Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

Summer is a wonderful time to rediscover the gift of Sabbath rest and refreshment. Summer is a time when nature reminds us that so much life and beauty happens despite all of our worry and toil. The sunshine, grass, trees and flowers are all so beautiful, no thanks to us! We can simply behold, admire and absorb the beauty of God’s creation. Artists seem to understand Jesus’ invitation to “Consider the lilies…” Impressionist painter Claude Monet spent much time savoring the reflections of color at his garden in Giverny. One of his practices was “visual meditation.”

I’ve heard it said that one form of prayer is simply “paying attention.” I wonder if all of the summer visitors to Paris who stand in awe of art and architecture realize that they are *tourist contemplatives*? Perhaps

Remember, at the root of the word contemplate is the word “temple.” We don’t have to have to be in a literal temple to realize God’s presence and peace. We can stop and see again (re-*spect*) the glory of the Lord wherever we are, even in the faces of a crowd of tourists walking along the quai…

Paradoxically, rest and refreshment require intentionality. Observing Sabbath rest doesn’t just happen. We must choose to stop in order to enter into Sabbath rest. All of us in the church need to learn to say *yes* to God’s calling in life, but that means saying *no* to other options. Sometimes saying *no* is easy, and sometimes it’s very hard. The gift of Sabbath is key in order to discern and decisively act in a way that accords with God’s will in my life and in our life together, and this requires saying *yes* to God’s command to remember the *Sabbath and keep it holy* even if it means I

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Rest is good for all of us, all of creation. Some might say that resting might have helped avoid countless heart attacks, divorces, wars, oil spills.

we also should take the coming months as an opportunity to spend more time reflecting on God’s presence in all of creation, even in the city? Remember at
have to say no to “legitimate” work demands that press upon me.

Stephen Cotrell, Anglican Bishop of Reading, England, writes in his book, *Hit the Ground Kneeling: Seeing Leadership Differently*, that when we know the big yeses of our lives, all of the little nos will fall into place. “And even if this fails, remember the story of the bishop who went to see his spiritual director and told him all his troubles. The wise spiritual guide sat back in his chair and advised the bishop to sleep more. ‘Why?’ asked the bishop. ‘It will limit your opportunity to do further damage,’ came the reply!”

Indeed, summer is a wonderful time to recover again our joyful discipline of Sabbath, to practice resting in the Lord so that we limit our opportunity to do further damage to ourselves, our community life, and our larger environment. Rest is good for all of us, all of creation. Some might say that resting might have helped avoid countless heart attacks, divorces, wars, oil spills. Precious lives and nature are consumed in the name of addictions that will never let us stop …

My prayer for you and for me this summer is that we will take time to enter into Him who is our Sabbath rest and be refreshed and renewed not just for the rentrée, but so that we will be a community that celebrates God’s glory reflected all around us. And in our resting, may we remember that we are called to be richly blessed in order to be a blessing for all the world.

In Christ,

*Scott*

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**Summer Events**

**Sunday Worship Services**
- 9am Holy Communion
- 11am Traditional Service
- 1.30pm Contemporary Worship

**Fellowship**
- Young Adults Bible Study on Tuesdays in Catacombs at 7.30pm
- Young Adults Summer Saturdays: come and join us as we explore the city, pray together and get together over the summer (for specific dates and times, please visit the Young Adult’s section)
- Thurber Thursday is taking a rest over the summer and will resume on 16th September
- Youth Group: every Sunday 3-5pm (for more information, please read the Youth Events page)

**Music**
- Celebration Ringers
- Adult Choir rehearsal
- Bronze Ringers
  - Rehearsals will restart in September. Contact music@acparis.org for more information.

**Youth Music**
- Gaudeamus young adult vocal ensemble
- Cherub Choir
- Children’s Handbells
- Children’s Choir
- Shine Youth Choir
- Youth Handbells
  - Rehearsals will restart in September. Contact youthmusic@acparis.org for more information.
What are the optimal conditions for Joy?
Sun helps.
Freedom from fear or anxiety.
New beginnings (babies and weddings are joyful affairs)
Beauty.
Victory.
Abundance.
Rest.
I wonder what conditions you would add to your list ...

