### In this issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thoughts from the Rev. Dr. Scott Herr</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurber Thursdays</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The rentrée challenge, by Rev. Michelle Wahila</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Try a little contemporary, by Rev. Dan Haugh</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happy new year, by Amit and Anne Pieter</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Come to the fair! by Camilla Radford-Furman</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council retreat</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloom where you’re planted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discover France in a day, by Alison Benney</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the kitchen with David Lebovitz, by Rebecca Brite</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wedding day revisited, by Rev. Bruce Morgan</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACP fall retreat</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How firm a foundation, by Lisa Prevett</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200th anniversary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACP history, by Alison Benney</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200th anniversary events</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Madeleine, by Amit Pieter</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet the Young Adults, by Rev. Dan Haugh</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Worship Service, by Natalie Raynal</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three services, one Church, one God, by Tendayi O. Chirawu</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet Anastassia Sharpe, by Rev. Dan Haugh</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie Home Companion cancelled</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACP missions, by Carolyn Bouazouni</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Outreach Committee</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local missions</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global missions</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August calendar</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### On the cover:

- Photo by Quai-Marcel Grunert
- Taken from inside the courtyard

Note: Thanks to Jonathan Russell for the photos of the staff and of Still Point.
Thoughts from
The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

By the time you read this, la rentrée will be upon us and we’ll be back together after summer vacations, travels, weddings, funerals, family time away, or at least a change of pace here in the City of Light. For those of you who have never experienced it, la rentrée is a uniquely Parisian phenomenon, at least in its intensity, as hordes seem to return overnight and the city comes frenetically alive like some giant ant hill that somebody stepped on!

Part of the fun of Church Family getting back together (as opposed to the crazy traffic and snippy attitudes from all the Parisians getting back together!) is sharing the stories of what happened to us while we were apart. It’s an opportunity to play what we as a family enjoy when we’re around the dinner table: “high lights - low lights.” As family, as brothers and sisters in Christ, we’ll talk about the vacation destinations we enjoyed, or the guests we welcomed, the kids we sent off to school, the parents or grandparents or friends that we visited, the weddings we attended, and sadly, those loved ones to whom we bid farewell as they journeyed to that other far distant shore… We’ll hear stories about mission trips to Bulgaria and Ghana, Vacation Bible School and Young Artists’ Week.

One of my favorite storytellers in the world is Garrison Keillor. I love settling into a big comfortable chair to listen to him begin by saying, “Well, it’s been a quiet week in Lake Wobegon, Minnesota, my hometown, out there on the edge of the prairie…” and spin tales of the folks at places like Ralph’s Pretty Good Grocery, The Chatterbox Café, or Our Lady of Perpetual Responsibility Catholic Church and Lake Wobegon Lutheran Church. He always closes the story with his signature ending, “That's the news from Lake Wobegon, where all the women are strong, all the men are good looking, and all the children are above average.” I smile just thinking about my old “friend” on the show, Pastor Inqvist, who got replaced by Pastor Liz. I think I’ve been enjoying A Prairie Home Companion for about 30 years. We are deeply disappointed that Garrison Keillor’s illness required him to cancel his shows at the American Church this month, and pray that he will recover his health soon.

Jesus was a first-class storyteller. He was always telling parables and turning a phrase. He was continuing a great rabbinic tradition. Our Scriptures are full of powerful stories. And the good news is that we are part of the unfolding gospel story of God’s love that continues today! Have you ever thought of yourself as part of God’s story? I love the Chronicles of Narnia, by C.S. Lewis, because the characters are stepping in and out of Aslan’s Land. Once you’ve been there, everything is wonderfully changed. You are a different person and you know that you need to be with Aslan again…

Part of our faith is reflecting on questions like: What stories define you and what stories is your life telling? What is the “meta-narrative” that frames your life? What stories will be told about you?

We are all storytellers. But we need to be prepared to tell our story, according to 1 Peter 3:15, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” Yes, we need to learn to tell our own stories in light of the gospel story. I like what Hemingway writes in A Moveable Feast: “I would stand and look out over the roofs of Paris and think, ‘Do not worry. You have always written before and you will write now. All you have to do is write one true sentence. Write the truest sentence that you know.’ So finally I would write one true sentence, and then go on from there.” The same goes for telling our story. Start with honesty!

May I suggest that la rentrée for you includes remembering that you are part of the never-ending story of God’s redemptive grace and love. We are a people who must remember the stories of God’s love and share that story with the world, so that realities like hope, joy, faith and love might come alive again in brilliant and creative ways. We are celebrating stories this year of our congregation that trace back 200 years and more!

In addition to our worship narrative each week, I encourage you to join a Bible study to reflect more deeply on the ancient stories, or a small group to share the stories of your life with friends. Plan on being at church on 14 September for the Ministry Fair, where you can explore opportunities to receive or to give of yourself in service and support.

Mark your calendar for the special Saturday worship service, “Celebrate 200” at the Madeleine church on 11 October at 15h30, when Mark Labberton, President of Fuller Theological Seminary, will be speaking. Learn more about how we believe God is calling us to write our future by signing up for the special ACP 160 tours of the building on 7 September and 21 September. Thurber Thursdays will begin again, and of course there is always coffee fellowship, where we can share our lives with one another in varying degrees… Look for new people, especially our visitors, and invite them to tell some of their story! Just remember, we all are part of the story of God’s love.

I look forward to sharing many more stories of the Kingdom with you, even here in Paris... “where all the women are strong, the men are good looking, and all the children are above average!”

In Christ,

[Signature]

ACP Spire, September 2014 3
Thurber Thursdays
ACP community gathering and growth time, open to all

So many exciting speakers and topics, and so few Thursdays.

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

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

18 September
2 October
16 October

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

C.S. Lewis and the Crisis of Science
Thurber Thursday, 25 September

Dr. Greg Cootsona

Dr. Greg Cootsona is associate pastor for adult discipleship and college ministries at Bidwell Presbyterian Church in Chico, California. He co-directed Scientists in Congregations, a program from which the American Church in Paris received a grant to encourage the dialogue of faith and science. He has just finished his fifth book, C. S. Lewis in Crisis.

Greg has a B.A. in Comparative Literature from the U.C. Berkeley, a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. in Theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. Greg and his wife, Laura, live in Chico and have two teenage daughters. Besides hanging out with his family, he loves to mountain bike, read, and drink good coffee.

Call for volunteers

Stop by the Bloom Where You’re Planted table after lunch to sign up as a volunteer. We need helping hands and friendly faces for Reception, Greeters, Children’s Program, Food service and Set-Up/Decoration. Contact Shannon: bloom.volunteer@gmail.com
Dear friends,

As summer is wrapping up and we move into the fall season, you can see (by the size of this Spire!) there are many wonderful things happening within this community of faith. My hope is that whether or not you are new to this community or have been here 30 years, that you will reflect upon the ways in which you “engage” your faith, and perhaps try something new that will allow your faith to grow more in the next year.

Why the explicit challenge? Simply put: Growing our relationship with God takes time and effort. Further, it may not come naturally to us to just be closer to God, to pray more, to serve differently, or to try something new that really stretches the comfort zone of our existing spiritual lives. Like any part of our lives we wish to nurture, we must consciously decide to cultivate our inner beings in order to grow.

I’m not talking about a “faith by works” kind of mentality that asks parishioners to serve on every committee, participate in every Bible study and small group, or go on a certain number of mission trips this year in order to get good marks on their Christian report cards. I simply wish to encourage you to take the necessary “space” to concentrate and nurture an area of your spiritual life you wish to develop.

