Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

We are now in the season of Pentecost, that time in the church calendar when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the church empowering the first disciples for bold witness and a new life together (see Acts 2 for Luke’s version and John 20:19-29 for John’s version). I have been reflecting on a question people have shared with me recently about how to discern whether or not you’re living a life in the Spirit? The simple answer is that a person who is living a life in the Spirit is becoming more like Jesus and becoming more uniquely the person God created and calls us to be. The first part of the answer is clear, but the second part perhaps a little more difficult to recognize.

One of the paradoxes of Christian spirituality is that on the one hand, we are called to “deny ourselves” (Matthew 16:24-25) and to be “united with [Christ] in a death like his,” or “crucified” with Christ (Romans 6:5-11). But on the other hand we are “the children of God” (I John 3:1), even “beloved children” (Ephesians 5:1), now part of a new family called “brothers and sisters,” the “friends” (John 15:15) of Jesus. As members of this new community, “each of us” have been given grace (Ephesians 4:7ff) and unique spiritual gifts that can be used to build up the whole community, the whole family, in love. Perhaps the best summary of the paradox of life in the Spirit of Christ is John the Baptist’s classic phrase, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30).

But how can we know that we are maturing in Christ, becoming more “filled with the Spirit” and allowing Christ to increase in us? The Apostle Paul answers this question in a variety of ways. Two are key for me, and both get at the condition of our “heart” and relationships:

1. In Ephesians Paul assumes with his exhortation to be “filled with the Spirit” that we are to be engaged in joyful worship (“Singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything…” (Eph. 5:19-20). But that joyful, thankful intimacy with God in worship overflows directly to the quality of our relationships. Paul uses the imperative: “Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

2. Being filled with the Spirit of Jesus means looking to the needs of others more than our own needs, taking a servant posture and offering ourselves so

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control"

Galatians 5:22
that others will be built up and encouraged to know that they also are a beloved child of God.

In Galatians Paul writes, “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22). Notice that “fruit” here is in the singular, as though all of this fruit is the result of the Spirit’s work in our lives. You can’t pick and choose. Paul seems to imply that the Spirit is either cultivating all of these qualities in you or none at all. This fruit is both an indicator of a private and internal reality, but also manifest in the quality of all our public relationships.

Terry Fullum, a charismatic Episcopalian priest I met years ago in Mexico City, said it very clearly: Every Christian has the Holy Spirit at work within them. No one can confess “Jesus as Lord” without the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:3). So the question is not whether you have the Holy Spirit, but rather “How much of you does the Holy Spirit have?” This is a good question on which all of us can reflect in this season of Pentecost. As we evaluate how willing we are to “subject” ourselves to one another, and the quality of spiritual “fruit” growing in our hearts and relationships, I’m sure we can all benefit by remembering the simple prayer: “Come Holy Spirit!”

This month we are privileged to welcome a new Council leadership team as well as new members. Especially in this season of Pentecost we must remember that to each of us in the church are given spiritual gifts for ministry, and that each gift is critical to what God is doing in and through this amazing congregation. My prayer is that our new Council leadership will continue to be “filled with” and “guided” by the Holy Spirit. And may the measure of our success be that we are being built up together and strengthened for service in love for one another and our world!

In Christ,
Scott

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**Weekly Events**

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

**Fellowship**
- Bible Class Sundays at 10am in room G5
- WOAC Women’s Bible Study Mondays at 7pm (contact Amy Loewen on 06.24.24.53.84 for more information)
- Thurber Thursdays dinner at 6.30pm and teaching at 7.30pm in the Thurber Room

**Music**
- Celebration Ringers Mondays 6.45-8pm **Theatre**
- Adult Choir rehearsal Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm **Theatre**
- Bronze Ringers Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm **Theatre**
  (Contact Hmusic@acparis.org H for more information)

**Youth Music**
- Gaudeamus young adult vocal ensemble Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm Venue TBA
- Cherub Choir Wednesdays 1-2pm
- Children’s Handbells Wednesday 2-3pm
- Children’s Choir Wednesdays 3-4pm
- Shine Youth Choir Wednesdays 4-5.30pm
- Youth Handbells Wednesday 5.30-6.30pm
  (Contact Hyouthmusic@acparis.org H for more information)
I Love Living in Paris

Sitting at dinner with three other American expats the other evening I had a revelation.
I love living in Paris.

Hear me right – the sentence “I love Paris” has been true for years. So much so that it is emblazoned in teal blue across a hot pink postcard with a silhouette of the Eiffel Tower that is taped to my refrigerator door. I purchased the postcard on my way home on an evening last winter when I definitely did NOT love living in Paris – and I needed a daily visual cue to my psyche to remember – in fuchsia and teal – that “I love Paris”.

But “I love Paris” is not what I said at dinner. What I said was “I love living in Paris.”

What a relief – and a difference – those two little words make. They settled into the sentence so gradually that I hadn’t even noticed their existence until last week. It’s hard to express, in words, what changed and how. While I am still entirely foreign to France, I no longer feel entirely estranged in this city. Something of Paris has taken hold of me and me of it – in ways that begin making the difference between “foreigner” and “home”. I’ve noticed that since those two little words snuck in, the emphasis has shifted even further: I love living in Paris.

It reminds me of the phrase encountered so often in the letters of the early church: “living in Christ.” Many folks would say that they love God, and some that they love Christ. But the transition between “I love Christ” and “I love living in Christ” is as stark as my experience of transition from “I love Paris” to “I love living in Paris.”

The longer I live in Christ, the emphasis shifts even further: “I love living in Christ.”