Summer is a season we count on for the restoration of joy – the season of sun and new starts

There is a poignant statement in one of the Jewish prophets:
*The harvest is past
the summer is ended
and we are not saved...*(Jer. 8:20)
If the harvest season has past without fruit and the summer ended without sounds of joy where does one turn for relief?
I can remember my second winter in Scotland for several reasons, but for one in particular: I was cold. I had not left the UK over the summer – and the summer had not been warm. I only recall one day above 70 degrees (21 C). Suddenly one day in winter it dawned on me – I was still damp from the previous spring! That autumn my body felt like a pair of jeans that had only partly dried out before being re-worn – you remember the feeling of damp denim on the skin. A joyless sensation ...

Summer is a season we count on for the restoration of joy – the season of sun and new starts, of freedom from the pressure of work – holiday experiences that promise newness, beauty and rest.
Summer is the season when we hope to dry out the dampness of the soul.
Sometimes, however, a season passes without enough sun and the dampness carries through.
*the summer is ended
and we are not saved...*

There is another Hebrew poet who wrote – prayed, really
*restore unto me the joy of your salvation...*(Psalm 51:12)

Salvation – for the Jews salvation was freedom and newness of life – salvation was beauty and victory, it was the abundance of God’s mercy and rest from fear and anxiety. Salvation and joy were inseparable. For the Jews who were the first Christians this salvation had a name: Jesus of Nazareth. In the life, death and resurrection of the Son of God the summer of God’s salvation had finally arrived. At Jesus’ birth the old priest praised the dawn of God’s salvation through the forgiveness of sins,
*the faithful love of our God
in which the rising Sun has come from on high to visit us...*(Luke 1:78)

My prayer for you this summer is the restored joy of salvation. I hope that you will read the stories of Jesus again in the Bible and let the brightness and warmth of the love of God in Jesus Christ reach into the damp places of your soul. I pray that the power and promises of God’s generous provision will relieve you of the anxieties and fears that rob you of joy. I
pray that as you both forgive and seek to be forgiven the Holy Spirit will shine the light and warmth of God’s salvation into the places where your soul is restricted, where you feel worn or ugly, defeated or depleted.

My prayer for you this summer is the restored joy of salvation. I hope that you will read the stories of Jesus again in the Bible and let the brightness and warmth of the love of God in Jesus Christ reach into the damp places of your soul.

No more “damp denim” autumnal seasons – let’s emerge from this summer with renewed joy of God’s salvation.

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you. May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you. May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors. Amen.
Youth Choir Concert
June 12, 2010
Young Adults in Burkino Faso

Over the last few months the ACP Youth have been busy...they've sold us cookies, given parents a night off by babysitting and they've organised and delighted us with the unforgettable church-wide Talent Show. Now the time has come for the Team, comprising of ACP Youth and adults, to travel to Burkina Faso, where they will spend 16 days working with the charity Heal the World:

June 29: travel from Paris to Ouagadougou, get settled at Heal the World center.
June 30: orientation and Training
July 1: service project
July 2: service project
July 3: cleaning and painting Shalom school, visiting Ramketa village
July 5-9: Work Week 1
July 10: morning – visit to downtown Ouaga, market, buying gifts/supplies for orphanage. Afternoon – orphanage visit.
July 11: worship and picnic at the new school site.

July 12-14: Work Week 2
July 14: travel from Ougadougo to Paris.

Work Week Schedule
7:30am: breakfast and morning devotion
9am-5pm: teaching, tutoring, hanging out with kids.
5-7pm: preparation for the following day.
7pm: dinner
8pm: team meeting

The Team are very grateful for all the support that everyone has given this trip so far and would really appreciate our prayers while they are away: for their ability to offer genuine help to the children they meet, open eyes and hearts as they encounter a new country and culture, deepening faith, mutual support and love within the group.

So to Christian DeLooper, Arthur Fabre, Sebastian Firrell, Marie and Daniel Grout, Danny Herr, Emaline Laney, Diana Festa-Odero, Robert Roussel and Ginger Strickland we send our love and prayers for a safe and successful trip.

Find out what the Team got up to and how their trip went in Part 2, coming soon in September's edition of The Spire
Summer Events

Young Adults

*New for Summer 2010!!* Join us for **Summer Saturdays** every week and enjoy exploring the city, praying and spending time together. Make sure you join our email list and come along to Bible Study on a Tuesday night to find out what is planned for each week. Don’t miss out on Summer Saturdays!

