

**Welcome Table attendants** and **Coffee Hour greeters:** Be a Meeter Greeter!
We are looking for happy, cheerful people to help at the Welcome Table after every service, as well as roaming coffee hour greeters. This is a ministry that we can ALL share in, and if you can share 20 minutes of your time, once a month to participate in welcoming guests, you are sure to find more joy than you can give. A smile and a handshake is all that is needed! Teams are being formed so that each team serves one Sunday per month at each service. Please contact Camilla Furman at communitylife@acparis.org if you can be counted on to spread some joy and welcome a newcomer!

**Homeless Ministry** is led by Jurie Anne Feleo and takes place twice a month: once on a Saturday morning when we distribute breakfast bags and once on a Saturday afternoon when we give out sandwiches to the hungry and homeless in our city. This month we will be giving out sandwiches on 7 September and on 21 September we will be distributing breakfast bags. We meet the night before at ACP to prepare the food. As this ministry expands, we are also looking for someone to help lead the group. Contact Jurie Ane or Dan Haugh at youthpastor@acparis.org if you would like to get involved.

For other volunteering opportunities, check with Mission Outreach at missionoutreach@acparis.org, Community Life at communitylife@acparis.org, or Dan Haugh with Youth and Young Adult Ministries at youthpastor@acparis.org
ACP Today: Faith Talk from Paris

Have you tuned in to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show yet? Join us on Monday, 2 and 16 September 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 please invite others to listen — friends who may be housebound or who would simply like more devotional time on a Monday evening. Missed a show? Don’t worry, you can catch up online at www.acparis.org/acptoday.

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

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)

“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 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. 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. 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.”

If you would like someone to pray with you after services, there will be a Prayer Team member available. Meet under the chandelier in the sanctuary.

From the Lay Caregiver Ministry Team

The Lay Care Giver Team is active and always looking for new members! If you feel called to use your gifts by visiting people in the hospital, praying with people after the worship services, sending cards to sympathize or lift someone up in joy during a difficult or joyful experience, giving someone an uplifting phone call when they’re down, you may want to join our group! We meet monthly to train in listening skills, how to pray with people, how to anoint with oil or offer home communion. As one of our newest members just exclaimed, “We’re blessed when blessing others!”

Please contact Pastor Michelle or laycaregivers@acparis.org if you would like more information about joining us.
Wedding Ministry
By Dan Thornton (Visiting Pastor)

The Wedding Ministry reaches around the world. We perform marriage blessings for couples from France, England, Spain, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, as well as other European countries. Your ministry reaches Japan and China as well as Australia. We have blessed marriages from the United States and Canada. Your ministry has gone as far as South Africa. We give the Japanese blessings a Bible in Japanese and mark in their Bible the scriptures used in the blessing ceremony.

Every blessing receives the DVD entitles “This is the American Church in Paris.” We have them in English and French. The Japanese receive one with Japanese subtitles. Every couple also receives a Marriage Blessing certificate, a copy of the ceremony, and the Unity Candle used in the ceremony.

The marriage blessing is extremely meaningful to the couples. They all receive a blessing from the ceremony. Most of the ceremonies include the I Corinthians 13 scripture passage. I have a homily for all except the Japanese and Chinese ceremonies.

You are reaching around the world with the message of God’s love.

If you would like to get involved or find out more about ACP activities and committees featured at the Ministry Fair, please visit www.acparis.org and complete the Ministry Fair contact form or come along to ACP on 22 September.
HONEYBEES IN THE BELFRY?

There is a possibility that we won’t have bats in the belfry of the ACP, but bees in the belfry - honeybees, that is! Apparently urban honey is delicious and there are hives on the top of the Paris Opera building as well as in the Luxembourg Gardens. One of our pastors visited a colleague in the French Reformed Church who is keeping honey-bees on top of the church he serves and harvests tens of kilos of honey each year. What do you think of having ACP Honey produced right in the bell tower? The hives would be high and face the river, so the bees wouldn’t bother anyone. A former member is interested in donating the hives to start beekeeping in the Spring of 2014. If you’re interested in learning more about this possibility or have expertise to share, please let us know. Send comments to secretary@acparis.org.

Virgil’s Bees
by Carol Ann Duffy

Bless air’s gift of sweetness, honey
from the bees, inspired by clover,
marigold, eucalyptus, thyme,
the hundred perfumes of the wind.
Bless the beekeeper

who chooses for her hives
a site near water, violet beds, no yew,
no echo. Let the light lilt, leak, green
or gold, pigment for queens,
and joy be inexplicable but there
in harmony of willowherb and stream,
of summer heat and breeze,
each bee’s body
at its brilliant flower, lover-stunned,
strumming on fragrance, smitten.

For this,
let gardens grow, where beelines end,
sighing in roses, saffron blooms, buddleia;
where bees pray on their knees, sing, praise
in pear trees, plum trees; bees
are the batteries of orchards, gardens, guard them.