To love living in Christ is to experience a new intimacy. The phrase implies that something of Christ has taken hold of me, and I have taken hold of Christ – in a way that makes the difference between Sunday visits to church (“I love God” in fuchsia and teal) and daily companionship with God in worship (“I love living in Christ”). As a limited human being, I am still naturally as foreign to an eternal God as I am to France – but in Christ, I am no longer a stranger to, but a friend of God – both living at home and longing eternally for home. The longer I live in Christ, the emphasis shifts even further: “I love living in Christ.”

To love living in Christ is to experience a new intimacy.
I wonder if you have accepted the invitation to abundant life in Christ. It can’t and won’t happen if Sundays or holidays are your only experience of God, any more than I could shift from loving Paris to loving living in Paris without getting into this city every day, day in and day out. It’s funny to me, really, how similar the journey is when a person is ardently seeking to live in: to risk exploring – to wait through the frustrations and revel in the joys – to admit daily how insufficient I am to this task, and receive daily the grace that is sufficient to weakness. And most important of all? To join others who are on this same journey – choose people who admit they are still risking and learning what it means to live in Christ, and who still enthusiastically love living in Christ.

Plan ahead now for two different opportunities to learn more this coming autumn of what it means to live in Christ. "The Alpha Course", a 10-week course on exploring the Christian faith, begins on Thursday 15 September at the American Church in Paris.

“Gospel in the City” is an 8 week class that explores living in Christ in the city. It also begins on 15 September.

For more information on these and other current Christian education opportunities, see the articles in this month’s Spire, and check the website at: http://www.acparis.org/chrised.html

To learn more about experiencing abundant life in Christ, please contact Pastor Laurie at associatepastor@acparis.org. She would love to hear from you.

The Eiffel Tower, one of the joys of living in Paris
It’s that leaving time of year. The academic year is winding to a close, and lately it has seemed like every event ends in prayer for someone we love who is leaving. We are losing two youth as their families take advantage of the summer break to move to new homes. And the young adult group is losing a large group of students who were here for the academic year and young professionals who have been transferred. And even as group members are coming to terms with these departures, new youth and young adults are beginning to flood in, some here just for a summer, others beginning new lives here in France. We are gearing up to welcome and love the new folks, to integrate them into our common life, to come to know and love them as we knew and loved those who left. But sometimes it’s not an easy transition to make. Real Christian community takes time and energy. It takes trust, and trust isn’t built in a day.

At our last meeting our young adult leadership team articulated one of the central joys and difficulties in being an International Church, blessed by members who are called to be among us for a season and then to leave: “We need to welcome people and integrate them into our community quickly, because they may not be here for very long, and while they are here, they need us and we need them.

But we need to have a real, faithful, Christian community to welcome them to – it needs to be deep spiritually and people need to trust one another.” I’m paraphrasing, of course, but I thought that the leaders hit the nail on the head – we don’t want to be a community with an in-group of ‘long termers’ who just allow short timers to hang out on the margins.

We want to invite people to come to the center of our life together, even if they are here for just a short time. But on the other hand, there needs to be something stable and deep-rooted in our relationships to one another, and that can take time to build. How can we welcome newcomers, while supporting long termers who can get exhausted by coming to value and love people then watching them go? How do we minister together when our gifts and needs are constantly changing? How do we build intimacy with one another when the group “chemistry” changes from week to week?

This seems to be one of the ‘frontiers’ that the Spirit is guiding us to explore. Jesus seems to have encountered the same question, as he ministered side by side with the disciples over several years, even as he had short, transformative encounters with people he never saw again in his earthly life. That gives me confidence that we will be guided in this as well. Perhaps what we discover will be useful to other churches which might not be international, but are dealing with a more complicated and transient world. Below is a portion of the poem “Ulysses” by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. I thought at first that it was a word of comfort and
challenge for those of us who are leaving ACP. But it might be a word to those of us who stay as well:

I cannot rest from travel: I will drink Life to the lees: all times I have enjoyed Greatly, have suffered greatly, both with those That loved me, and alone; on shore… I am a part of all that I have met; Yet all experience is an arch wherethrough

Gleams that untravelled world, whose margin fades For ever and for ever when I move. How dull it is to pause, to make an end, To rust unburnished, not to shine in use! As though to breathe were life. Life piled on life Were all too little, and of one to me Little remains: but every hour is saved From that eternal silence, something more, A bringer of new things…

Young Adults @ Thurber Thursday
The Young Adult group is fast approaching that time of the year when it says “au revoir” to some of its members. The Young Adults are not only young professionals and graduate students based in Paris but many are students who have come to the city for the academic year or a semester, often to study as part of an exchange or Study Abroad programme. While some may only be here for a fairly short spell in the “city of lights”, others have been members of the Young Adult group for a longer period. Two such members share their thoughts with us about their time at ACP as they prepare to leave Paris.

**Name, and why did you come to Paris and how long have you been at ACP?**

My name is Gunawan. I'm originally from Indonesia and am currently a student at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany. I came to Paris because I'm doing a double degree program with ENSAE ParisTech. My major is Economics, Finance and Statistics. I've been at ACP for almost two years.

**Why are you leaving Paris?**

I'm about to leave Paris in September, as I'm finishing the second year of my postgraduate studies here. I've still got another year to study in Berlin and am expecting to finish in summer 2011.

**What attracted you to joining the Young Adult (YA) group?**

When I first came to Paris in August 2008, the first thing I looked for was Christian fellowship. I tried some Churches before I finally came to ACP. I fell in love with Scott's sermons and decided to choose ACP as my “home” church. Why the Young Adult group: simply because I'm a Young Adult! I thought it would be a very nice experience to have fellowship with Christians from around the world at ACP (as a matter of fact: it is!) and especially because most of us are students from abroad.