Youth

**Youth Group** meets on **every Sunday** from 3 – 5 pm for fun, fellowship and bible study in the **Catacombs**. Please feel free to bring friends along – they are always welcome at ACP events!

Contact Hyouthpastor@acparis.org for more information.

*Additional activities include:*

- **Wednesday July 28** – **Swimming** at the Boulogne Pool, meet in the Catacombs at 12pm
- **August 23 to 27** – **Youth Art Week** (contact Ginger to register)
Participants in Young Artists’ Week 2009

Join us the last week of the summer holidays for a creative exploration of Jesus’ life – from the mundane to the miraculous!

The morning session is for children ages 5 – 10. Afternoon session for youth ages 11 – 17.

More information will be published in the next addition of the Spire and on the website after June 15. And you can email us at childrensworship@acparis.org about this and all other Children & Family ministry inquiries!

Calling all Parents, Aunts, Uncles and Grandparents! Can you Volunteer?

Our Children’s Worship team is recruiting for the summer vacation Bible school and for the 2010 / 2011 session. Our team includes storytellers – helpers – greeters – and behind the scenes help with food for our “feasts”, or planning for our monthly fellowship times.

If you are able and willing to help in some fashion, please email Ania Bannister at childrensworship@acparis.org. Thank you!
The Alpha Course @ ACP this fall

Thurber Thursday evenings
beginning September 16

Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting over ten thought-provoking weekly sessions, with a day or weekend away.

What Alpha offers, and what is attracting thousands of people, is permission, rare in secular culture, to discuss the big questions - life and death and their meaning.”

-- The Guardian, London

Many claim Alpha has changed their lives and appear genuinely happier for the experience.”

-- Time Magazine

Also on this fall ...

The Gospel in Life
“Grace Changes Everything”

An eight week DVD & Small Group-based course

Thurber Thursdays
beginning September 16.

“The Gospel in Life” is an 8-session course on the gospel and how it is lived out in all of life—first in your heart, then in your community, and then out into the world.

In each session, Timothy Keller presents a ten-minute teaching segment on the gospel. Session 1 opens the course with the theme of the city: your home now, the world that is. Session 8 closes the course with the theme of the eternal city: your heavenly home, the world that is to come. In between, you will look at how the gospel changes your heart, changes your community, and changes how you live in the world.
Discipleship Seminar

Greater Knowledge – Deeper Dedication

9.30h – 11.30h every Tuesday, starting from September 21

What are the “essentials” of the Christian faith – and how do we live them out?
In conversation with several people over the past year it has become evident that there is a desire for a weekly adult education opportunity for deeper study of the basic building blocks of Christian belief (sometimes known as systematic theology).

To that end, Pastors Scott and Laurie and Christian Education Chair Peter Bannister invite you to join us for a pilot class following the “Faith Track” course developed by St. Paul’s theological centre in London.

Topics include: The Character of God ** Creation ** Sin, Evil & the Fall ** The Incarnation ** The Death of Christ ** Resurrection & Ascension ** The Holy Spirit ** Fulfillment

The aim of this experiment is to gather a group of people who can be available during the day, who are committed to attending weekly, and who commit to the values of community and conversation as we seek to deepen our knowledge of Christ. The format of this Tuesday morning discipleship course is based on input from a DVD series of lectures from St. Paul’s theological centre.

Each week either Pastor Scott, Pastor Laurie or Peter Bannister will lead discussion around the lectures. To register for this Tuesday morning seminar please email smallgroups@acparis.org.

What if I’m interested but can’t come on a Tuesday morning?
We realize (with regret) that a morning class during the week is not possible for everyone. If you are interested in this type of weekly discipleship training but cannot attend during the day, there are 2 things that would be helpful: in the short term, please consider attending “Gospel in Life” on Thursday evenings beginning September 16.

This is an excellent discipleship course.

ALSO – please contact smallgroups@acparis.org directly to let us know your interest in a weekly discipleship course on an evening or weekend. As we gather names and availability this helps us to decide on a future day and time in the week for further courses.