"Virgil’s Bees" by Carol Ann Duffy, from The Bees. © Faber and Faber, 2011.
JoAnn Neal has been working with the Rafiki Foundation in Africa for more than a decade and has been supported throughout this time by ACP. JoAnn will be writing regularly for the Spire and keeping us updated with life as a missionary in Tanzania.

A Heart for Africa

The American Church of Paris and I go back for more than a decade. During my two and a half years living in the outskirts of Paris, I attended the American Church. Two different summers I was part of the ACP team that went to Poland with Habitat for Humanity to build row houses.

Right after the infamous 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center in 2001, my son Bryan and I went with the intrepid volunteers from the American Church to Cape Town, South Africa, to do another build with Habitat. Even in those uncertain weeks after 9/11, not one member of the Paris team backed out of going to do the build.

Through doing short-term missions with ACP, I got a taste for missions. At the time I was also attending Bible Study Fellowship (BSF), a vibrant Bible study that many of the women at ACP attended. Through BSF I heard about the Rafiki Foundation and the work that was being done in Africa. After going on a short-term mission with Rafiki to Madagascar, I knew that this was where the Lord was leading me.

I came back to Paris and began the long, arduous process of raising support to go full time with Rafiki. The American Church of Paris first participated in helping me realize my desire to serve our Lord by being a missionary in Africa with the Rafiki Foundation when Avril Lee was the chairman of the Social Concerns Committee. In March 2002 they voted to give me a donation towards the support I needed to raise. During these last 11 years, the congregation of the American Church has continued to generously support me as I have served with Rafiki in Madagascar, Uganda, and now in Tanzania.

Another one of your members, Patti LaFarge, heard about Rafiki a few years ago and decided that she, too, wanted to be a part of the work that Rafiki is doing in Africa. The ACP missions committee pledged to support Patti also. When we saw each other at the Home Office headquarters in Florida this June, Patti told me that she regularly writes an article for The Spire about what she is doing in Uganda. Both she and Paula Taquet-Woofolk suggested that I, too, write an article to let you know what I am doing in Tanzania.

Since I am a trained teacher, I spent much of the first part of my career with Rafiki teaching in the classical Christian school for the children who live at the Rafiki compound and for the local children who also attend the English medium school. For the last few years in Tanzania I have been the ChildCare Director in charge of the resident children who live at Rafiki and the national staff who care for them.

In future articles, I’ll share with you some of the heart-rending stories of the children and the challenges we have here. But for this issue, I just wanted to introduce myself (or reintroduce for those who know or remember me) to the readers of The Spire. If you want to know more about Rafiki, my work, or Patti LaFarge’s work with Rafiki, I invite you to go to the Rafiki website at www.rafiki-foundation.org. If any of you would like to be on my mailing list or correspond with me, my e-mail address is joann.neal@gmail.com. I send my greetings especially to the members of the African fellowship and all of you who have a heart for Africa.
Discover France in a Day: Bloom

Brand new in Paris? Those of us who have been here for a while remember the awkwardness, loneliness and frustration from moving to a new town and culture. But there’s also the freshness and delight of discovering the City of Lights, and this year’s lineup of speakers for Bloom Where You’re Planted makes me wish I had once again just arrived. Patricia Wells, Peter Caine, Jane Kendall, The Improfessionals: it’s a Who’s Who of cross-cultural professionals, providing guidance and tips at the annual orientation program at the American Church in Paris. What a pleasure to be in the audience as Pastor Michelle Wahila introduces them on Saturday 5 October.

Restaurant critic, chef and author Patricia Wells will demystify French cuisine and provide tips on French restaurants. “Patricia Wells changed the lives of culinary travelers when she published her groundbreaking *Food Lover’s Guide to Paris* in 1984. Finally we had detailed information, in English, that got us to the places that discriminating Parisians actually frequented.” – Patricia Unterman, *San Francisco Examiner*.

Author, historian and raconteur Peter Caine created Paris Walks in 1994 and still organises and leads extraordinary guided tours around Paris. His description of how Paris evolved will entertain, enlighten and astound. “In 30 minutes I learned more from Peter Caine about Paris buildings and history than I knew after 20 years of living in the city” – Bloom volunteer, 2011.

Dividing her life between the US and Europe, Jane Kendall teaches leadership development in international workshops and seminars, researches cross-cultural adaptation, and has published several books of her photography. Inspiring, motivating, and with an eye to the beauty of Paris, what better guide for unveiling the secrets of taking those first steps into French culture?

Finally, there’s pure entertainment, provided by the Improfessionals, to poke fun at the foibles of cultural differences. An international, witty troupe that performs in English, the Improfessionals have been amusing Parisian audiences for over 10 years with explosive, spontaneous stories and sketches made up on the spot. Be ready to be surprised.

And that’s just the morning program. After lunch, participants focus on fun, family and function, with a selection of nine workshops. Topics include “Understanding schools in Paris”, “Shopping like a Parisian”, “Cutting through red tape”, and “Securing your financial future” (on taxes & real estate). The day ends, appropriately, with a "Wine Down", a fun and informal wine and cheese-tasting session in which participants exchange opinions, business cards and lunch dates.