For newcomers in town, who perhaps don't know anybody yet, this fellowship provides a means to make contact with other students. You can also get useful information (apartments to rent, job offers etc.). Above all, this YA group is the right place where we can deepen our spiritual life and grow in faith with others. I'm perhaps away from my ‘real’ home, but the Young Adult fellowship at ACP has become a second home to me.

**What have you been involved in during your time at ACP?**

Since last year, I've been involved in the Young Adult Leader group. These are a bunch of dedicated people committed to serving the Young Adult group. I think this is a great way to serve.
**How have you benefited from being a member of the YA group?**
I'm very thankful to be a member of this YA group. In the past 2 years, I have always found people who cheer me up and pray with me when I'm struggling with problems. They're always there when I need them! I feel like I'm not carrying the burden alone but that they also carry it with me! (Galatians 6:2) I also believe that my presence in the group has been and is still a blessing for some people, because some people do not hesitate to talk about their problems with me. I'm always ready to listen and pray with them.

**What do you like most about the Young Adult group?**
I like our activities in the kitchen, especially when we bake pizzas for Pizza night ... it's fun! I also especially like our Bible Study nights. Bible studies at ACP are, for me, a new way to learn God's Word, especially because everyone shares their opinion and experience with God (my home church in Berlin is rather conservative!). I really see and feel how God's Word inspires and guides every single person and how faith can change your life. It really challenges me to have more confidence in God!

**What have you learned? What is/are the most important thing(s) that you will take with you from your time as a Young Adult at ACP?**
I learned how to roll dough and choose nice toppings for pizza!!!! The YA group is an extraordinary group since I observe that attendees change almost every semester (or sometimes more often!). This is quite normal because many of us are exchange students from outside France. A couple times I found it sad to see my friends leave one by one after being friends for a short time at ACP.

On the other hand, I'm very thankful to God that I have met them. They are such a blessing to me and I believe that my presence was also a blessing to them during their stay in Paris. I guess what I learnt is just "to be there" and enjoy the fellowship without being too picky, whether someone is my close friend or not.

I believe the most important part of "being there" is to be ready to listen to people and pray with them when they need me. This is very crucial since I believe that in a fellowship we're invited to encourage and pray for each other.

**Any final thoughts?**
I hope the ACP Young Adult group remains a home for all Christian young adults in Paris that welcomes and receives everyone in warm fellowship. I really feel that ACP has been part of my 2 year stay here in Paris. I'll miss ACP a lot when I'm gone!

**Name**
Melody Hu

**Why did you come to Paris?**
A university exchange program led to Grad School, which led to work.

**How long have you been at ACP?**
Since Fall 2006.

**Why are you leaving Paris?**
God's will... manifested in a job opportunity in Shanghai.

**What have you been involved in during your time at ACP?**
Young Adults Tuesday night Bible studies, Thurber Thursdays, ACP 150th anniversary play (I was the “tour guide”) and I was an active borrower of the library's materials ... though I often returned the books a bit late!!

**What attracted you to joining the Young Adult group?**
I happen to fit the age group!
What do you like most about the Young Adult group?
The Church that we learn about is not an organization but a living and breathing entity of brothers and sisters. The lively, candid, often heated discussions about Bible passages and other Christian issues pertinent to Young Adult lives.

Do you think that the Young Adult group/activities have changed or evolved during your time at ACP? In what ways?
The ACP Young Adult group welcomes many new faces every year. We get very different group dynamics each season and the new-comers always bring in new perspectives and their unique individualities, this diversity is very unique and very invigorating.

What have you learned?
So hard to summarize…but I guess most importantly that we are stronger as a body of believers rather than individuals.

The most important thing that you will take with you from your time as a Young Adult at ACP?
Love.

Anything extra that you would like to add?
I’d like to give a special thank-you to Ginger for her openness, her patience and her quiet strength. The Young Adult group could be easily turned into a Young Adult Bible Study with lectures and recitations but it was always filled with fun, insightful, enriching, and philosophical exchanges. I’d also like to encourage Christian and non-Christian young adults to give the group a try because these honest but passionate discussions will transform your prejudices against traditional Church-related youth activities.

How have you benefited from being a member of the Young Adult group?
In so many ways I can’t even begin to tell you. I feel that it guided me through the awkward period between student life and actual adulthood.

So, to Gunawan, Melody and to all Young Adults who are leaving us in the coming months, either to return home or to move on to pastures new, we wish you well and our prayers go with you.
Young Adults*

Bible Study in the Catacombs Tuesday June 1, 7.30pm

Pizza Night in the Thurber Room Tuesday June 8, 6.30pm/7

Hiking Day (meet in the Catacombs) Saturday June 12, 10am

Bible Study in the Catacombs Tuesday June 15, 7.30pm

Pizza Night in the Thurber Room Tuesday June 22, 6.30pm/7

Bible Study in the Catacombs Tuesday June 29, 7.30pm

*Come and join us every Tuesday for either Bible Study or Pizza Night and explore the theme of ‘Moving Towards a Grace-Filled Future’. For Pizza Night come at 6.30pm to help cook and from 7.30pm for dinner and small group discussion.