For me, such an exercise would be akin to my practice of running. First, I know that I will never be a “great” runner. Let’s face it, I’m not built like a great runner (or even an athlete for that matter!). When I run, it’s difficult. When I don’t run, it’s even more difficult. I easily feel out of shape and quickly lose fitness, reducing what was already “slow” running to a crawl. There are periods in which I seem to fall into a good running routine and there are other weeks in which I fail miserably at even tying my sneakers. I will never qualify for a Boston marathon and I won’t ever run a marathon in all 50 US states.

So, why bother? Partially I do it because it is hard. I began running because I wanted to pray for the Haitian women who walk hours a day just to secure clean water for their families. I began by running 10 seconds at a time, praying for those women as I ran (waddled!). Now, I waddle a little farther and a little longer, and I still pray. I have found spiritual “space” in this part of my physical life that connects me deeply with God, the majesty of the outdoors, and to a community of other people crazy enough to enjoy long-distance running.

Through this hard practice, I have grown. In the very same way, we can be challenged to grow spiritually through any number of activities offered at ACP. Have you ever attended a weekly Bible study? If not, consider challenging yourself to attend our Sunday morning Bible Study through the end of 2014. It meets every Sunday at 10h00 in the catacombs. It’s open to all, focuses on the lectionary readings that you will hear the following week in worship, and doesn’t require a reservation! Engaging the Word will nourish your soul, and the weekly discipline of “showing up” is one way to deepen your spiritual life.

Have you ever interacted with someone who is homeless? If you haven’t, I assure you that this small conversation will expand your faith in large ways. Why not consider serving with our Homeless Breakfast or Sandwich ministry? Two Saturdays a month a group from ACP brings food to the hungry in the streets of Paris. Why not challenge yourself to see Jesus in the eyes of someone who is not at all like you?

As you look through this month’s edition of the Spire, I encourage you to think about what activities might challenge your faith to grow the most. What will challenge you? What will take your faith outside of its comfort zone the most? Whatever that is, why not take the leap and do it? The beauty of ACP is that we have a myriad of offerings – mission, study/education, worship, hospitality, etc. The list is almost endless! I guarantee there is something offered in which you could participate and grow with God.

The best part of all of this is that ACP remains a community of faith. We are here to encourage one another. That may sometimes mean supporting our brothers and sisters to do something that is a little outside their comfort zones or to run the extra mile!

So my last encouragement for this month is as follows: after you have flipped through the Spire cover to cover, after you have prayed and spent time with God pondering what “thing” might engage your faith, share that “thing” with someone else. If it’s going to be hard for you – say it! If you are scared – share it. We aren’t isolated members; we are the Body of Christ. We exist together and work together for the glory of the Kingdom.

Bon courage!

Bénédictions,

Michelle

Don’t miss the ministry fair! Sunday, 14 September, noon to 15h30

ACP Spire, September 2014  

The rentrée challenge

The Rev. Michelle Wahila
Associate Pastor

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. Colossians 2: 6-7
Originating in Left Bank studios in 1895, the Atelier Concert Series became part of the cultural activities at the American Church in Paris during the early 1930s. These concerts provide a performance opportunity in Paris for talented musicians of all nationalities.

A different program is offered each Sunday evening at 17h00, September through November and January through June. There is no admission fee, but a free-will offering is taken at the door to support the series. For the schedule of upcoming concerts, see http://acparis.org
In this month’s edition of the Spire, you will read an article (see page 22) by Natalie Reynal on contemporary worship services. She brilliantly illustrates the historical foundation and theological framework of contemporary worship, as well as its similarities with and distinctiveness from traditional worship.

With an eye on the changing demographics of churchgoers, and as a way to expand our outreach and evangelism, the American Church in Paris launched the contemporary worship service, over seven years ago. As with most new endeavors, we began with a core but committed group who shared the same vision.

Thanks to a faithful and dedicated team of volunteers, gifted musicians and visionary leaders, the contemporary service congregation has grown each year. Countless hearts and lives have been touched by the lavish love of God experienced through worship, prayer, Scripture and preaching. With an average of over 300 attending each Sunday, God is actively engaged in bringing new people and families to ACP through this service. I personally would encourage you to come at least one Sunday to experience and encounter God in perhaps a new way.

So what can you expect when you walk in at 13h30?

The atmosphere certainly looks and sounds different than our morning worship services, although the sermon remains the same in all three services. The biggest visible difference is the screen in the sanctuary, which projects the lyrics for the worship songs, as well as the Scripture readings and visual aids for the sermons.

The Still Point worship band, sometimes consisting of 10 members and all their band equipment, deliver melodic and stirring songs. You will notice a range of emotional responses in the congregation, from the raising of hands and dancing, to silent and contemplative meditation.

You will also see Pastor Scott Herr wearing blue jeans! We truly believe in a “come as you are” approach to worship and therefore the pastors do not wear robes, but dress more casually. We also preach directly to the congregation, not from the pulpit but on the Sanctuary floor.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that regardless of style of music we prefer or which specific worship service we attend, worship is about our lived response to God and unity in Christ.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

- Romans 12:1-3

In Christ,
Dan Haugh
Happy new year
By Amit and Anne Pieter

New to France, or here for a while? As September comes, you cannot escape “la rentrée”, short for “la rentrée des classes”. Literally the coming back of classes, it is a French institution far more important than the American “back to school”, as most of France operates in terms of the school year. La rentrée is a rite of passage for children and adults that marks the end of summer and the long August holidays. It is the real beginning of the year.

But it is also the rentrée politique, when politicians launch new campaigns or new policy, for the parliamentary rentrée, or reopening of the session. It is the rentrée littéraire: massive new book lists arrive in libraries, and critics comment on them in anticipation of the literary prize period of Goncourt, Renaudot and others. Radio stations make their “rentrée”, unveiling their programs for the next 10 months, after 2 months of lighter, vacation-oriented programming. Better yet, it’s the cultural rentrée, with the new season of theatre, music, art and city events.

Here is a selection to facilitate your own rentrée – happy new year!

Spectaculaire
27-28 September, 11h-19.00
What’s happening this year in Paris? Stop by the quai de Loire at La Villette this weekend to browse the stands. Over 250 cultural institutions present the year’s programs, including art exhibits, theatre, concerts, activities for families and more. Plus there is a dance on Saturday night!
Quai de la Loire, Bassin de la Villette, 19th arr
www.cultureauquai.com

Festival Ile-de-France
6 September to 12 October
Kick off the concert season by attending one of these special events whose venues are selected for their beauty and cultural significance. These include castles, private mansions, barns and gardens to listen to music of all genres; from classical, jazz and spiritual, to traditional Japanese folk and burlesque.
Check the schedule: www.festival-idf.fr/

Grand Feu d’Artifice de Saint-Cloud
13th September, 21h
Claiming to be Europe’s biggest and longest fireworks display, this annual show attracts over 23,000 paying spectators to Parc Saint Cloud.
Info and reservations: www.le-grand-feu.com

Techno Parade
13 September
“Liberty, diversity, rhythmicity” – this year’s theme as crowds of techno fans dance through the streets of Paris, with over 20 floats carrying 150 musicians, DJs and performers from all over France. Starting at noon from Place de la Nation, it arrives at Place de la Bastille at 19h. It’s all part of Paris Electronic Week.
http://www.technoparade.fr

Garde Républicaine
27-28 September, 9h-19h
The presidential guard opens its doors to the public during its Open Weekend at the Garde Républicaine headquarters in Vincennes. This is an enjoyable day for families, as well as a chance to learn about the history of this old regiment. The brass bands and horses in full ceremonial dresses are paraded by the French Presidential Guard.
Esplanade du château de Vincennes
www.gendarmerie.interieur.gouv.fr/garde-republicaine/

Les Journées du Patrimoine
20-21 September
Ready for a free tour backstage at the Moulin Rouge? A peek inside the luxurious Banque de France? Get on your walking shoes for the Journées du Patrimoine. 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. The American Church will also offer tours, from 10h-17h.
Check the program: www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr

Fête de la Gastronomie
26-28 September
The entire country takes this weekend to appreciate French food and wines, with wine tastings, banquets, picnics and classes. Let’s not wonder too much why it’s organised by the French finance ministry. But first take advantage of “Tous au restaurant” from 16-22 September, when many restaurants offer 2-for-1 meals.
www.economie.gouv.fr/fete-gastronomie/accueil
The Ministry Fair at ACP is one of those events that you just shouldn’t miss. No matter what.

