Current and former Council members place their hands on Pastor Dan Haugh during his installation rites as Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry on 18 September. Together with his wife Lauretta, Pastor Dan left everything that was familiar to embark on something totally new. In his debut piece for his column, he talks about this big change in their lives. See page 17.
Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

Whether it is Robert Frost in his poem Reluctance, or Ernest Hemingway reflecting on the transitions of the seasons in his book A Moveable Feast, there is an acknowledged melancholy that goes with the end of summer. While Richard Cohen’s article asserts that Autumn is “Party Time Across the World,”¹ I find this season to be at best bitter-sweet, especially given the current precarious state of world economic and political affairs. “The times, they are a changin’,” but for good or ill?

Hemingway writes during his time in Paris, “You expected to be sad in the fall. Part of you died each year when the leaves fell from the trees and their branches were bare against the wind and cold, wintry light…”² Indeed, whether in the context of international finance or the Arab (and Palestinian?) political transition, or on a more personal level with homesickness or cancer sickness, changes can mean painful losses and sadness for many. There is a healthy grief that comes with change, for even in small moves there is required displacement that gives way to the new.

I’ve been reflecting on John’s revelation of how “the one seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’”³ This declaration echoes Isaiah 43:19, when God announces, “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”⁴ Autumn provides a way for us to see how God is doing something new in creation:

Paradoxically, there is a requisite clearing away of what was... What a wonderful promise it is that God is continually “making all things new...” But how difficult it can be to see, and how at times even painful it can be to realize that promise! In fact, as Frost admits in his poem Reluctance, “when to the heart of man/ was it ever less than a treason/ to go with the drift of things,/ to yield with a grace to reason,/ And bow and accept the end/ Of a love or a season?”⁵

As the sunlight hours and the temperature decreases in the coming weeks, I imagine many of you who are new to Paris will wonder what you’ve gotten yourselves into with a move to this great yet at times overwhelming city! The simple schema of orientation, disorientation, and reorientation is inherent in any process of move, change, or transition. One moves from the known, the secure, the “oriented” perspective to the unknown, the insecure, the “disoriented.” Change can be frightening and the unknown can raise anxieties ... Most of us have chosen the changes that come with a move to Paris, but none of us could have imagined all of the loss that comes with living in this city. Learning to accept and live through loss is an important part of learning to receive the new, whether the new be a language, culture, friends, community, health, or ideas. It is in times of disorientation and reorientation that our faith can be an extraordinary source of healing strength and hope!

² Ernest Hemingway, A Moveable Feast (New York: Scriber, 2009), 38.
³ See the article “The Man Who Couldn’t Talk” in Fortune magazine (26 September 2011 issue), 90-95.
⁴ Su Meck, “Memory Deleted” (The International Herald Tribune, Tuesday, 20 September 2011), 9.
A couple articles caught my attention recently about how two different people dealt with extremely disorienting change in their lives. Sean Maloney was on his way to being Intel’s next CEO when a crippling stroke took away his ability to walk and talk. Now he is the head of Intel China. The story of his recovery is amazing! And then in the International Herald Tribune, Su Meck wrote a moving article about her experience of amnesia after a head injury forced her to re-learn who she was and how to live her life. The stories of these remarkable individuals remind us how important perseverance and inquisitiveness can be in order to embrace new life. We people of faith have a promise from God: new life is being given to us all the time. The question is, are we persevering in our pursuit of that new life, even when it can be painful and require discipline and sacrifice? Are we open to learning and willing to admit in a new culture and linguistic milieu, even in a disorienting change of season in life, that there is so much more yet to discover?

As the chestnut leaves disappear on the quai and the sweaters come out of storage, I can’t help but feel a mélange of melancholy and hope. Change is never easy. But as we take time this month to settle into new routines and friendships in our personal lives and corporate life together as a church, as we continue with classes and groups to build community, celebrate World Communion (2 October), go on retreat with Don Postema (7-9 October), and begin to reflect on the Lord’s call to be faithful stewards of all of the blessings we have received, I invite you to believe again and embrace the promise that in Christ God is making all things new! Even in the midst of the groaning and birth-pangs of new life, what a wonderful hope we have! I pray that we all will persevere in our asking and opening to receive what God offers in this new season of life together,