Youth^:

Youth Group in the Catacombs Sunday June 6, 3-5pm

Youth Group in the Catacombs Sunday June 13, 3-5pm

Rope Course and Camping Trip Friday June 18-Saturday 19

Youth Group in the Catacombs Sunday June 27, 3-5pm

^Youth Group meets on Sundays 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 youthpastor@acparis.org for more information.
A team of ten ACP youth and leaders are headed to Burkina Faso in July to serve with Heal the World, a Christian nonprofit focused on building a future in Burkina through education. We are eager to see how the Holy Spirit is already at work in one of the poorest countries in the world.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

1. **FRESH BAKED CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES!** Make a donation, get a cookie, ask a question, buy a talent show ticket, offer a prayer at the Youth Mission Table at coffee hour.

2. **TALENT SHOW!** Please join us in the Thurber Room at 7pm on Saturday, June 5 for an all-church meal and talent show. Suggested donation – 10 euros, 5 euros for students and performers! Please contact emcee Christian DeLooper at Hchristian.deLooper@hotmail.com if you’d like to perform. Tickets available at our table at coffee hour.

3. **PARENTS’ NIGHT OUT!** Drop your kids off in the ACP Catacombs for a safe, supervised evening with our youth team and adults leaders and go out on the town! Suggested Donation: 10 euros per hour for one child, 15 euros per hour for 2 or more children. 7 – 11pm on May 29.
Young Artists’ Week
Vacation Bible School for Children & Youth
August 23 – 27, 2010

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 is coming to 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 ...


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
Jesus and the Eyewitnesses
Professor Richard Bauckham

American Church in Paris Spring Lecture
Friday, June 18 @ 8 pm in the ACP Sanctuary

Richard Bauckham (right) receiving the Michael Ramsey prize for his book 'Jesus and the Eyewitnesses'.

In 2009 he was awarded the Michael Ramsey prize for his book *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses*, and in 2010 the Franz-Delitzsch-Award for a volume of collected essays, *The Jewish World around the New Testament*. He has travelled widely giving lectures and conference papers.

Richard Bauckham was until recently Professor of New Testament Studies and Bishop Wardlaw Professor in the University of St Andrews, Scotland, and is now Professor Emeritus at St Andrews.

He was born in London in 1946, and educated at Downhills and Merryhills primary schools and Enfield Grammar School. He then studied at Cambridge, where he read history at Clare College (gaining a B.A. Honours degree, first class, and a Ph.D.), and was a Fellow of St John's College for three years. After teaching theology for one year at the University of Leeds, he taught historical and contemporary theology for fifteen years at the University of Manchester, before moving to St Andrews in 1992. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He retired in 2007 in order to concentrate on research and writing, and is Senior Scholar at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, where he does some teaching for the Cambridge Federation of Theological Colleges.

The following is a teaser for our spring lecture. It is the introduction and conclusion of one of Prof. Bauckham’s lectures on the Four Gospels:

**The Canonicity of the Four Gospels**
Prof. Richard Bauckham

**INTRODUCTION**
Why do our New Testaments contain four Gospels, no fewer and no more? The question becomes especially interesting when we not only know that there were other Gospels that did not get into the New Testament, but also have some of those Gospels available to read and study for ourselves. The existence of ‘other’ Gospels has been an intriguing fact, guaranteed to arouse lively public interest, since at least the 1890s when a papyrus containing what was assumed to be a portion of the Gospel of Peter was discovered in Egypt.
Now everyone knows about other Gospels because of the quite misleading statements about them in Dan Brown’s novel *The Da Vinci Code*. The fascination of other Gospels is not hard to appreciate. They have the appeal of the unknown and, even, when seen through the lens of a conspiracy theory, as in *The Da Vinci Code*, the appeal of the forbidden. Suppose these other Gospels, rediscovered now after sixteen hundred years of oblivion, tell us what the authoritarian church that suppressed them did not want us to know. Maybe they will tell us the dangerous and embarrassing truth about Jesus that the official Gospels hushed up. And maybe the Jesus we find in these other Gospels will be altogether more congenial and appealing to us than the Jesus of the four Gospels or any of the Jesuses of the four Gospels. The danger of finding what we want in Gospels we may not have bothered to actually read is well illustrated by *The Da Vinci Code*, which makes the extraordinary claim that the Gnostic Gospels portray Jesus as purely human. Nothing could be further from the truth: the Gnostic Jesus was a thoroughly supernatural and divine figure, dubiously human.

**Professor Bauckham concludes this lecture by saying:**
For the mainstream church that canonized the four Gospels, the Gnostic Gospels preached a different Jesus, a Jesus not rooted in first century history, a Jesus not related to the story of Israel, a Jesus who did not come from the one God, the Creator of all things. I think this verdict is indisputably correct. Very profound religious differences were at stake, and the mainstream church’s decision for the four Gospels alone was momentous for the character of the Christian faith down the centuries since.

We should note carefully that the church did not reduce the plurality of the Gospels to only one. It is as significant for the character of subsequent Christian faith that the church accepted no less than four, as well as no more than four. The church did receive four different perspectives on Jesus, but defined, as it were, only a limited plurality. As we have seen, the four Gospels, for all their differences, look significantly similar when we place them alongside the very different Gospels that were not accepted.

One major reason why there is currently so much interest in other Gospels is undoubtedly a post-modern cultural climate in which it seems liberating to break out of the restrictive canon of the traditional church and to recognize the great variety of interpretations of Jesus and Christian faith that were once available before the mainstream church imposed orthodox uniformity. Recognizing this variety in the ancient Christian world suits an agenda of radical pluralism in the contemporary Christian world. All sorts of interpretations of Jesus are legitimate. Any dream will do. Any notion of normative Gospels or of any authoritative norms of faith is restrictive and oppressive.