As you settle into the new routine that the rentrée has brought before you, and you have filled in most of the family necessities into your calendar, you hopefully have planned for some “me” time and, hopefully for some “God” time in there too!

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

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

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

For example, our Mission Outreach Committee will be at the fair, which represents both local and global missions. When coming up to Mission Outreach table, you will likely meet Carolyn Bouazouni or Paula Taquet, and be instantly welcomed and taken in by all the outreach projects that are going on. Perhaps you want to know more about going on the next Habitat for Humanity trip, or maybe to be helping in the Homeless Mission Lunch Project.

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

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

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

Come to the fair!
The ACP Ministry Fair
Sunday, 14 September, noon to 15h30
By Camilla Radford-Furman

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Laura Cootsona leads Council retreat

The Church Council has a busy month ahead, including its annual all-day retreat on 27 September. This year’s retreat will focus on Council committees and making the most of all the talented leaders and members of the program and administrative committees that make up the ACP Council. Laura Cootsona will be leading a workshop.

Laura Cootsona has been called to equip people to know God’s call in their lives and to move into that call. After graduating from UC Berkeley, her professional career in the non-profit sector took off in 1988 running a Volunteer Center connecting hundreds of individuals and groups with organizations seeking strategic help. From there she sought a masters degree in non-profit management from University of San Francisco.

Given that money is what fuels the nonprofit leaders’ vision, Laura has focused fund development as her special niche and consulted with dozens of organizations over the last two decades training them to develop important life-time relationships with their supporters. Additionally, Laura helps organizations with strategic planning, board development and team building.

Laura will work with the Council to to focus on aligning church priorities with committee priorities and equipping the Council members to be more intentional leaders of their teams.

When she is not training or teaching, Laura enjoys time with her husband, Greg, and her two daughters (16 and 19), biking, hiking, reading, swimming, and traveling. She has been an active adult education teacher for the last 20 years in the churches where she and Greg have served.

Jean Chambers

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the sudden death of Jean Chambers, on 10 July, after being struck by a car in New York City.

John and Jean Chambers were active members of the American Church of Paris congregation in the late 1980s and early 1990s. They went on to be great supporters of the Friends of the ACP; Jean edited the Friends newsletter for many years and John was the Treasurer. She taught Sunday school and was a choir mother at St. Michael’s Church on 99th street. Ms. Chambers also worked in the mid-1990s as a graphic artist at The New York Times. She will be missed by the American Church family and by her husband and 18-year-old daughter, Maria.

Jim and Cynthia Craig

Jim Craig, 79, of Naples, Florida, passed on to be with our Lord Wednesday 30 July. His wife, Cynthia, died shortly after, on 10 August. They had been married for 55 years. Jim Craig was a dedicated and very active member of the AFCU (American and Foreign Christian Union), serving as President for several years. Jim was a top executive with PPG company in Paris as well as in the US. He and Cindy moved from Pittsburgh to Naples, Florida after he retired. Jim and Cindy have hosted AFCU meetings and their church has supported the AFCU.

Jim provided excellent counsel to the AFCU Board and will be sorely missed by the American Church family and by their son Brett, daughter Julie Webster; and their four grandchildren.
What’s going on? Tune in: ACP Today

Have you tuned in to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show yet? Join us on Mondays at 20h45 - this month on 1 and 15 September. The 45-minute program is an exciting and inspiring mix of music, interviews, sermon highlights, and discussion on hot topics.

We’re at 100.7 FM , Radio Fréquence Protestante, and we broadcast especially for friends who may be housebound or who would simply like more devotional time on a Monday evening - and also for those who would like to listen in at their leisure via the website.

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

If you have any questions, comments, ideas or would like to contribute to the show, be sure to contact us at acptoday@acparis.org.
When I started my website back in 1999, I never intended to focus on recipes. It was meant to complement my cookbooks by providing additional information, stories, and a way to be in touch with readers. But then I moved to Paris. And as I shopped and hit the markets, I got so excited to share all the great things I was tasting and learning about that I couldn’t resist posting those recipes right after I made them. However, I soon realized that I had to respond to an onslaught of recipe requests if I posted a snapshot of a basket of croissants or a gilded gateau Saint-Honor. I had admired in a bakery.

(Unfortunately, recipes for fancy Parisian pastries cannot be condensed into 140 characters, nor am I very good at tapping out instructions for rolling puff pastry while riding home on the metro using those itty bitty keys on my smartphone.)

I also realized that no matter what I wrote about on my blog, the ingredients that were available in Birmingham weren’t necessarily available in Brisbane or Bangkok, and every recipe I posted would be followed by a number of requests for substitutions. I had to learn to cover every conceivable base when writing recipes for a global audience because something common in France or America, like olives or canned artichokes, might not be available in Fiji or Argentina. Not to mention folks have various food preferences, allergies, and likes and dislikes, such as my fear of squid, which scare the bejeezus out of me (so I understand them 100 percent).

Fortunately I am pretty sure that anyone just about anywhere can make this recipe and there’s certainly nothing scary about it. Olives are hardy souls and are available jarred or canned. I don’t think I’ve ever been to a country where almonds aren’t available. (But if you can’t get almonds, pistachios make a great substitute.) And basil is grown in greenhouses in places where the climate doesn’t welcome outdoor cultivation. So I think I covered everything and there’s no excuse not to make this—unless, of course, you don’t like olives, are allergic to nuts, or have an aversion to garlic. Then I can’t help you.

Green olive, basil, and almond tapenade

Recipe from *My Paris Kitchen* by David Lebovitz

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**Green olive, basil, and almond tapenade (tapenade d’olives vertes au basilic et aux amandes)**

*Serves 6 to 8*

2 cups (260g) green olives, pitted
1/3 cup (35g) whole untoasted almonds
1 small clove garlic, peeled and minced
1 1/2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 tablespoon capers, rinsed and squeezed dry
1/2 cup (15g) loosely packed fresh basil leaves
1/2 cup (125ml) olive oil
Sea salt or kosher salt

1. Put the olives, almonds, garlic, lemon juice, and capers in the bowl of a food processor. (I don’t use a mortar and pestle for this because I like the slightly chunky bits of almonds in the finished tapenade.)
2. Coarsely chop the basil leaves, add them to the processor, and pulse the machine a few times to start breaking them down.
3. Add the olive oil and a sprinkle of salt. Pulse the food processor until the mixture forms a coarse paste, one that still has a little texture provided by the not-entirely-broken-down almonds.

The tapenade will keep for up to 1 week in the refrigerator.

*Reprinted with permission from “My Paris Kitchen” by David Lebovitz, © 2014. Published by Ten Speed Press, an imprint of Random House LLC.*
One of Paris’s best-known food bloggers and cookbook writers is among the keynote speakers at this year’s Bloom Where You’re Planted program.

David Lebovitz, an expat himself, knows what it’s like having to find the ingredients that make your cake rise just so or your stew taste like home. But he’s also become an expert at adapting to local ways, in the kitchen and out.

This year Lebovitz is celebrating the tenth anniversary of his move from the US to Paris, and it’s surely no coincidence that he also has a new book out – his seventh – called My Paris Kitchen: Recipes and Stories.

Originally from Connecticut, Lebovitz lived in the San Francisco Bay area for many years before making the move to Paris. He was best known there for the pastries he created at Chez Panisse, the celebrated Berkeley restaurant of Alice Waters. Mentored by its original pastry chef, Lindsey Shere, eventually he was named by the San Francisco Chronicle as one of the Bay Area’s top five pastry chefs.