In Christ,

Scott

---

**OCTOBER WORSHIP**

**THE SERMON SERIES “OVERFLOWING LOVE” BASED ON PHILIPPIANS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>First Lesson</th>
<th>Second Lesson</th>
<th>Sermon Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 OCTOBER</strong></td>
<td>Matthew 21:22-46</td>
<td>Philippians 3:4b-14</td>
<td>“Righteousness from God”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9 OCTOBER</strong></td>
<td>Matthew 22:1-14</td>
<td>Philippians 4:1-9</td>
<td>“Learning to be Content”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>16 OCTOBER</strong></td>
<td>Isaiah 25: 6-10a</td>
<td>Philippians 4: 10-14</td>
<td>“All Things”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>23 OCTOBER</strong></td>
<td>Matthew 22:34-46</td>
<td>Philippians 4:15-23</td>
<td>“According to his riches”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>30 OCTOBER (REFORMATION SUNDAY):</strong></td>
<td>Romans 3:19-28</td>
<td>John 8:31-36</td>
<td>“Sola Scriptura?”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A pastor has two basic roles that are distinctly different from one another. Like it or not, and some pastors definitely don’t like it, there is the role of administration. One person cannot do all the tasks required to keep the church active and meaningful in the lives of others: members, community, nation and even the world. In order for these tasks to happen volunteer leaders need to be recruited, trained and supported. This may seem somewhat similar to the role lay people have in their vocations or work. When I announced my retirement after serving my last congregation nearly 22 years, I was asked by a Church Council member if I had trained my successor. That’s what may well happen in places other than the church.

The reason it doesn’t happen in the church has to do with the second role a pastor has which is more personal and relational. Being a pastor to individuals in times of crisis, special needs or joys such as weddings and baptisms is a relationship role. It is this role that draws most pastors into the ordained ministry. This is not to say that administration is not about relationships, but those relationships probably don’t carry as personal or intimate a role in the lives of people.

The time between a pastor leaving a parish and a new pastor arriving is significant. It is not only important to keep the church running, but also to assist in the emotional or personal feelings about the change. This is the role of the Interim Pastor. Before interims became as common in churches as they are now, a new pastor would come anticipating a long, meaningful pastorate only to become an unintentional interim, having to leave sooner than anticipated. When a person has had a meaningful and helpful relationship with a pastor, allowing a new pastor to have that role isn’t always easy. An Interim Pastor helps people make that transition.

Even as the Interim Pastor helps people transition to a new pastor, administratively the Interim Pastor should make as few, if any, changes in how the church runs. This will save a congregation having to go through an extra change; the jump from the former pastor to the new successor is enough of a change without having to change to an Interim and then from the Interim to the new pastor.

Relationship is basic to Christianity and the Church. The relationships among the members of a congregation are so important, as is the relationship between pastor and people. But these relationships exist to introduce, support and deepen the relationship people have with the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the reason for the Church; it is the reason it is called the Body of Christ.
New Beginnings

About one month ago, Lauretta and I were relaxing at our home in New York, sitting on deck chairs with juicy steaks cooking on the grill, admiring the birds chirping, and Brady sprawled out on our front lawn. In a moment’s time, dear loved ones would be coming over to greet us and perhaps watch the Yankees vs. Red Sox game.

Today we find ourselves on the 4th floor in an apartment in a city we don’t know, surrounded by a foreign language, culture, and customs, thousands of miles away from friends and family...and really missing a juicy hamburger.

We could not be happier!

God’s calling upon our lives often removes us from what is known, safe, and comfortable, and stretches our faith and trust in Him. While we were content back home in New York, God has been placing a calling upon our lives for something new. We both believed that God’s kingdom far exceeded the limited view we gleaned from our church back home and became increasingly convinced that participation in the broader work of God around the world would be worth the changes.

We were right!

An old missionary friend of mine in Haiti named Thomas Osbeck once answered my question as to why he left the U.S. to live in the poorest country in the western hemisphere by saying, “The best place on earth to be is in the center of God’s will for your life.”

Discerning God’s call of course can be challenging. Often we have to sift and sort through our own ideas, fears, worries, concerns, and ambitions. God knew that I always wanted to be involved in an ecumenical, intentionally-diverse, and globally-situated church.

Even though the decision to leave home was difficult, God’s calling and assurance remained firm during our final preparations including last-minute packing and saying painful good byes.

The moment we arrived in Paris and received the warmest of welcomes from our new family here at ACP, we were convinced of God’s direction. Three weeks have passed by and each day I become more certain of God’s calling. We have quickly fallen in love with the city of Paris; the culture, history, arts, food, and people.

We have deeply fallen in love with The American Church in Paris as well. I admire the leadership, vision, values,
and mission of this church. I am overwhelmed with the enriching diversity and celebration of differences found here, while centrally focused on the work and person of Christ. The hospitality and generosity presented to Lauretta, “Brady”, and I has moved us to tears.