À la rentrée! Christian Education @ ACP this fall...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 9</td>
<td>Small group leader training, 19.00h</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smallgroups@acparis.org">smallgroups@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 11</td>
<td>Children’s Worship team training, 9.30h – 11.30h</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smallgroups@acparis.org">smallgroups@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, September 12</td>
<td>Children’s Worship resumes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smallgroups@acparis.org">smallgroups@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 16</td>
<td>Thurber Thursdays resume 18.30h – 21.30h with 2 courses: Alpha &amp; Gospel in Life</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smallgroups@acparis.org">smallgroups@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 21</td>
<td>NEW Adult Discipleship Course, 9.30h – 11.30h</td>
<td><a href="mailto:associatepastor@acparis.org">associatepastor@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday-Sunday, Sept. 24–26</td>
<td>Youth Retreat Weekend Away</td>
<td><a href="mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org">youthpastor@acparis.org</a></td>
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Mark your calendars now for …

October 29 – 31 All Church Retreat
Thank You to Our Council Leaders and the Teams who Surround Them!

- mary crass fenu (moderator) • pierre lisbonis & avril lee (personnel) • peter bannister & peggy smithhart (christian education) • maryclaire king & susan achu-ijang (membership & evangelism) • ursula perrier & kristy worrel (mission outreach) • daniel grout & david smith (nominating)

- africa fellowship leaders • filipino fellowship leaders • sanctuary decorating • giosefina francisco • virginia jacinto • african fellowship leaders • filipino fellowship leaders • sanctuary decorating • giosefina francisco • virginia jacinto • african fellowship leaders • filipino fellowship leaders • sanctuary decorating • giosefina francisco • virginia jacinto • african fellowship leaders • filipino fellowship leaders • sanctuary decorating • giosefina francisco • virginia jacinto
The Holy Spirit Conference
Holy Trinity Brompton, London
By Peter Bannister

‘Either Christianity is fire or there is no such thing’
(Mother Marie Skobtsova²)

If you say the word ‘Pentecost’ in today’s Western European culture, what associations does it conjure up, if any? In France – a country where the Judeo-Christian heritage has been quietly but systematically undermined over a number of generations –, all that seems to have remained of the original notion of this feast of the birthday of the church is a public holiday (if your workplace doesn’t insist on the lundi de Pentecôte as the annual journée de solidarité). Even in most churches Pentecost can hardly compare as a celebration with the other highpoints of the liturgical year, Easter and Christmas. Why this should be is something of a mystery, although Eastern Christianity has been trying to tell the West for many centuries that it is probably a symptom of our not taking the Holy Spirit seriously as a fully paid-up member of the Trinity.

It therefore came as quite a shock to the system to realize that on the other side of the Eurotunnel an increasingly large group of Christians have decided that this is a state of affairs that definitely needs changing. For three years now London has been the stage for a highly innovative city-wide Pentecost festival (www.pentecostfestival.co.uk) encompassing everything from cutting-edge theatre and social justice events to a worship evening attended by 5000 people at the Hammersmith Apollo, one of the city’s prime rock music venues. One of the congregations spearheading this recent

² Mother Marie Skobtsova (1891-1945) was a twice-married former Communist who became an Orthodox nun in Paris in the 1930s, where she ministered among the Russian émigré worker community; arrested by the Gestapo for hiding Jews during the Second World War, she died in Ravensbrück concentration camp. Her words were quoted by Rowan Williams in his conference presentation.
concerted effort to put Pentecost back on the map has been Holy Trinity Brompton, an Anglican church known throughout the world for pioneering the Alpha Course (which we will be offering here at ACP in the coming program year). It was at Holy Trinity that I had the privilege of being able to attend one of the focal events of this year’s London Pentecost Festival: a two-day conference entitled ‘The Holy Spirit in the World Today’, and I can say without hesitation that it was one of the most remarkable – and unusual – gatherings in which I have had the opportunity to participate.