I guess the question comes down to: is there a real Jesus, a Jesus who lived in first-century Palestine as well as being alive and accessible to believers today, and does it matter what sort of God this Jesus revealed? If the answers are yes, then I think we have to face the same unavoidable decision that the early church had to make between the Jesus of the four Gospels and his God, and the very different Jesus of the Gnostic Gospels and his god.

**Are you interested in knowing how Prof. Bauckham reaches this conclusion? Then join us on Friday the 18 June, 20.00h in the ACP Sanctuary for a special talk that discusses his book “Jesus and the Eyewitnesses”. This unpublished lecture that can be read entirely here:**
http://richardbauckham.co.uk/uploads/Sermons/Canonicity%20of%20the%20Gospels.pdf

Learn more about Richard Bauckham at his website here:
http://richardbauckham.co.uk/
Most of us know a few saints—people whose lives are ruled by an undivided devotion to the Lord's work. Within our ken there are ministers who devote themselves tirelessly to the cause of the church; missionaries who expose themselves to persecution for the sake of the gospel; and those who work for non-profit religious organizations, who readily sacrifice higher salaries and social prestige for the sake of the Kingdom.

Contemplating their lives can call up a curious mix of emotions. Undoubtedly there is a sense of admiration for their spirit of self-sacrifice. Yet there may be some resentment as well: if it weren't for them, our level of commitment wouldn't look so bad. We may even experience feelings of self-doubt. Can we really claim to be disciples of Christ if we are not willing to give up everything and follow Christ, as they did?

The church is not unfamiliar with this dilemma. The command of Christ to leave everything behind and follow him seems unreasonable for the average believer. So quite early in its history the church made a distinction between two ways of being a Christian: one may follow Christ on the high road or the low road. The high road is for real saints. To enter this way, one has to give up worldly goods like marriage and property. In the middle ages, the high road led directly to the monastery. The low road is for average Christians. They were to stay out of trouble and do what was necessary to keep food on the table. They could follow Christ on a part-time basis by attending church, but the rest of their lives are of no particular religious significance.

At the time of the reformation, the Protestants rejected this division between first class and second-class citizens of the Kingdom. All Christians must be full time...
followers of Christ, they insisted; all must tread the narrow way. But this did not mean that all of us have to quit our jobs and enter the monasteries, or become employees of para-church organizations. For Christians can follow Christ just by attending to the duties of their daily occupations.

This made being a Christian easier and harder at the same time: easier in that we do not have to give up marriage or money or success in order to follow Christ; yet harder because we really do have to follow Christ in all areas of our daily lives: on the job as well as at church. And when we are serious about that, we may find the sacrifices required of us are just as great as those required of the saints we admire from afar.

Interested in Dr. Hardy’s publications in French? Here are some links to a Canadian bookseller with French translations of Dr. Hardy’s book and a pamphlet on the same topic of Christian work:

MISSION TRIP TO GHANA
by Carolyn Bouazouni & Elizabeth Rand

Last April, two members of the Mission Outreach Committee, Carolyn Bouazouni and Elizabeth Rand, went on a trip to Ghana. They visited Francis Cobbinah of The Living Truth Foundation. Francis was a member of the ACP but left in 2003 to return to his home country of Ghana to serve the Lord in the prisons, hospitals and schools.

Carolyn (left) and Elizabeth (right) visit Francis

Part of the budget of the Mission Outreach Committee goes to supporting Francis’ work. Carolyn and Elizabeth were joined by Robin Brady of the American Church in London and also a former member of the ACP (see photo on next page). Carolyn and Robin also visited the Rafiki Village in Accra, Ghana, another beneficiary of the Mission Outreach Committee. They will talk about their visit in an article to appear in next month’s Spire.

What a wonderful trip we had to Ghana in April! Our purpose was to bring personal greetings to Francis from the ACP, to encourage him in his ministry, to learn more about his work and his vision for its growth, to meet the members of TLTF Board, and to think together with Francis about ways ACP members might participate in hands-on activities with his ministry.

We arrived at the mission house bearing gifts, with our suitcases filled to overflowing with generous donations from our congregation. We brought over 50 books, 40 video cassettes, 22 hand-knitted baby caps by our knitting group, 3 laptop computers, 2 cameras, bookmarks made by the Sunday School classes…and more! The gifts were greatly appreciated, and we relay a BIG “thank you” to everyone who donated items.

Here are some of the highlights of our trip:
**PRISON VISITS**

At the prisons, special church services were held both Sundays we were there. The prison Commander - a strong Christian - attended and spoke to the 200 prisoners present. Special recognition and encouragement was given to the 18 prisoners in Francis’ Disciple 1 Bible study class. Francis’ work at the prisons is clearly very well appreciated by both the prison officials and the prisoners.

We had the honor of a private meeting with the prison Commander, who expressed his desire to complete the construction of the church in the main prison compound, and also to work together with Francis on a program for released prisoners.

**HOSPITAL VISITS**

At the Central Regional Hospital in Cape Coast, we were greeted by the acting Director, Dr. Ekanem, who is also a member of TLTF. We joined Dr. Ekanem and Francis as they held morning devotional services in the hospital reception area.

We then toured the wards with them as they told us of the miracles they witness daily at the hospital after praying for the patients. In the Children’s Ward and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, we distributed the hats knitted by the ACP knitting group, along with the bookmarks made by the Sunday School classes of both the ACP and ACL, and candy.

**PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL VISIT**

Having a special interest in mental health, Elizabeth was able to arrange a meeting with the director of the nearby Anufel Psychiatric Hospital. This is a 350-bed facility for the seriously mentally ill, as well as an outpatient clinic.

Ghana is a rare African nation with a national health service costing 10 euros per person, but it is under-funded and still too costly for many. One member of TLTF is interested in expanding the ministry to substance abusers at this site.