For over 40 years, Bloom Where You are Planted has illuminated French culture, with help from its info-packed compendium that supplements the workshop with addresses and URLs. Mysteries are unveiled and every question is taken seriously, whether it touches on bakery etiquette, work visas, cuts of meat, or as basic as installing gas, electricity and telephone services. For those who have lived here for a while and are still unsure about which flour to use to bake cookies, or why school crossing guards wear white gloves, consider participating or volunteering, so that you too can pick up some tips. I will see you there!

*Bloom Where You are Planted, Saturday 5 October, 9h30-18h30. To register, pick up a form at the Welcome Table in the Theater after church or register online at bloom.acparis.org. For more information see [http://bloom.acparis.org](http://bloom.acparis.org) or to volunteer, email bloom.acparis@gmail.com.*
Around 35 people attended the spring retreat in St Benoit sur Loire. The retreat was led by Cynthia Bourgeault, an Episcopalian priest who lives in Maine and author of several books on prayer and spirituality. Participants came from several European countries to hear Cynthia teach.

As Cynthia explained, people came to the retreat for different reasons, and you had a choice on the focus you chose: the monastery and monastic life; nature and the beautiful scenery of the Loire valley; prayer and meditation.

There are now 32 monks in St Benoit sur Loire (ranging in age from 26 to 93) who follow the ancient rule of St Benedict (who founded his first monastery in 520 AD); the current church was completed around 1180 but monks have lived and prayed there since 630 AD, nearly 14 centuries ago.

The monks are very open and people are welcome to attend their prayer services. We were able to participate in the prayer services during the retreat. These services, 6 per day, are the center of monastic life. They consist mostly of chanting the psalms. I must say, after attending several retreats at St Benoit, that one has a much better grasp of the psalms when they are chanted. (In fact, they were meant to be sung when they were composed). I am also reminded of a comment by a rabbi: whereas the Bible is “God speaking to men”, the psalms are the reverse: “men speaking to God”. It is true that we can identify profoundly with the psalmist, as he expresses very candidly a great variety of feelings and concerns to God.
One of the highlights of the retreat was meeting with one of the monks, brother Elie, who came to talk to us about their lives and ministry. The monastic life may appear hard to understand because it is so different from the secular lives that we live but the brother who spoke to us was extremely honest and candid. He explained that their days consist of many different tasks, some material (cooking, cleaning, maintenance) and others spiritual. They earn their living through theirs crafts and they sell the produce of their orchard.

Silence is maintained from evening to morning. We practiced meditation and felt the presence of God. As brother Elie said, the walls of the church are permeated by many centuries of prayer. This explains the very special ambiance which we all felt.

Cynthia talked to us about the spiritual rewards we receive from God as we engage in prayer and meditation. We all appreciated her wit and gentleness. We felt great fellowship as we practiced meditation and silence. Thank you Cynthia, and we hope that you will come again.
An African Adventure

By Catherine Hetzel

Our trip began on the 6 July as we were gathering at the airport all stressed and excited for this new adventure! We headed as a group to meet up with the New York team from Pastor Dan’s previous church, there were 11 of us from ACP and 6 from New York. Some of the team had already been to Gabon but for some of us, it was our first trip to Africa - so there’s no need to tell you that we had no idea what to expect!

We arrived safe and sound and the local team who would be working with us came to pick us up from the airport. When we arrived at the CFTAC (where we were staying), our hosts were dancing in front of the house as a welcome gift (or tradition). It was amazing! And inside, everything was ready for us, food on the table and a nice diner. It was more than what we could have hoped for! We had two separate houses, one for the boys and one for the girls. Our week in Libreville had begun!

On Sunday, we went to church (it was all in French, bad news for our poor New Yorkers!) and then played with the kids in the afternoon. We began our work the very next day. One team was sent to the Hope House that Pastor Israel was building to host his kids and the other 30 or 40 orphans that he and his wife were taking care of; another team went to a poor area with the mobile clinic, which offers people access to a doctor and basic treatments; and Ali stayed at the house for VBS (Vacation Bible School) as some kids were still around!

And so it was every day until Saturday when we left for the village of Ebel Abanga. After a long and bumpy ride, we arrived and were once again, very warmly and kindly welcomed! Two different houses again but quite different facilities as there was no running water... So it was definitely going to be a challenging week. We got used to it and ended up enjoying our daily shower in the river! We started our work again: building a church (we put up 20 pillars!), helping in the mobile clinic and VBS. We came back to the town on Wednesday night and trust me, it was like luxury to us compared to the living conditions in the village! We had the chance to visit a tourist market and then to the beach, it was an awesome day of rest after 2 weeks of hard work!

I can definitely say that we had an amazing trip! The new friendships we made, not only with the locals (both kids and adults) but also with the team members, the time we spent playing with the kids and learning from everyone made it very special and we came back with many memories and huge smiles on our faces!
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/.

### Clergy and Staff of the American Church in Paris

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