In 1999, after more than a decade at Chez Panisse, he left to publish his first book, Room for Dessert, and started the website that, with the aid of new software, he would turn into a proper blog when he moved to Paris five years later.

His fifth book, The Sweet Life in Paris (2009), tells the story of that move, the joys he found in Paris but also the troubles he had settling in (its subtitle, Delicious Adventures in the World’s Most Glorious – and Perplexing – City, will ring a sympathetic chime for many expats here, as will one of the tags on his blog: “Whining”).

As much memoir as cookbook, The Sweet Life was followed in 2012 by Ready for Dessert, largely a compilation of recipes from his first two dessert books, now out of print. Books three and four were The Great Book of Chocolate (2004) and The Perfect Scoop (2007).

In addition to his blog, Lebovitz can be found on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and the like. When social media, blogging, cookbook writing and travel permit, Lebovitz occasionally leads chocolate and gastronomy tours of Paris and Lausanne, Switzerland. None are scheduled for the moment, but watch his website, www.davidlebovitz.com, for updates.

My Paris Kitchen (Ten Speed Press, April 8, 2014) and David Lebovitz’s other books in print can be found at many local English-language bookstores, as well as on the Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites.

They will also be available for purchase and signing during Bloom Where You’re Planted, at the American Church, 4 October.
Each time we finish a wedding ceremony at The American Church, we invite the bride and groom to sign the Wedding Blessing Register of The American Church in Paris, where their wedding blessing becomes a part of the church’s permanent records. We also invite the couple to return to The American Church for a reunion whenever they return to Paris. Recently, one of those reunions took place.

It was a Friday afternoon when a Japanese couple who had been married at The American Church 20 years ago appeared at the church for a reunion. Keiko, our new and able ACP Wedding Coordinator, welcomed them; and since she is obviously fluent in Japanese, she could converse with them easily.

The first thing Keiko did was to secure the Blessing Register Book from 20 years ago, where she looked up the couple’s wedding date and was able to show them their names in the church’s records. That pleased them immensely.

Then, by good fortune, Fred Gramann happened by, and greeted them and welcomed them back. But, in addition, Fred took the time to go to the organ console and play all of the music they would have heard in their wedding blessing ceremony 20 years ago.

It was an emotional, tender time for the couple, and they were thrilled beyond words with their warm, welcoming reception after all these years. My thanks to Keiko and Fred for their extra effort in welcoming the happily married couple back to The American Church, and reminding them of what a special service we offer couples who are married here.

We provide more than a wedding blessing. We provide Christian love and hospitality, and we offer encouragement to couples as they begin their marital journey. Our wedding ministry has a rich history, which we continue today as we provide both wedding blessings and vow renewals to couples from all corners of the world.

**ACP fall retreat**

31 Oct - 2 Nov, at La Clarté-Dieu

Come and see God at work, and be blessed by a weekend with the ACP family in a beautiful wooded setting. Our fall retreat will take place at a Franciscan center, La Clarté-Dieu, 20km southwest of Paris. Open to all, there will be time for morning devotions, group sessions, worship together and plenty of time for Sabbath rest.

Our guest speaker is Dr. Eric D. Barreto, Associate Professor of New Testament at the Luther Seminary. Dr. Barreto has received numerous academic honors. His most recent include the George W. Woodruff Fellowship, the Emory Minority Fellowship Grant, and several grants from the Hispanic Theological Initiative and the Fund for Theological Education. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) and the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion. He also published, "The Bible is Like ... or is It" in SBL Forum in January 2009 and presented a paper on the same topic in November 2007 at the SBL Annual Meeting in San Diego, Calif. For more information or to sign up for the fall retreat, see the ACP website, www.acparis.org
Our Habitat for Humanity group returned from 10 days in Kostinbrod, Bulgaria in high spirits, after working on a construction site that will become home to four families. Lisa Prevett reports.

The trip was fantastic! We did a lot of digging to prepare the site for the foundations of the fourth house, put up a fence to keep the children in house one safe from the work site, helped build a shed where we worked on the rebar, and then we did a lot of rebar work (making the metal cage supports that get filled with concrete and put into the foundations, walls and roof of the house... i.e. it’s the bit that helps stop the house from falling down!).

The girls even unloaded the three tons of metal bar that was needed for the rebar and categorized it all before starting the rebar work. Some of the team also helped with masonry on the third house (building some of the walls!) and laying the concrete floor in the second house. Kai was team leader, with Yinka stepping in at the end of the week when a couple of the team (including Kai) had to leave early to come back to Paris for work reasons.

We met a couple of the families and even learned random Bulgarian words with Mario, one of the children living in the first house that had been finished just before we arrived.

It was really a wonderful trip...full of joy, singing and hard work! And apart from one day which was ridiculously muddy after it had rained all night (but we still braved it and went to work anyway, which surprised the Habitat staff!) we were blessed with lovely sunny weather!

While people may never see the rebar that we worked on by just looking at the house, ACP’s love and prayers are in the very foundations of the building and the whole team felt blessed to have had the opportunity to put our faith into action and serve these families in Bulgaria.

Mission Outreach Committee, quiz answers (see page 26)

| A, Z = Youth Mission Trip; | G = Mitten Tree; | N, Y = Friday Mission Lunch; |
| B, S = Destiny Ryales—ECTF; | H = Foyer de Grenelle; | Q = JoAnn Neal—Rafiki; |
| C, C2 = King’s Garden; | J = Homeless Ministry—Sandwich; | T, V = Michael Beeman—Tearfund UK; |
| D, P = Patti Lafage—Rafiki; | K, X, B2 = Marche de Noel | W = Habitat for Humanity; |
| E, V = Deep Griha; | L = Love in a Box; | A2 = Homeless Ministry—Breakfast; |
| F, R = Anna Cobbinah—TLTF; | M = Tiffany Musica; | D2 = Cameroonian Presb. Church |
This year marks the 200th anniversary of English-language worship in Paris. Each month we will tell the history in 20 to 25-year increments, from the point of view of the American Church in Paris, the first established American church overseas. This month: 1945-1962. By Alison Benney

### History in context

- **1945** - United Nations founded
- **1945** - First computer built (ENIAC)
- **1946** - Winston Churchill delivers "Iron Curtain" speech
- **1947** - Marshall Plan is announced
- **1947** - Dead Sea Scrolls discovered
- **1947** - Polaroid cameras invented
- **1948** - "Big Bang" theory formulated
- **1948** - Gandhi assassinated
- **1948** - Policy of apartheid begun
- **1948** - State of Israel founded
- **1949** - George Orwell published *Nineteen Eight-Four*
- **1949** - Soviet Union has atomic bomb
- **1950** - Korean War begins
- **1950** - Senator Joseph McCarthy begins Communist witch hunt
- **1952** - Polio vaccine created
- **1953** - DNA discovered
- **1953** - *Playboy* magazine first published
- **1954** - Report says cigarettes cause cancer
- **1954** - Segregation ruled illegal in US
- **1955** - McDonald’s Corporation founded
- **1955** - Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat for a white man on a bus in Alabama. Her stand helped to motivate Martin Luther King’s protests, which brought about the 1964 Civil Rights Act
- **1956** - Elvis gyrates on Ed Sullivan’s Show
- **1957** - USS launches Sputnik into Earth orbit
- **1957** - Six nations sign the Treaty of Rome, setting up the European Common Market
- **1958** - LEGO Toy Bricks first introduced
- **1958** - NASA Founded
- **1960** - John F. Kennedy elected US President
- **1960** - Alfred Hitchcock’s *Psycho* released
- **1960** - The birth control pill is approved by the US FDA
- **1961** - USSR astronaut Yuri Gagarin first human in space, orbits Earth
- **1961** - Berlin border closed, construction of Berlin wall begins
- **1961** - Peace Corps founded
- **1962** - The American University in Paris created at ACP
- **1962** - Cuban Missile Crisis (nuclear war narrowly averted)
- **1962** - First James Bond movie, *Dr. No*

### Changing times

After the war ended, the American Church in Paris welcomed back not only its pastor, Reverend Clayton Williams, and returning members, but also American soldiers. A US military chaplain was assigned to the staff for five years, and in 1951 the ACP installed 50 bunk beds in the theater for service men on leave or in transit. With our gym, bowling alley, dressing rooms and showers, it was quite a comfortable hotel, hosting 3-4,000 service men each week, according to Ruth Dixon’s account in *A Church on the Seine*.