**YOUTH OUTREACH**

We attended an event at a local junior high school to see the fruits of Francis’ Youth Outreach ministry. About 100 students and the Head Mistress attended, and they were all quite excited about our visit. They sang spiritual songs for us; we shared stories together, offered prayers and words of encouragement, then distributed Bibles and a delicious snack.

**TLTF BOARD MEETING**

The TLTF held two board meetings to discuss with us their current activities and their vision for the future. While they expect to continue the current prison,
hospital and youth outreach programs, they especially plan on expanding their prison ministry and village evangelism:

1. **Prison Ministry**: pursue a project for a “half-way house” for released prisoners. TLTF is writing a phased proposal which will entail purchasing land, starting a farm and eventually building a house for released prisoners. Not unlike other countries, the stigma associated with a prison term in Ghana presents very significant obstacles for prisoners’ re-entry into work and society after release, which in turn is related to recidivism. We discussed, and later visited, several pieces of land which could become sites for the half-way house and farm.

2. **Village Evangelism**: start preaching the gospel to rural villages while providing basic health-care information and services. They are in need of one, and eventually two, 4-wheel drive vehicles to carry personnel and supplies into areas served only by dirt roads. So... if anyone has a 4-wheel drive pickup truck or van they can contribute, please let us know! Shipping costs to Africa aren’t really that expensive from Europe or the US.

Despite the many needs evident during our visit, such as lack of medications, books, overcrowded conditions and shortage of personnel, the wonderful warmth and friendliness of the Ghanaian people – and especially their strong faith which is so very alive! – triumphs over their difficulties.

In sum, this trip was very inspirational for both of us. We were deeply moved by the depth and effectiveness of Francis’ evangelical ministry in the prisons and hospitals as well as by the role he plays as spiritual mentor to friends, family and other pastors.

He truly lives a life of compassion for those with the least of all, and a life of devotion and trust that God will provide. His enthusiasm and commitment are infectious. His vision is endless. We came home with a very clear sense of the work of TLTF, its worth, and the value of the support the ACP provides.

Francis and TLTF board members told us how much they appreciate the ACP’s support and encouragement. And they would welcome more visitors and helpers - many and often!

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**THE NEXT RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Those considering joining the church are invited to the **Prospective Member Orientation on Sunday, June 13 at 12:15 in classroom G5 on the Garden Level.** At this session, we will discuss who we are at the American Church in Paris, what we believe, and how we live out our faith. The session will also be a privileged time for you to meet with the pastors and other church members. To reserve a place, please come to the Welcome Table during the coffee hour.
### ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY</strong></td>
<td>from 10:00 to 10:50 in G-4 (basement level). All are welcome to attend. For more info please contact Kristie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WOAC WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDIES</strong></td>
<td>We will continue with our Spiritual Transformation Study with the topic being “Grace.” For more info contact Amy.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“JUST WALK ACROSS THE ROOM”</strong></td>
<td>(June 3, 17 and 24) - Just a few steps and a friendly hello may be all it takes to change someone's life—and their eternity! The good news is, it has more to do with taking a genuine interest in another person and listening to their story than it does with learning evangelism tactics and techniques. Join us for the first two sessions in a four part series.</td>
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### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

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<tr>
<td><strong>EVERY FRIDAY, THE MISSION LUNCH PROGRAM</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KNIT ONE, PEARL TWO</strong></td>
<td>The Knitting Group convenes Mondays at 5 pm in the Associate Pastor’s office. Newcomers of all skill levels, ages and gender are welcome. Bring your own knitting or participate in a group project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY</strong></td>
<td>whenever you capture a great digital photo of an acp activity, group of people or event, be sure to send a copy to <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a> for our acp photo bank. please include all available information such as the date it was taken, the names of the people and the event. help us build a photographic memory for our publications and our archives.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DOCENT TOUR</strong></td>
<td>Docent tours will be given after the 11h service. If you're interested in becoming a docent, email Alison.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THE MOVIE GROUP'S JUNE CHOICES</strong></td>
<td>The movie group's choices for June are Abbas Kiarostami's &quot;Copie conforme,&quot; Corneliu Porumboiu's &quot;Policier, Adjectif,&quot; and Karan Johar's &quot;My Name Is Khan.&quot; See any or all at your convenience, then join the group for discussion on Thursday, June 17, at 7:30 pm in the church basement.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>READY TO BE PART OF AN EXCITING NEW TEAM AT ACP?</strong></td>
<td>Can you love, listen to and laugh with international travelers? Can you devote one evening per month? We are building out a team to serve at the new Adveniat Christian Hostel in Paris. Please talk to Chuck Krueger for more info.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP MEN</strong></td>
<td>get more out of your mornings this June! Starting June 3, meet with other men for coffee, conversation, prayer and fellowship, and get a powerful start to your day. Join us at 8:30 am at Starbucks every Thursday in June. (90 Rue Saint Dominique, 75007).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>USED BOOKS WANTED!</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
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The Prayer Care Team: On Call  
by Gigi S. Oyog

One of these days, when you are weighed down by sorrow or buoyed by joy, you might get a phone call or a note from an unfamiliar name from the ACP. If you do, don’t be alarmed. It just might be from the Prayer Care Team, letting you know that they are thinking of you.