We feel loved, supported, and welcomed here at ACP.

We feel at home.

God promises to provide us with provision, blessing, and most importantly his presence along the journey of faith. When we hear the beckoning voice of our Lord calling us to step away from our comfortable surroundings, the road ahead may be difficult. Taking that faith-filled risk may seem impossible at the time, but God’s grace is abundant. We thank God for the call here to ACP, for the warm welcome, and for your partnership in the gospel.

I remain indebted in love to the staff, house family, youth and young adults, and congregation here at ACP for making our calling sure. It is truly an honor to have been recently installed as a pastor and I eagerly await to see what lies ahead.

Grace and peace be with you all in the name of Jesus’

2 Peter 1:9-11
Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 3:1
Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest.
YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

4 October, Tuesday, 19h30pm  Bible Study on ‘Philippians 2’ in the Catacombs
11 October, Tuesday, 18h00-19h30  Pizza Night in the Thurber Room
14 October, Friday, 19h30  ACP Café Night
16 October, Sunday 12h30-13h30  Habitat for Humanity information meeting
18 October, Tuesday 19h30  Bible Study on ‘Philippians 3’ in the Catacombs
21 October, Friday TBA  Sandwich making at the “Adveniat” Youth Hostel
22 October, Saturday, 13h00  Sandwich distribution. Meet at ACP
25 October, Tuesday, 18h00-19h30  Pizza Night in the Thurber Room

Come and join us every Tuesday for either Bible Study or Pizza Night, as we share fellowship and conversation. For Pizza Night come at 18h00 to help cook and from 19h30 for dinner and small group discussion.

YOUTH EVENTS

2 October, Sunday, 15h00-17h00  Youth Group looks at the first episode of “The Story of God” in the Catacombs
9 October, Sunday, 15h00-17h00  Youth Group studies (episode 2 of “The Story of God”) in the Catacombs
14 October, Friday 19h30pm  ACP Café Night
16 October, Sunday 15h00-17h00  Youth Group studies (episode 3 of “The Story of God”) in the Catacombs
21 October, Friday, 20h00-  Lock In! (until 22 October, Saturday, 08h00)
23 October, Sunday, 15h00-17h00  Youth Group studies (episode 4 of “The Story of God”) in the Catacombs
30 October, Sunday, TBA  Halloween Party! (details to be announced)

Youth Group meets on Sundays from 15h-17h00 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 about Youth and Young Adult events.
The Associate Pastor Search Committee met for the first time on 3 September. Their target is for the new Associate Pastor to begin by summer of 2012, no later than 1 July 2012. This leaves the committee time to proceed carefully but diligently as time passes by rapidly.

The committee is composed of seven members: (left to right): Paul Myers, Rosalyn McKeown, Emiliano Ricafort, Joan Minor, Kerry Lieury, Pastor Ken (advisor), and Francois Pierre (Chair). Margaret Munjeri is Vice Chair (not in photo). The members reflect the diversity of the Church, representing 4 out of the 5 continents.

Please keep the work of the committee in your prayers.

---

**Thurber Thursdays.** We meet in the Thurber Room at 18h30 for a home-cooked meal and brief worship, and then from 19h30 to 21h00 we learn together. We are offering two courses:

**Gospel Christianity** “Gospel Christianity” is a course offered to help you rekindle the fire of your faith. This course is both explorers who have been in the church for decades or just set foot in the door. This course focuses on the following questions: What is the Gospel? Who is God? What is wrong with us? Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? Who do we change? What is Jesus’ mission? What can’t I do this alone? How do we know about Jesus? Where do we live out the Gospel? These are important questions that we will explore together. GC will be taught primarily by the Rev. Dr. Scott Herr.

**The Gospel in Life – Grace Changes Everything!** “The Gospel in Life” is an eight-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 picks up the theme of the eternal city: your heavenly home, the world that is to come. This year we will extend the course by a couple of weeks to reflect more deeply on how the ACP is experiencing in and mediating God’s grace for the great city of Paris! GIL will be taught by the Rev. Dr. Jeff Powell.
You Who Are Blessed
Stewardship 2012

Are you a responsible steward of the blessings God has given you? Are you transforming the blessings you have received into blessings you give to others? Certainly we will not deny that it is wonderful to receive gifts, support, money, or encouragement from our friends and family, even strangers! It makes us feel good. We feel loved. We feel blessed.