However, the cultural turbulence in the 1950s - the cold war, the McCarthy era and the civil rights movement - reverberated also in the Paris expat community. Until 1962, post-grad American students met at the church on Tuesday evenings, for dinner and discussions about current affairs with political leaders; these included author and civil rights activist Richard Wright, French cabinet minister Edmond Michelet and Russian revolutionary leader Alexander Kerenski. A more light-hearted dinner group for young people, Pairs and Spares, was privileged to occasionally host columnist Art Buchwald.

Thanks to a change in the ACP constitution under Rev. Williams, women began to work on the church’s governing boards. One of the first to serve on the church’s Prudential Committee (now the Church Council), was Mrs. Robbin Strong, whose husband worked for the International YMCA.

In 1954, the first Alcoholics Anonymous group in France met at the church, and a year later, created an official English-speaking group. The French AA group was formed in 1961 under the name “Groupe Quai d’Orsay”, sponsored by the original ACP members. Today both groups still meet almost daily at the church.

Civil rights activist and author Richard Wright created an association called the Franco-American Fellowship,
to help fight racial discrimination here and at home, and held a number of meetings at the American Church. Easily said now, but then Wright warned the members that they “would have to make clear that they were not against America or the ideals of the Marshall Plan”.

One of Richard Wright’s friends, Nobel prize-winning author and philosopher Albert Camus, visited the American Church to hear the famous organist Marcel Dupré. He struck up a friendship with the resident summer pastor, Howard Mumma, and according to Mumma’s memoirs, he and Camus engaged in a series of profound philosophical and spiritual discussions that lasted several years.

Camus may have even attended the ACP’s 100th anniversary celebrations in 1957. Dr. Cochran returned (at 90 years old) to preach the centennial service on 22 September, a plaque was installed at the site of the first church building, at 21 rue de Berri, and a $50,000 fund was raised to construct apartments and classrooms on the 4th floor of the church house. In memory of her husband Louis V. Twyeffort, whose family’s ties to the church date back to 1857, Mrs. Josephine Twyeffort donated a new stained glass window, which was installed in the chapel. It depicts scenes from the birth and early life of Jesus (above).

The Twyeffort family were active members of the American Church, going back to 1857. While their most visible contribution to our present building is the Chapel window, donated by Louis V. Twyeffort’s widow in 1957, she and her husband also donated a Sunday School classroom, in memory of their son. The classroom is on the first floor of the church house, and is decorated with frescoes painted by Miss Sybil Emerson in 1930.

and Dr. DeLamater recalled: “Once the N.Y. Times article appeared...mail arrived in such quantities at the 65 Quai d’Orsay (American Church Office) that to avoid inundating the Church secretaries I had to carry it home nightly by car. The mail was mostly from prospective faculty who imagined a life in romantic Paris.”

Today the American University of Paris is the oldest American institution of higher learning in Europe, with more than 16,000 graduates in 142 countries. And although they no longer use the ACP for classrooms, our collaboration continues.

Next month we explore the ‘60s and a few good vibrations and inspiration from youth focused institutions.

For more on the history of the American University, which recently celebrated its 50-year anniversary, see http://50years.aup.edu/foundingyears

American College of Paris

When Rev. Williams and his French wife, Fernande, left in 1962, he had been serving the church for 36 years, starting as the assistant pastor in 1926.

One of the last but hardly least accomplishments of his pastorate was his role in the creation and hosting of the American College in 1962 (now the American University). It was the brainchild of Lloyd DeLamater, an American on assignment with the Foreign Service, and his French wife, Marie. Their vision was to create an American college in Europe to serve the educational needs of the American expat community. This included service members living on military bases in Germany, NATO officials in France, diplomats, and businessmen living in Europe with their families.

The American College in Paris was incorporated in the District of Columbia on 1 March 1962, and received authority from the French government to operate as a non-profit institution of higher learning.

The college announced itself ready to do business in 1961,
200th Anniversary Service

11 October at 15h30
Eglise de la Madeleine

All year we have been celebrating the 200th anniversary of English-language worship in Paris.

On 11 October all the English-speaking places of worship in the Paris region will join for a special service at the Madeleine.

The message will be given by Mark Labberton, President of Fuller Theological Seminary.

There will be a 200-voice choir, six special vocal soloists, handbells, trumpet and organ.

All are welcome!

Eglise de la Madeleine, Place de la Madeleine, 75008 Paris, métro: Madeleine.

The ACP is privileged to host yet another big event this fall, when 500 European pastors and church planters across Europe convene at the church from 28 - 30 October for the "Gospel within the City" conference.

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

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

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

Call for volunteers

The American Church in Paris will offer guided tours from 10h-17h on Saturday, 20 September, for Journées du Patrimoine, and we need volunteers. Would you like to learn and share the history and beauty of our church? Contact Alison at communications@acparis.org - extra languages are a plus!
La Madeleine: You can’t miss it!

By Amit Pieter

You can’t miss the imposing neo-classical edifice down from Place de la Concorde. Mirroring from afar the columns of the Assemblee Nationale, the Madeleine church looks like the Greek Pantheon but its model was the Roman temple Maison Caree at Nimes. Its site has undergone many changes over the years with a fascinating history, and will host our celebrations on 11 October, of 200 years of English-speaking worship in Paris.

The site was first occupied in the early Middle Ages by an important synagogue on the outskirts of medieval Paris. It was converted in 1152 by Bishop Maurice de Sully into a Catholic church dedicated to Saint Mary Magdalen. The settlement around the church became known as the ville de l’éveque, or bishop’s town, and was annexed into Paris in 1722.

Two false starts were made on building a new church. The first design was commissioned in 1757, by the architect Pierre Constant d’Ivry, who based his design on the late Baroque church of Les Invalides, with a dome surmounting a Latin cross. The cornerstone was ceremonially laid by Louis XV in April, 1763, but the work halted a year later. In 1777 d’Ivry died and was succeeded by his pupil, Guillaume-Martin Couture, who decided to raze the incomplete construction to begin anew, shortening the nave and basing the design on a Roman Pantheon.

By the time of the Revolution in 1789 the work was unfinished, consisting only of the foundations and the grand portico. Work languished while revolutionaries tried to decide upon a function for the structure. Debate included a library, a public ballroom, or market space.

The funeral of executed Louis XVI was held in the church at Madeleine. His body was clothed in a white vest, gray silk breeches and matching stockings, and he was buried with his head at his feet. In 1815 his remains and those of Marie Antoinette were re-interred at the Basilica of Saint-Denis.

Napoleon got involved in 1806, when he decided to erect a “Temple to the Glory of the Grand Army”. There was an elaborate competition with many entries for design of a new monument. Napoleon chose his own architect, Pierre-Alexandre Vignon, who is responsible for the similarity to the temple at Nimes. He razed the existing foundation but retained the standing columns, then died in 1828 before the project was completed.

He was replaced by Jacques-Marie Huve. A new competition was set up in 1828-9 for design of interior sculptures, and the church was re-dedicated as a monument of national reconciliation. In 1837 it was proposed to turn the Madeleine into a train station, but the building was finally consecrated as a church in 1842.