The conference was organized within the framework of Holy Trinity Brompton’s exciting vision of theological education for all – as opposed to a clerical or academic elite – which has led to the establishment of the St Paul’s Theological Centre (http://sptc.htb.org.uk/), where anyone interested can profit from teaching at the very highest level, whether or not they have prior training in theology. A core conviction of the St Paul’s Centre is that the term ‘theologian’ should not be restricted to those with professional qualifications; instead, in accordance with the definition of the Early Church, all believers are called to be theologians, given the role that reflection on Christian faith plays in shaping our daily lives in response to the urgent challenges of today’s world. Such a ‘seminary of the people’ (to use an expression of Phyllis Tickle, one of America’s most acute commentators on trends in contemporary Christianity) by no means implies doing theology by the lowest common denominator. On the contrary, equipping Christians for engagement with the rapidly evolving and complex cultural contexts of a large multi-cultural city such as London is arguably a far more difficult endeavor than teaching in the context of a secluded university campus. More difficult but also maybe more stimulating: on the evidence of the rapid growth of the St Paul’s Theological Centre, bringing theology home from the academy to the Church where it truly belongs is firing the enthusiasm of some of the brightest minds in present-day Christianity, galvanized by the challenge of overcoming the false dichotomy between rigorous thought and practical relevance. It is a model which has been serving some of us as an inspiration for the development of the Adult Christian Education program at ACP, a ministry which we are hoping to expand via the establishment of our own Center for Christian Discipleship.

The quality of the slate of presenters at the Holy Spirit conference was outstanding, including some of the leading theological voices of our time: the current Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and his wife Jane, Jürgen Moltmann (familiar to us from his memorable Lenten lectures here in March), Miroslav Volf of the Center for Faith and Culture at Yale University (currently teaching a course on faith and globalization together with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair), and David Ford, Professor of Divinity at Cambridge University. All of their presentations were characterized by a profound commitment to combining searching intellectual reflection with a passionate living spirituality for the building up of the Church, God’s instrument for the advancement of His Kingdom in the world.

The way in which the conference sermons, lectures and workshops were
contextualized was strikingly novel. Having somewhat surprisingly been welcomed into the church to the strains of Duke Ellington and Miles Davis’s *Kind of Blue* (jazz improvisation’s interplay of structure and freedom being a metaphor for life in the Spirit), we found ourselves clustered throughout the church in small groups around coffee tables rather than in traditional pews. A little like our own Thurber Thursdays, but with 500 participants! There was a strong emphasis on the primacy of worship as the element of the conference welding everything else together, with the presentations preceded and followed by times of praise and prayer. Intriguingly, these were a blend of songs accompanied by a fairly high-volume worship band with music stemming from the classical tradition (French Catholic composer Olivier Messiaen’s *Quartet for the End of Time*).

The message was clear – artistic expression has always had a key role to play in connecting the heart and the head in the life of the Church and continues to do so. Sacred art’s endless variety of forms and idioms reflects the fact that, as David Ford reminded us, the Holy Spirit generates endless diversity while also being the source of our Christian unity and fellowship.

In our world, the Archbishop asserted, real humanity has become an endangered species, threatened by the falsehood of the idea that being truly human means being ‘in charge’, that freedom means being free from the needs and demands of others. Instead of this false humanity, the Spirit offers a life which on the contrary affirms our own vulnerability, poverty, limitations and dependence. A Christ-shaped existence that leads us into true humanity, held together not by our will to succeed and control, but by the passion of
God. We are not a people who have ‘arrived’; our lives are rather constantly opening out onto the endlessness of God, characterized by the hopeful longing for the ultimate fulfilment of the divine plan, the transfiguration of all things so that God is all in all.

**Hope, danger and the charismatic community**

This hope, as expressed in the New Testament cry ‘Maranatha!’, ‘come, O Lord’ (1 Corinthians 16:22, cf. Revelation 22:20) has long been central to the thinking of Jürgen Moltmann; his conference presentation explored the ways in which today’s Church is called to embody that hope as a Charismatic Community characterized by the radically counter-cultural values of God’s Kingdom. The Church in the Power of the Spirit (to use the title of Moltmann’s seminal work of the 1970s) is the bridgehead of new life on earth and God’s reconciliation of the whole cosmos under the lordship of the Risen Christ.

For Moltmann, whose personal journey of faith has always been marked by an engagement with – indeed involvement in – the dramatic historical events of the modern era, hope and danger are inextricably bound together. It is an awareness of present danger (such as the current threat of ecological destruction) which impels each generation to return to the resources of Biblical narrative in order to find hope and strength for action by recalling God’s promises of salvation. Moltmann encapsulated this idea at Holy Trinity Brompton by quoting the words of the German poet Hölderlin: ‘Wo Gefahr wächst, wächst auch das Rettende’ (‘Where danger grows, so grows what saves’). His compelling reading of the history of Christianity was a potent illustration of this dynamic of hope and danger, showing how a global Church has been arising out of the wreckage of institutionalized Christendom following the implosion of the ‘Christian nations’ of Europe initiated by the First World War of 1914-1918.