“You” are at the heart of the Team. The mission of the Team is to care for and support the congregation by demonstrating Christ's love in times of need, through prayer, a listening presence and compassionate relationship. The Prayer Care Team is a continuation of the Lay Caregivers Group and the current group will be commissioned on June 13 during the 11 am worship service. “The name has changed, but the mission has not,” said Kerry Lieury, who has been instrumental in mobilizing more volunteers around this important task. Among the things they would do are visiting those confined in hospitals or apartments, sending cards or calling you in times of loss, or when you are celebrating a happy event, praying for you or with you when you need it, listening to you in times of pain, or keeping you company while you weep in silence. You might even have seen them already in action: twice in recent weeks, they have invited people who have concerns, to meet the designated members at the front of the sanctuary, for a collective prayer. They will continue to offer this service.

All members have undergone or will continue to undergo training. According to Kerry, different caregivers will need training in various areas, depending on their particular gifts and strengths. These areas would include health issues, loss or transition, crisis or trauma, or encouragement.

“The real goal is for everyone in the church to be a prayer giver or a caregiver to other people in the church, to be sensitive to other people’s needs,” said Kerry. A choir member and a former chairperson of the Council’s Congregational Nurture Committee, Kerry says that this mission, by whatever name, is very important to her. Behind her story is her grandmother, whom Kerry remembered to be so active in her church in Texas. Among the things she did, her grandmother was the treasurer and also sang in the choir. Then her grandmother became ill; confined to her apartment, she could no longer go to her beloved church. Although she lived down the street from the church, no one remembered her or gave her support.

“The American Church is wonderful, but I worry that many people fall in the cracks. There is so much movement going on, so many people coming and going. Some people are away often or take long vacations that you don’t know whether they are sick or have moved elsewhere. I just don’t want what happened to my grandmother to happen to the people at the ACP,” said Kerry.
Week of 30 May:  Jesus the Light of the World (Jn. 9:1—12)
Mon: John 12:1—11  Tues: John 12:12—19
Wed: John 12:20—36  Thurs: John 12:37—50
Fri: John 13:1—17  Sat: John 13:18—30

Week of 6 June:  Jesus the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10:11—18)
Mon: John 13:31—38  Tues: John 14:1—14
Wed: John 14:15—31  Thurs: John 15:1—8
Fri: John 15:5—17  Sat: John 15:18—16:4

Week of 13 June:  Jesus the Life-Giver (Jn. 11:17—44)
Mon: John 16:5—16  Tues: John 16:17—24
Wed: John 16:25—33  Thurs: John 17:1—5
Fri: John 17:6—19  Sat: John 17:20—26

Week of 20 June:  Jesus the Servant Leader (Jn. 13:1—15)
Mon: John 18:1—27  Tues: John 18:28—40
Wed: John 19:1—16  Thurs: John 19:17—27
Fri: John 19:28—37  Sat: John 19:38—42

Week of 27 June:  Jesus the True Vine (Jn. 15:1—8)
Mon: John 20:1—9  Tues: John 20:10—18
Wed: John 20:19—31  Thurs: John 21:1—14
Sunday Atelier concerts  
(5 pm, in the sanctuary, Free admission/free-will offering)  

June 6  
EUGENE ALCALAY, piano  
Program: Beethoven's Five Variations on Rule Britannia and Six Bagatelles, Dutilleux's Au Gre des Ondes—Six Petites Pieces Pour Piano, Bartók's Allegro barbaro, and Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition.

A native of Bucharest, Romania, pianist Eugene Alcalay began playing at age two and composing at age eight. In 1984 Eugene came under the tutelage of Leonard Bernstein, who affirmed his “outstanding talent as both a performer and composer”. Eugene became the first recipient of The Leonard Bernstein Scholarship for gifted young musicians at Indiana University School of Music, where he earned Bachelor's Degrees in both Piano and Composition. Aided by Maestro Bernstein, Eugene continued his studies at The Curtis Institute of Music and then The Juilliard School, where he attained Master's and Doctoral degrees in Piano Performance. His teachers included Seymour Lipkin, Robert McDonald, Karen Shaw, James Tocco, Milton Babbitt and Ned Rorem.

Currently Associate Professor of Piano at University of Wisconsin —Platteville, Eugene’s performance career has taken him to three continents and such United States venues as Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Hall—Isaac Stern Auditorium. He has spent summers at prestigious international music festivals such as Tanglewood, Aspen, Taos, Kneisel Hall and Ravinia. In addition, he served as Piano and Chamber Music Faculty at the Sixth International Music Festival and School in Bogota, Colombia, a country which he revisited in 2003 as a Fulbright Scholar, and in 2004, as Fulbright Senior Specialist/Artist in Residence. He has also given master classes and judged piano competitions in Europe and the United States. In 2005 he was invited to join the International Roster of Steinway Artists. His 2007 London debut, sponsored by Steinway and the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe, was “highly acclaimed” as a “poetic” and “memorable recital”: in his review, Alberto Portugheis emphasised “Alcalay's command of line, colour, temperament, imagination” and “pianism of rare and extraordinary qualities.”

June 13  
THE LEIGH ORPHEUS MALE VOICE CHOIR FROM WALES
The choir was founded in 1968 as an offshoot of the S.E. Essex Welsh Society and became a registered charity in 1999. It aims to foster public appreciation of choral music and to provide opportunities for the enjoyment of singing for its members. In order to achieve these objectives the choir strives to maintain the highest standards in every performance. Regular tours are made to prestigious venues in both the UK and Europe and these have enabled the choir's reputation to continue to grow. Recruitment campaigns in 2006 and 2008 have meant that the choir’s membership now numbers over 120. As a result Leigh Orpheus is now one of the largest male voice choirs in the UK. The choir has a wide and varied repertoire ranging from 16th century madrigals to opera, songs from the shows to modern pop music. Several recordings have been made which are available on CD and the choir are due to record another in 2009.