The funeral of Chopin was held in the church in 1849. It is interesting to note that his funeral was delayed 2 weeks because he had requested Mozart’s Requiem, which calls for female voices in the choir. The Madeleine church fathers had never allowed women in the choir but a solution was finally agreed upon on condition that the female singers remain seen but not heard behind a black velvet curtain.

La Madeleine boasts 52 Corinthian columns 20 meters high. The size of the base foundation is 108 meters by 43 meters, a massive structure. The church’s bronze doors bear reliefs representing the Ten Commandments. The interior has a single nave with 3 domes over wide arched bays, all lavishly gilded. A half-dome above the alter bears a fresco by Jules-Claude Zeigler depicting “The History of Christianity”, with an image of Napoleon at the center. An imposing pipe organ completes the interior.

All are invited to attend the service on Saturday, 11 October at 15h30, to celebrate 200 years of English-language worship in France. Otherwise, make sure to visit - it’s open daily from 9h30-19h00, see www.eglise-lamadeleine.com
More of You
the new album by
Still Point
Release June 21st

More of You
le tout nouvel album de
Still Point
Sortie le 21 Juin
The Young Adults group of The American Church in Paris is a community of 18-30-year-olds living and working in Paris. Though very diverse, the group finds its unity in common belief in Christ and the vision to embrace one another with love, openness and service. We learn from one another and explore the depth of faith as lived out in community. Individuals come from a myriad of cultural backgrounds, nationalities, traditions, denominations and languages but find solidarity in our shared experiences and encounters of God’s love revealed in Christ.

Each week the Young Adults gather for fellowship, discipleship, outreach, service and fun! The first and third Tuesday of the month, the group meets at 19h30 for **Bible study and worship**. Some semesters we read through and discuss a book of the Bible. Most recently, we have had lessons on the book of James, the Psalms, Philippians, the Gospel of Luke, and the epistles of John. Some semesters track a particular theme, such as "Women of the Bible, Men of Character, the Life and Teachings of Jesus, or Biblical Justice.

The second and fourth Tuesday of the month is **Pizza Night**. Young Adults gather together to make delicious home-made pizza in our kitchen and share the meal together. During these evenings, we often watch a video series and have small group discussions based on current events or relevant topics of interest to our group. This past year we enjoyed a stimulating series of TED talks and also offered a 2-month Alpha course.

The Young Adults also gather throughout the month, for **social activities** on Sunday afternoons, serving the homeless of Paris on Saturdays, additional Bible studies and support groups, and for special evenings of praise and prayer.

It is our hope and prayer to provide a place of acceptance and Christian growth in the heart of Paris for any and all young adults, regardless of how long you are in Paris. We believe God is doing remarkable things in our city and the world, and desire to partner with God as a community of Christ-followers.

We invite you to learn more about the Young Adults of ACP by visiting the church website [www.acparis.org](http://www.acparis.org), or connect with us via our Twitter and Facebook pages ([facebook.com/groups/ACPyoungadults](http://facebook.com/groups/ACPyoungadults)). Come join one of our meetings to discover more about who we are and how we are striving to live out our faith together.

*For more information, please check Facebook or email youthpastor@acparis.org*
“Contemporary” worship began as an effort to make corporate worship more accessible to unchurched people. The concern was that what is “traditional” to people who grew up in the church would be extremely foreign to anyone who did not. So liturgy was minimized, and modern language and popular music styles and structure employed to make the same gospel relatable to people who had no experience with the way traditional worship typically unfolds.

But contemporary worship has far outgrown that model for one simple reason. By arranging hymns and writing songs that sound like something you might naturally say from the depths of your own experience, I think the movement tapped into a far wider range of people — even unchurched people, like myself, who discovered a profound new way to sing their personal testimony to God, pouring their own lives into each line. The simplicity allows for harmony and shaping that draw you in to speaking in the first person. And that's incredibly powerful.

Traditional hymns are very frequently a credo in verse form. There is usually more of an intellectual arc than an emotional one. Contemporary worship songs on the other hand, use pop song structure for an emotional arc (verse, pre-chorus-chorus-verse chorus-bridge-chorus). And in fact, the two styles, traditional and contemporary, tend to treat the role of emotion in worship differently. Traditional worship is skeptical of emotion playing too great a role and holds the time-tested truths that we affirm together, over and above personal experience or feeling.

I think that contemporary worship that doesn’t maintain a healthy degree of that same skepticism will struggle. It’s all too easy to emote in a room of like-minded people, but do we leave having been changed in God’s presence; convicted of sin but overwhelmed by the unmerited favor and forgiveness we've received? Are we changed?

We must acknowledge that we were made to worship, and as emotional beings, worship has to be more than emotional feeling. But as emotional beings, commanded not only to worship, but to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, it is a worthy endeavor to find what will touch people’s hearts and allow them to express the absolute heights and depths of their experience and testimony.

The worst of all worlds in my experience is when that skepticism leads people to believe that unsophisticated music or intentionally suppressed emotion (no crescendos or overly riveting instrumentation, please) is somehow the recipe for spiritual purity. There are those who say that Bach in worship is arrogance or that electric guitar and drums are evil – in other words, that music should not pull at the heartstrings lest we be tainted by impure motives. Yet if we understand anything at all about God, how on earth can our worship be bloodless and tame?

This is why we are so enormously blessed at ACP. Plumbing the heights and depths of worship through music is a mighty calling, and we have an excellent music director in Fred Gramann, whose life ministry to reach those heights and plumb those depths through the classical sacred repertoire is inspiring. Through bell and vocal choirs that stretch our imagination and thrill our senses, and with new compositions that speak testimony and inspire through classical genres, they reach churched and un-churched people alike with the gospel through song.

And for those who are more comfortable with less liturgy and to whom popular music speaks and allows them best to worship, we have a committed team of worship leaders in our contemporary band, Still Point, many of whom are classically trained, who tithe their lives into producing the best of music that we can write, arrange or find being written and present it in a way that we hope will speak to and be a tool for worshippers at the 13h30 service.

The metric for true worship must be how we respond. Do we comprehend more and more the unmerited, lavish love of God and lavish it on our neighbors in response? Because that is true worship in any genre.

Overwhelmed with the love and grace we've received may we leave worship brimming over with that feeling and that truth.

For more information, please contact Natalie Raynal at cmusic@acparis.org

Contemporary worship service
By Natalie Raynal

It is a worthy endeavor to find what will touch people’s hearts and allow them to express the absolute heights and absolute depths of their experience and testimony.
With three services each Sunday - at 9h, 11h and 13h30 - which is the best fit for you?

“The 9am service is the middle of the night for many Parisians,” jokes Senior Pastor Scott Herr, “so not surprisingly it is our smallest gathering.” While the sermon remains the same for all three services, at each 9h gathering, we celebrate the sharing of communion.

“It is quieter and more intimate at the 9am service, and seems more reverent and worshipful, fostering a deeper, personal experience of God,” says Marilyn Dikkers, who has attended the American Church for 35 years. The service boasts beautiful organ music prepared by Fred Gramann which, coupled with the smaller attendance, provides for worship that is sharply focused on the word of God. While getting up early may be a pitfall for some, Elodie Lasserre says she prefers the early service as it is the most peaceful, and with fewer people it means you can feel more comfortable. She also points out the upside of having lots of time after the service to enjoy the rest of your Sunday in Paris.

Between the 9h and 11h services, Rev. Brent Anderson offers an hour of inspiring Bible study on the lectionary texts of the following week. This allows people at the 9h service to extend their worship time, and prepares those coming to the 11h for a more thoughtful worship experience.