But we also admit that, as Jesus said, “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). Both the acts of giving and of receiving are important, and necessary, for us to be a community of God and followers of Christ. In the story of the sheep and the goats, (Matthew 25: 31-46), Jesus talks about the importance of sharing our blessings:

Matthew 25:31-46 (excerpt)

“When the Son of God comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by God; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ ...

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

We encourage you during this Stewardship season to reflect on how you are blessed and how you are a blessing to others. How has the love and grace of God manifest itself in your life? How do you sustain and share all that God has given you: your time, your health, your finances, and your skills?

Now is a chance to think of how you can transform your life from one of receiving to one of giving. At all church services from 23 October through 20 November, we will hear members of the ACP Congregation talk about the blessings in their lives. On 20 November, Stewardship Dedication Sunday, we will invite you to come forward and make a pledge to God and the ACP in 2012.

To prepare for the Stewardship season, we invite you to think about, discuss and share your answers to the following statements. Let us rejoice in all the blessings God has given us!

I am blessed because ________________________________
I am a blessing to others because ________________________________

You are a blessing to the ACP!

2012 Stewardship Team: Julia Kung (Stewardship Chair), Julie Coutton, Daphne Koh, Sue Orsoni, Dave Smidt (Finance Committee Chair), Dustin Smith, Megan Staley.
Saturday, 1 October 2011, 9h00 ~ 18h30,

A Full-day Orientation Program that includes:
- Seminars by authors Elaine Sciolino, Charles Timoney, and Peter Caine along with France 24’s François Picard and over 25 other featured speakers
- Extensive bookstore and book signings courtesy of WH Smith
- Entertaining skit by The Improfessionals
- Exhibit hall with over 40 service, business, and social organizations
- Special programming for children, teens and university students
- Networking opportunities throughout the day
- Continental breakfast, gourmet buffet lunch, and a wine and cheese tasting
- Prizes, give-aways, and the indispensable Bloom Where You’re Planted book

Visit the Welcome Table after worship services, or www.woac.net for full program details
Remembering 9/11
by Alison Benney

When I was in New York this summer, a friend who had suffered through 9/11 scoffed at the commemorations being planned. “Why are we raking the coals?” she asked. “We’re over it. New Yorkers know how to move on.” And yet, perhaps for a similar reason that Parisians left piles of flowers and sympathy notes on the ACP church steps 10 years ago, expats and Parisians alike felt a need to honor the 10-year anniversary of the tragedy.

So plans were quietly made to mark the 11th of September, following the example of the way it was mourned in 2001, with a religious service uniting three faiths: Jewish, Christian and Muslim. Rather than gathering in one particular house of worship, Pastor Scott chose the ultimate symbol of French-American friendship, the Statue of Liberty on the Ile de Cygne.

That Sunday was a damp intemperate day, and at 14h00 the rain poured down on the umbrellas of everyone gathered at Trocadero for the “We shall never forget” ceremony, organized by an expat group. Yet at 16h00, just as people were gathering for the service under the bridge behind the statue, the skies turned blue and the sun lightened the shadows where a few hundred people participated in a very special worship service.

Readings of scripture and prayers were led by Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders, and it was attended by the Deputy Mayor of Paris, the Deputy Mayor of the 15th arrondissement, and H.E. the Ambassador of the United States to France, Charles Rivkin. Mr Rivkin gave a short speech, then laid a wreath at the base of the statue. We stood in silence for a few minutes, and then everyone silently dispersed.

We met back at the church at 18h00 for a colloquium on the question “How are we, the descendants of Abraham, living into the promise that ‘in you all of the families of the earth shall be blessed’?” A panel of six speakers — again, rabbis, priests and Muslim leaders — each spoke, discussing, for instance, who Abraham was, what truth is, and what “blessed” means. They were thought-provoking presentations, enlivened by Rev. Dr. Anne Marie Reijnens, guest
professor at the Theologicum of the Institut Catholique de Paris, ordained minister of the United Protestant Church of Belgium and a parishioner of the American Cathedral.

Ms. Reijnens challenged the choice of topic, saying it was inappropriate to bring Abraham into the debate, as “he is the fault line of our religions” and, she added, in any case 9/11 was not about religion. Instead she urged us to become more of who we are: better Christians, better Jews, better Muslims.

The evening closed with half an hour of discussion led by students from the American University of Paris, and then some delicious hors d’oeuvres in the Theatre. We left feeling that we had respected the day, and had perhaps nudged our corner of the world a little closer to spiritual openness and understanding.