This has clearly brought about the demise of a certain paradigm of Christianity in place since its establishment as the official religion of the Roman Empire under Constantine in the fourth century. It is however precisely the disappearance of this model which is now allowing a more authentic form of Church to emerge, which Moltmann terms the ‘Church of the Spirit’. This is not a hierarchical structure imposed on the people from above as a state-sponsored national religion in alliance with earthly power, but rather a community emerging ‘from below’ in which everyone engages their gifts in the service of the Kingdom of God.

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3 This was brought home to me especially forcefully during the course of a conversation on this ‘hermeneutic of danger’ with a Nigerian doctoral student working on the application of Moltmann’s theology of God’s solidarity with victims (The Crucified God) to an African context. His church in Jos had recently lost 40 members during the course of inter-religious rioting, and is currently struggling with the issue of how to embody reconciliation and non-retaliation in a context of extreme violence.
servants, children or even sisters/brothers, but also God’s friends. This embodiment of Spirit-filled hope brings with it a certain form of danger, in that the inbreaking of the values of God’s Kingdom into our world inevitably represents a threat to the status quo, yet recent history offers us evidence (in the form of the collapse of the Soviet Empire or of apartheid in South Africa) that the established order can indeed be changed without bloodshed. Such events, argued Moltmann, are truly signs and wonders that testify to the work of the Holy Spirit in today’s world.

**Living the reality of God’s future**

In a fast-moving and wide-ranging lecture on the second day of the conference, David Ford similarly emphasized the notion of signs in the ongoing drama of the coming of God’s Kingdom – signs which we are called both to discern and to be through the apparently insignificant acts of our everyday lives. These acts can be a messy affair; living and serving in a deeply ambiguous world rife with cries of suffering, in which the coming of the Kingdom has been inaugurated but not yet completed, requires us to deal compassionately with a reality which is profoundly broken. In the midst of such brokenness, the Spirit works through the frailty and vulnerability shown in Christ’s own humanity, as the image of a flame with a cross in the centre powerfully conveys. And yet the Spirit draws us into a future which belongs to God and which is not merely determined by the past, a future in which present pain is not the final word, even if for the moment, grief and joy remain intertwined in human experience.

Professor Ford pointed out that life in the Spirit has both an intensely intimate and a robustly public dimension. On one hand, as St Augustine expressed so memorably in his *Confessions*, God is closer to us than we are to ourselves, the Holy Spirit being the all-embracing environment (implied by the Biblical metaphors of the Spirit as air or wind, as we find in Jesus’s dialogue with Nicodemus in John ch.3) in which we live as Christians. On the other, the Spirit draws us into community, creating a new family in which the boundaries of our very selves are exploded. This has a tangible impact on the world in the same way that the Pentecost event of the Spirit’s coming related in Acts 2 had dramatic public consequences for the world of the Apostles.

Nowhere is this combination of the intimate and the public - personal spiritual renewal and social transformation - more obvious than in the churches of the global South where Pentecostalism (when seen not as a new ‘denomination’ but rather as a dimension of Christian experience transcending man-made denominational frontiers) has become such a powerful force over the last hundred years. As Ford remarked, Pentecostal churches are the world’s largest self-organized movement of the poor. The language of charismatic worship, the intimacy of communion with God, is therefore also the language of political resistance in the truest sense. The Pentecostal phenomenon is one whose full importance is perhaps still to be acknowledged by the theologies of the developed nations, but given the inexorable and accelerating demographic shift in world Christianity towards the nations of the global South, it is one which we ignore at our peril, even if its manifestations (speaking in tongues, exorcisms, healings) may leave the rational Western mindset uncomfortable. Where the wind is blowing is hard to say, but we can hear its sound (John 3:8) – unpredictable, undefinable, untamed. The evidence of the Holy Spirit Conference at Holy Trinity Brompton is that increasing numbers of Christians in Britain and elsewhere are finding themselves
challenged to re-consider in the light of Pentecost whether our view of God's action in the world has been too focused on a past which we are trying to preserve (the memory of 'the late lamented Jesus Christ', to use another memorable phrase of Rowan Williams), rather than the divine future to which the past and present both point. To re-consider whether we are genuinely living in an attitude of passionate expectation of the coming of God in our lives and for the completion of the redemption of God's creation. To ask whether we pay more than lip service to the notion of being open to the wonderful yet disruptive transforming work of the Spirit of God manifested in ways which far exceed all our pre-conceived ideas. These Christians include both some of the most penetrating thinkers working in the Church today and countless ordinary yet extraordinary believers with whom they are united by the one Spirit. They are posing urgent questions to which we too need to respond both personally and as charismatic community.