While also traditional, the 11h service fills up the sanctuary with over 500 people hungry for God’s word, and latecomers often find it difficult to find an open seat. The musical aspect of the worship plays a big role, usually with a procession of the choir and often special choral, bell choir and instrumental or voice solos. The music is an event in itself, says Camilla Radford Furman: “Being able to sing such meaningful hymns and participate in the singing to our Lord touches my soul.” This service also offers children’s worship, as it is attended by many young families.

The 13h30 service, also called the contemporary service, is described by Kawa Banda as “modern and very accessible for even non-Christians, to have a first approach.” The music is loud and youthful and performed by the dedicated volunteer band, Still Point, led by Natalie Raynall. Started in 2008, the service now fills up the sanctuary; with an informal liturgy, it includes images projected on slides, making it easier for the congregation to follow. Anyone who has attended this service can attest to the feeling of openness among and simplicity of the service.

Having attended ACP for the past five years, I can honestly say that it is difficult to choose which of the three services to go to, as each has its unique merit. Camilla commented that “Everyone is different, and I appreciate that ACP offers something for everyone.”

Since getting married, my commute to Paris takes between one and a half to two hours, so it is safe to rule me out of waking up at “silly o’clock” for the 9h service. However, for all those of you who have yet to experience all of the services at the American Church, Pastor Scott entreats you to check them out: “I encourage you to try each one so that you know your brothers and sisters from the different worshipping communities that make up the one congregation of the American Church in Paris!”

Each service offers the same sermon, a children’s nursery for all three services, and post-service coffee hour meet-and-greet.
Meet Anastassia Sharpe

As our school year concludes and we celebrate another amazing year of ministry with our Youth and Young Adults, I'm already excited for the 2014-2015 year. Beginning in the fall, ACP has brought on board a full-time Youth and Young Adult Intern, Anastassia Sharpe. Currently a student at Princeton Theological Seminary, she will be with us for the next year.

Anastassia Sharpe is 26 years old, born in Pennsylvania, and raised in North Carolina. Anna, or “stassi,” grew up with her home church, Westminster Presbyterian. She has attended Westminster since a toddler, and remains a member today. She attended Camp Don Lee for nine years, and has served as a youth counselor, a lifeguard, a sailing/kayak instructor, a craft instructor, and a girl’s counselor.

At school she studied dance, focusing on modern dance choreography and French, becoming nearly fluent after nine years of study. She studied Philosophy and Religious Studies at the College of Wooster, where she graduated with honors. Her senior thesis was on Kierkegaard’s philosophical defense of Jesus Christ.

After graduation, Anastassia worked as a paralegal for three years for her mother’s family law practice, and that is when she discerned her call to Seminary. At Princeton Theological Seminary she serves as a deacon for the girls on her hall, and as the treasurer of the Women’s Center. She has taken a year off of school to come serve the American Church in Paris.

Anastassia is thrilled about this opportunity, and cannot wait to meet you! Her experience, theological insight, gifts, skills, passion and presence will be a wonderful blessing to these ministries and our church community here at ACP.

It is our prayer as well that her time and experience with us will be transformative, as she is discerning God’s calling. Therefore, it is the hope and prayer of our pastoral team to find Anastassia housing with an individual or family from our church. We humbly ask you to prayerfully consider this request. If you have any thoughts, questions or ideas please email youthpastor@acparis.org. - In Christ, Pastor Dan

SAVE THE DATES FOR FALL 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 September</td>
<td>Atelier Concert Series begins (17h)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 September</td>
<td>Women’s Tuesday Morning Bible Study begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 September</td>
<td>Adult Choir/Youth Choirs resume rehearsals</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 September</td>
<td>Men’s Thursday Morning Bible Study begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 September</td>
<td>Bronze Ringers &amp; Spire resume rehearsals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 September</td>
<td>Ministry Fair, after the 11h00 and 13h30 services</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 September</td>
<td>Celebration Ringers rehearsals resume</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 September</td>
<td>Installation of New Council, 11h00 worship service</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 October</td>
<td>Bloom Where You’re Planted</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 October</td>
<td>Children’s Worship Volunteer training</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 October</td>
<td>200th Anniversary Service, Eglise de la Madeleine</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Oct.–2 Nov.</td>
<td>All-Church Fall Retreat</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 November</td>
<td>ACP Café, 19h30</td>
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<td>15 November</td>
<td>Marché de Noël</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 November</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Service, 12h15, American Cathedral</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 November</td>
<td>ACP Thanksgiving Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 December</td>
<td>Candlelight Christmas Concerts, 17h00 and 20h00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 December</td>
<td>Children’s Nativity Pageant, 11h00 worship service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 December</td>
<td>ACP Family Christmas Party</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY IN PARIS?

Join us for Bible Study Fellowship on Monday evenings from 19h00 - 20h50 as we study the life of Moses.

The women meet in the Sanctuary and the men meet in the Catacombs.

Class begins Monday, 8 September.

For more information please contact our Class Administrator, Thelma Fuchs, at thelmafuchs@yahoo.fr. Also, see www-bsfinternational.org

24 ACP Spire, September 2014
Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

It is with deep disappointment that we announce the postponement until further notice of "A Prairie Home Companion", scheduled for 5-6 September, as Garrison Keillor is dealing with personal medical issues. We received this news yesterday and are fully committed to reimbursing everyone who purchased tickets as soon as possible.

I feel like Lake Wobegon’s Pastor Inqvest who had to tell his wife that the church council cancelled their long-awaited trip to Orlando, Florida. We are so sorry for the inconvenience that this short notice may cause, especially for those who made travel plans to be in Paris for this event. However, I invite you all to pray for Garrison Keillor’s health and his whole team, as they also are disappointed that this event is not happening as planned.

Robert Burns’ famous quote comes to mind: "The best laid schemes of Mice and Men, Oft go awry, And leave us nothing but grief and pain, For promised joy!" We are sorry that what was intended to bring blessing for the larger community now has brought the blues... I do hasten to add, even with this bitter news, it will be sweet being together for the rentrée and I look forward to seeing you again soon in worship. I remain sincerely yours,

In Christ, Scott Herr

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Of all of the ways that the Lord has blessed me, right now I’m particularly thankful for my recent long, restful vacation. My family, Flat Jesus (ACP’s new travelling buddy), and I all spent time in the American Midwest; just check out that glorious picture of Flat Jesus against the Columbus, Ohio skyline. With my jet-lag behind me and my shorts and tee-shirts being packed away until next summer, I am looking forward to the autumn and all of the excitement that it brings to Paris and, in particular, to ACP.

I would first like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who made this year’s Vacation Bible School such a success. It is a privilege to offer this ministry to the families of our community, and it wouldn’t be possible without the time and dedication so selflessly offered by so many adults and youth at our church. So I know I speak for myself, for the families of the children who attended, and the entire ACP community when I say: thank you, thank you, thank you.

Regular Children’s Worship resumes Sunday, September 14th, and I am excited the changes we are making this year. The first is that we will be expanding our curriculum selection to include God’s Big Picture and God’s People Celebrate along with our traditional Godly Play material. This will allow us to follow the lectionary more closely so that children are learning from the same gospel texts as their parents.

The change that I am perhaps most excited about is the addition of Worship Buddies, volunteers specially trained to work one-on-one with children who require closer adult attention in a classroom setting. This is a very personal initiative for me as my own daughter has special needs and will be beginning Children’s Worship next fall. Lauretta Haugh, whose professional background is in special education, has graciously agreed to act as our Special Education Consultant. She will be offering training to our Worship Buddies, as well as offer me and our other volunteers guidance on how to make the entire Children’s Worship program more inclusive for all children.

If you are interested in serving as a Worship Buddy, or as a regular Children’s Worship volunteer, please contact me at childrensworship@acparis.org. We are especially in need of volunteers at our 13h30 service. Please take the time to pray over whether God is calling you to be a part of this special ministry.

---

Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

It is with deep disappointment that we announce the postponement until further notice of "A Prairie Home Companion", scheduled for 5-6 September, as Garrison Keillor is dealing with personal medical issues. We received this news yesterday and are fully committed to reimbursing everyone who purchased tickets as soon as possible.