**American Church Concert Program:**

**COLE PORTER MEDLEY** (Another Opening Another Show, Just One Of Those Things, You Do Something To Me, So In Love, Who Wants To Be A Millionaire),

**COMRADES IN ARMS** - Adolphe Adam, with piano accompaniment by Bryan Davies

**OLD TIME RELIGION** - Traditional Spiritual, arranged by Alan Simmons

**DANNY BOY** (Londonderry Air) - Traditional Irish, arranged by Alan Simmons

**MEDLEY FROM LES MISERABLES** - Composed by Boublil and Schonberg

(At The End Of The Day, I Dreamed A Dream, Castle On A Cloud, On My Own, Stars, Bring Him Home, Do You Hear The People Sing)

**KINGS OF SWING MEDLEY** - From the 1930’s and 1940’s arranged by Alan Simmons

(Begin The Beguine - Cole Porter, Aint Misbehavin - Fats Waller, Moonlight Serenade - Glenn Miller, Chatanooga Choo Choo - Harry Warren,

**AMERICAN TRILOGY** - Composed by Micky Newberry, arranged by Alwyn Humphries

**CHRISTUS SALVATOR** - Composed by Gounod, and arranged by Eric Jones

**AUTUMN LEAVES** - Composed by Joseph Kosma, and arranged by Johnny Mercer

**YOU RAISE ME UP**- Brendon Graham and Rolf Lovland

**WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT MY MUSIC** - Composed by Harry Middlebrooks and Bruce Belland, arranged by Alwyn Humphries

**GWAHODDIAD** - Traditional Welsh Hymn - Composed by John Tudor Davies

**THE ANNUAL ACP YOUTH CHOIR SPRING CONCERT** will take place on **Saturday, June 12 at 8pm**. You will enjoy Spirituals, gospel, sacred and secular choral and handbell music by Rutter, Shaw, Gilpin, Mendelssohn and others. Come support our young musicians! A donation of 10 euros (5 euros "tarif réduit") is requested.
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Young Adults Bible Study, 7:30 pm</em></td>
<td><strong>Children’s choir rehearsals</strong></td>
<td><em>Women’s Bible Study</em></td>
<td><em>Men’s Club</em></td>
<td><em>Thurber Thursdays, 6:30 pm</em></td>
<td>Bronze Bells final rehearsal, 6:00 pm</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship services, 9 &amp; 11, and 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Adult Bible class, 10 am</td>
<td>Adults Choir rehearsals, 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Adult Choir rehearsals, 7:30 pm</td>
<td><em>Women’s Bible Study</em></td>
<td>Thurber Thursdays, 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Bible class, 10 am</td>
<td>Docent Tour, after 11 am service</td>
<td><em>Women’s Bible Study</em></td>
<td><em>Women’s Bible Study</em></td>
<td>Men’s Club*</td>
<td><em>Thurber Thursdays, 6:30 pm</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth meeting, 3-5 pm</td>
<td>Atelier concert, 5 pm</td>
<td>Young Adults Pizza Night, 6 pm</td>
<td><em>Children’s choir rehearsals</em></td>
<td><em>Men’s Club</em></td>
<td>Thurber Thursdays, 6:30 pm</td>
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<td><em>Women’s Bible Study</em></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Council meeting, 7:30 pm</td>
<td><em>Children’s choir rehearsals</em></td>
<td>Thurber Thursdays, 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Friday Mission Lunch, American Cathedral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship services, 9 &amp; 11, and 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Adult Bible class, 10 am</td>
<td>Youth Bible Study, 7:30 pm</td>
<td><em>Children’s choir rehearsals</em></td>
<td><em>Men’s Club</em></td>
<td>Youth and Young Adults spring concert, 8 pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Docent Tour, after 11 am service</td>
<td><em>Women’s Bible Study</em></td>
<td>Youth Bible Study, 7:30 pm</td>
<td><em>Children’s choir rehearsals</em></td>
<td>Thurber Thursdays, 6:30 pm</td>
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<td>Youth meeting, 3-5 pm</td>
<td>Atelier concert, 5 pm</td>
<td>Council meeting, 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Movie Discussion Group, 7:30 pm</td>
<td><em>Eyewitness to the Resurrection</em>, Guest speaker Prof. R. Bauckham, ACP Youth Ropes Course and Camping Trip (until June 19)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship services, 9 &amp; 11, and 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Adult Bible class, 10 am</td>
<td>Youth Pizza Night, 7:30 pm</td>
<td><em>Children’s choir rehearsals</em></td>
<td>Men’s Club*</td>
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<td><em>Men’s Club</em></td>
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<td>Youth meeting, 3-5 pm</td>
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<td><em>Men’s Club</em></td>
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<td><em>Women’s Bible Study</em></td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>Thurber Thursdays, 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Youth meeting, 3-5 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Bible class, 10 am</td>
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<td>Youth Pizza Night, 7:30 pm</td>
<td><em>Men’s Club</em></td>
<td>Movie Discussion Group, 7:30 pm</td>
<td><em>Children’s choir rehearsals</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Docent Tour, after 11 am service</td>
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<td>Youth Bible Study, 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Thurber Thursdays, 6:30 pm</td>
<td><em>Men’s Club</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth meeting, 3-5 pm</td>
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<td>Council meeting, 7:30 pm</td>
<td><em>Children’s choir rehearsals</em></td>
<td>Thurber Thursdays, 6:30 pm</td>
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<td><em>Women’s Bible Study</em></td>
<td><em>Women’s Bible Study</em></td>
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*Activity not held at ACP. Check with organizers for venue.*