Men’s Ministry

Men’s Ministry activities at ACP started again in June with a series of morning conversations over coffee. The men have been meeting for the purpose of encouragement, sharing, and prayer and have discussed both the ideas they bring from men’s ministry groups in other churches and ideas they have about the ministry needs of men in the ACP community. Ken Loewen, vice chair of Congregational Nurturing, reports that attendance has grown each week as word gets out. “I have a vision for this group to model Proverbs 27:17, which says “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another”, he said, “we have the opportunity to pray for and encourage each other as fathers, husbands, and brothers in Christ.” The Men’s morning conversations will continue on Thursday, June 24 from 8:30am-9:30am and on Thursday, July 1st from 7:30am-8:30am (note the earlier time) at Starbucks Coffee, 90 rue St-Dominique, 7ème. Please invite your friends and colleagues. After July 1st, we will be on hiatus and will announce a re-start date during the latter half of August. We’re starting to plan other Men’s Ministry activities for the Fall. Anybody wanting further information or to be placed on the e-mail distribution list for Men’s Ministry activities may contact Ken Loewen at ken.loewen@hotmail.com.
Parables of Grace

Daily Readings: July

Week of 4 July: Freedom — Galatians 5:1
Mon: Romans 8:18 – 28
Tues: 2 Corinthians 3:17-18
Wed: James 1:23 - 27, 2:12
Thurs: 1 Peter 2:16 – 17
Fri: Galatians 5:13 - 15
Sat: Galatians 5:16 - 24

Mon: Sower & Seed: Matthew 13:1 – 9
Wed: Sower & Seed II: Matthew 13:18 – 23
Sat: Weeds II: Matthew 13:36 – 43

Week of 18 July: Lost & Found — Luke 15:1—8
Mon: Pearls & Treasure: Matt. 13:45 – 46
Tues: Net: Matthew 13:47 – 52
Wed: Good Fruit: Matthew 7:15 – 23
Thurs: Builders: Matthew 7:24 – 27
Fri: Beds & Burials: Matthew 8:18 – 22
Sat: New Wine: Matthew 9:14 – 17

Mon: Lamp on a Stand: Mark 4:21 – 25
Tues: Growing Seed: Mark 4:26 – 29
Wed: Mustard Seed: Mark 4:30 – 34
Thurs: The Tenants: Mark 12:1 – 12
Fri: The Widow’s Offering: Mk. 12:38 – 44
Sat: Watchful Porter: Mk. 13:32 – 37
August

Week of 1 August: The Shrewd manager: Luke 16:1—13
Mon: Unmerciful Servant: Matt. 18:23 – 25
Tues: Workers: Matthew 20:1 – 6
Wed: Two Sons: Matthew 21:28 – 32
Thurs: Banquet: Matt. 22:1 – 4
Fri: Ten Virgins: Matthew 25:1 – 13
Sat: Sheep & Goats: Matt. 25:31 – 46


Week of 15 August: The Widow & the Unjust Judge: Luke 18:1—8
Mon: Praying with Jesus: Luke 11:1 – 4

Wed: Barren Fig Tree: Luke 13:6 – 9
Sat: Talents: Matthew 25:14 – 30

Sat: Fig Leaves: Luke 21:29 – 38
ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY.** from 10:00 to 10:50 in G-4 (basement level). All are welcome to attend. For more info please contact Kristie.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

**EVERY FRIDAY, THE MISSION LUNCH PROGRAM** provides a free, cooked lunch at the host church (American Cathedral, 23 avenue George V, Paris 8e) to those in need. ACP organizes the lunch on the second Friday of each month, but volunteers are needed every week for cooking, serving and cleaning-up. Contact: Kristie.