"Planning for the show was right on schedule," Garrison said, "and we were looking forward to it. We will be happy to discuss a new date in the near future."

sweet being together for the rentrée and I look forward to seeing you again soon in worship. I remain sincerely yours,

In Christ, Scott Herr
Welcome to this new season in the Lord’s vineyard here at the ACP! Is this the year you’re ready to reach out to bless others right here in Paris or somewhere else in the world? If so, you may be in for a surprise: as you seek to bless others, the Lord blesses YOU!

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

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

To start the year off, here is an overview of each of our current missions, and an array of photographs of them. Can you guess which pictures go with which missions? Here are a few hints:

1. Not all missions have pictures; 2. Some missions have more than one; and 3. The pictures for Local and Global missions are mixed between the four pages. Come by at the Mission Outreach table during the ministry fair and tell us how you did. The answers are on page 15 of the Spire. Have fun!
LOCAL MISSIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our missionaries:

Patti Lafage in Uganda, with the Rafiki Foundation: Patti and other missionaries in the Rafiki Training Village provide homes, Christian education and healthcare for over 100 abandoned and orphaned children in Uganda.

JoAnn Neal in Tanzania, also with the Rafiki Foundation: One of Rafiki’s longest missionaries in Africa, JoAnn has previously served in Madagascar and Uganda.

Anna Cobbinah in Ghana, of The Living Truth Foundation: Anna evangelizes in the prisons, schools and hospitals in south-central Ghana, where she preaches and conducts Disciple Bible Study classes.

Destiny Ryales in Ghana, of Excellence Computer Technology Foundation: Destiny trains teachers who offer free computer literacy lessons to school children in three villages, from kindergarten to 8th grade.

Michael Beeman in South Sudan: Michael works with Tearfund UK to meet urgent needs in villages affected by conflict, in coordination with the humanitarian community and local churches.

Other global missions:

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

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

Mission trips:

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

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

Habitat for Humanity: This ACP partner organization seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness, and provide decent shelter. ACP sends teams every year to locations in Europe to build or renovate houses.
Have any of these missions grabbed your interest? Pulled at your heartstrings? Or just plain gotten your curiosity up? If so, please contact us! We have Lay Leaders for each mission who would be glad to tell you more about their missions and how you can get involved. You can email us at missionoutreach@acparis.org

Please let us know what you would like to read about from the Mission Outreach Committee in future articles in the Spire. What matters to you, matters to us.
**ACP Spire Diary – September events, meetings and concerts**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 1 Sept</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music, interviews, and sermon highlights.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sandwich Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Friday 5 Sept</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Jurie Ane Feleo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:homelesssandwich@acparis.org">homelesssandwich@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparation: Friday 19h30 at ACP</td>
<td>Saturday 6 Sept</td>
<td>13h30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distribution: Saturday 13h30, meet at ACP</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong> - Free admission, with free-will offering Christina Chae-young KIM, piano Oeuvres de Bach, Mozart et Schubert</td>
<td>Sunday 7 Sept</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Young Adult Program resumes</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday 9 Sept</td>
<td>19h30 - 21h00</td>
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<td>Dan Haugh <a href="mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org">youthpastor@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Choir and Youth Choirs rehearsals resume</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 10 Sept</td>
<td></td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a> Bonnie Woolley <a href="mailto:youthmusic@acparis.org">youthmusic@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 12 Sept</td>
<td>10h00-14h00</td>
<td>The American Cathedral</td>
<td>Kristie Worrel <a href="mailto:fridaymissionlunch@acparis.org">fridaymissionlunch@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every Friday a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. ACP is responsible for the meal on the second Friday of each month, but we are grateful for help with cooking, serving, and cleaning up every Friday.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner</strong></td>
<td>Friday 12 Sept</td>
<td>20h00</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Monica Bassett &amp; Anja Wyss <a href="mailto:multicultural@acparis.org">multicultural@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fellowship and discussion on topics such as raising bicultural/ bilingual children and cultural differences. Bring a dish to share.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Children’s Worship resumes</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 14 Sept</td>
<td>11h00 &amp; 13h30 services</td>
<td></td>
<td>Allison Wheeler <a href="mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org">childrensworship@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Program resumes</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 14 Sept</td>
<td>15h00 - 17h00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Anastassia Sharpe <a href="mailto:youthintern@acparis.org">youthintern@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry Fair</strong> - ACP Council committees and other groups will showcase their projects and activities to welcome new members and participants to join in the fun of being a part of the greater ACP community.</td>
<td>Sunday 14 Sept</td>
<td>Following 11h00 &amp; 13h30 services</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shannon Boisson de Chazournes <a href="mailto:communitylife@acparis.org">communitylife@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong> - Free admission, with free-will offering Harumi KINOSHITA, clavecin Oeuvres de Bach, Rameau, Couperin</td>
<td>Sunday 14 Sept</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Celebration Ringers rehearsals resume</strong></td>
<td>Monday 15 Sept</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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### ACP Spire Diary – September events, meetings and concerts
(please check www.acparis.org/diary for updates)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Council Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday 16 Sept 19h30 Thurber Room Pam Bohl councilmoderator @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 18 Sept 18h30; 19h30 Dinner;Lecture Thurber Room Michelle Wahila associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>First of a three-part &quot;Salon&quot; series of musicians, poets, and visual artists sharing their work and discussing the relationship between artists and the church.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 18 Sept 19h30 Room G2 Rebecca Brite <a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie selection is The Double by Richard Ayoade, Enemy by Denis Villeneuve, Obvious Child by Gillian Robespiere and Miss Julie by Liv Ullmann. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sandwich Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Friday 19 Sept 19h30 at ACP Saturday 20 Sept 13h30 Jurie Ane Feleo homelesssandwich @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation: Friday 19h30 at ACP Distribution: Saturday 13h30, meet at ACP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 21 Sept 17h00 Sanctuary Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Free admission, with free-will offering Etienne ESPAGNE, violon Œuvres de Bach, Locatelli, von Westhoff, Ysaye, Carter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 25 Sept 18h30; 19h30 Dinner;Lecture Thurber Room Michelle Wahila associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Greg Cootsona: C. S. Lewis and the Crisis of Science</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Council Training Retreat</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 27 Sept Thurber Room Pam Bohl councilmoderator @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Council Installation</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 28 Sept 11h00 service Sanctuary Pam Bohl councilmoderator @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 28 Sept 17h00 Sanctuary Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Free admission, with free-will offering « Trio voix liées » Louise COUTURIER, soprano; Aurore BOUSTON, mezzo-soprano; Bertille MONSELLIER, piano; Baptiste-Florian MARLE-OUVARD, orgue Œuvres de Franck, Rossini, Gounod, Fauré, Delibes, Chaminade, D’Ollone, Lucantoni</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>October</strong></td>
<td>Saturday <a href="mailto:bloom@acparis.org">bloom@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bloom Where You’re Planted</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 15h30 Eglise de La Madeleine</td>
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<tr>
<td>orientation program</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>200th Anniversary Service</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 11 Oct 15h30 Eglise de La Madeleine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER 2014 AT 15H30
AT THE EGLISE DE LA MADELEINE

Message by MARK LABBERTON
President of Fuller Theological Seminary

A 200-VOICE CHOIR
with Alison Scherzer & Bryn Vertesi, sopranos
Brigitte Heuser, mezzo-soprano
Till Blochweidel & Kevin Moreno, baritones Cam Vertesi, bass

THE ACP BRONZE RINGERS
THE ACADÉMIE AMÉRICAINNE DE DANSE DE PARIS

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

Bloom Where You’re Planted
Connecting people in Paris for over 44 years

Saturday
4 October 2014
9h ~ 18h