**KNIT ONE, PEARL TWO:** The Knitting Group goes on vacation for the summer. We will resume on Monday, Sept. 13 at 5 pm in Pastor Laurie’s office. For further information, please contact Elizabeth Rand.

**ACP PRAYER CARE TEAM.** Members of the Prayer Care Team invite you to join them after the 11 am service if you would like to pray together for your special concerns. Look for the team on the left side aisle under the chandelier.

**THE MOVIE GROUP’S CHOICES** for July are Sylvain Chomet’s “L’Illusioniste”, the new Pixar feature “Toy Story 3” by Lee Unkrich, and Natalia Smirnoff’s “Puzzle”. See any or all in the cinema at your convenience, then join the group for discussion on Thursday, July 22, at 7:30 pm in the church basement.

**LOOKING FOR HELPERS!** We need people to help with cooking at 4:30 pm and set up at 5:30. Contact Sarah if you are interested.

**USED BOOKS WANTED!** Are you moving? Is your spring cleaning completed? Bring your used books [and magazines and CDs and DVDs] to ACP. We are collecting now for the Used Book Sale to be held at the Marché de Noël in November. Simply bring your books to the Welcome Table during the coffee fellowship on Sundays for collection information.

**2011 PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL AND JORDAN.** The Women of the American Church invite women, men and mature teenagers to join in a journey to the Holy Land and Jordan. The 11-day/10-night trip will take place in the spring of 2011. Laurie Wheeler, Associate Pastor, will accompany the group along with a guide. The group will travel to Tel Aviv and visit Nazareth, Petra, Bethlehem and Jerusalem, just to name a few. Specific timing and details will be forthcoming. The group will be limited to the first 35 individuals. Please contact Deb or Nancy for itinerary, pricing and additional details.

**WOAC COFFEE GROUP.** July 15, 11 am-1 pm at Deb home. Please join us and meet new and old friends in Paris. We will be having brunch together so please bring one brunch item along to share. For further information, please contact Lisa.

**WELCOME BACK!** Pastor Charlie Brown and his wife Edda have arrived from Portland, Oregon. Pastor Charlie will be serving as Pastoral Assistant until December, focusing on the wedding ministry of the church. They were here in 2005 and are looking forward to renewing old ties and making new ones. Please pray for them and welcome them!

**DOCENT TOURS.** Did you know that our church is the first American church established on foreign soil, back in 1814? Do you know how many pipes the organ holds? Come along for a tour of the church after the 11 am service. We will meet at the front near the chapel. For more information or to join the docent team, contact Alison.

**LET THE BELLS RING!** Fred will be starting a new introductory group in September (if there is enough interest) on Thursday afternoons. While any musical experience is an advantage, you need not have any background in music to join in. (**Editor’s note:** When I started learning to ring bells in 1998, I did not know a whole note from a quarter note! Now I play with the Bronze Ringers.) You will be taught the techniques and the basics of reading music as needed. So pluck up your courage, shake off your worries and swing into action. Speak with Fred, jot him an email or (sorry!) give him a ring for more information.
Happy Birthday, USA!

Fun and fellowship with friends and the public made the last 4th of July a special day for the congregation of the American Church. Thanks to Pastor Ginger and the Youth and Young Adults Groups for donating games and prizes, particularly Young Adult leaders Destiny Ryales and Lisa Prevett for shopping, searching and organizing the games.

Also, it was a real pleasure to have the African Fellowship join us in the American event. They put together a wonderful potluck in which everyone could partake, and did so much to help set up the event. It was so fun to have such an energetic and fun group to share in this holiday. Combining our fellowships was a real joy and fun for all!

Claude Parjloh led the opening prayer, and Kim Herr painted a great banner to let all the people walking up and down the Quai what our event was all about. Many people stopped by to celebrate with us! What a great way to share our fellowship with the public! One happy visitor was an American who imports teas, and gave free iced tea samples to everyone. She was very happy to be a part of our group and meet people in our congregation.

Other fun events included the water balloon toss for the kids, and the Three Legged Races!

So with watermelon, hot dogs, picnics, games and prizes, perhaps we have started an annual event that could get bigger and stronger. I sure had a good time and really appreciated the fun, fellowship and the experience of organizing and working with such wonderful and helpful people! Thanks everyone!

by Camilla Macfarlane
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