“How are we, the descendants of Abraham, living into the promise that ‘in you all of the families of the earth shall be blessed’?”: Some responses

**Pastor Scott:**

“How can’t help always what happens to us, I think we do have the opportunity to choose what we give ultimate significance, and that makes all the difference in how we live out the rest of our lives … in this world we’re never immune completely from violence, terrorist attacks, warfare, imprisonment, divorce, sickness and death… It’s true that we just can’t control everything that happens to us. The question remains, however, to what, to whom will we give ultimate significance? And how then shall we live?

May we love not just our family and friends, our neighbors, but even our enemies so what happens to them is not revenge, but reconciliation, not hatred, but Christ’s forgiveness and love … May we as followers of Jesus not be known for our beautiful sanctuaries as much as our beautiful acts of mercy, compassion and self-giving, even self-sacrificing love. … We love others, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists, agnostics, whoever the others may be in our life, not to make them into Christians but because we are Christians. We are to give witness in word and deed to the love of God in Jesus Christ.”

**Rabbi Tom Cohen,** originally from Oregon, he is the founder and spiritual leader of the synagogue Kehilat Gesher, part of the Federation of Liberal Jewish Communities of France:

That is the lesson and prayer for us all – if we take the time to notice the humanity of each one of us… if we take the time to truly see the Divine image in the person standing next to us, we can then start to make our world whole once again.

**Dr. Dalil Boubakeur,** born in Algeria, is the Director of la Grandé Mosquée of Paris, and has had a long and distinguished career in the field of medicine and since 1992 has served as the Président of la Société des Habous et Lieux Saints de l’Islam, Recteur de l’Institut Musulman de la Mosquée de Paris, and Président du Conseil Français du Culte Musulman (CFCM):

Faced by the horrible cataclysm of September 11, 2001, the only remedy for this crack in human unity is of course Dialogue of faith and of people. The witness of each one that his/her faith is a factor of peace, reciprocal respect and Tolerance. All dialogues contribute to reforming humanity in an era of mutual understanding avoiding violence and fanaticism.
ATELIER CONCERT SERIES – SUNDAYS AT 5PM – FREE ADMISSION

2 October
Lucile RENON, flute
Delphine ANNE, viola
Sophie BONNEAU, harp
Music by Ravel, Fauré, Debussy, Ibert, Rolland, Andrès

9 October
Catherine MULLER, soprano
Pierre MULLER, piano
Music by Gounod

16 October
Camille MAROUANI, flute
Laure VERMEULIN, piano
Music by Hahn, Schubert, Fauré

23 October
Peter GRIGGS, guitar
“500 Years of Music for Guitar”

30 October
Carolyn SHUSTER, organ
Music by Bach, Mendelssohn, Vierne, Fournier, Lee

**********
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

NOVEMBER
Tuesday, 1 November – All Saints’ Day (church closed)
Friday, 11 November – Armistice Day (church closed)
Saturday, 5 November – AAWE Bazaar
Friday, 18 November – Multi-Cultural Couples Dinner
Saturday, 19 November: Marché de Noël
Thursday, 24 November: Joint Thanksgiving Service at ACP – 12h15
Saturday, 26 November: ACP Thanksgiving Dinner

DECEMBER
Friday, 2 December – Contemporary Worship Band Café - Theater
Friday & Saturday, 2 & 3 December: Christmas Decorating – all day
Saturday, 3 December – Blessing of the Greens Workshop and Party
Friday, 9 December – Multi-Cultural Couples Dinner
Saturday, 10 December – Candlelight Christmas Concerts – 17h and 20h
Saturday, 24 December – Christmas Eve Services
Sunday, 25 December – 11h00 and 13h30 worship only
The Filipino Fellowship’s Recipe
By Christa Lesté-Lasserre

For 25 years they have been praying together, praising together, cooking together, and celebrating together. And on October 23, the Filipino Fellowship will be praying, praising, cooking, singing, dancing, greeting, loving, sharing, and in all other ways celebrating as only they know how, in honor of their grand silver 25th anniversary as a fellowship.

Founded in late October 1986 by four Filipino women wanting to provide a place of Christian unity in the cultural tradition of their homeland of the Philippines, the Filipino Fellowship has grown from a few to several dozens of members. Every Sunday after the 11 am service, they meet in the Thurber Room, sharing a meal expertly organized in groups each week in advance, and continuing their worship and praise through Bible study, songs, and prayer until late in the afternoon. (*Note: On the first Sunday of the month, the Fellowship meets in the basement.*)

“Many of us live in tiny rooms, so we like staying in the open spaces of the church and continuing to worship there together for hours on Sundays,” says Virginia Jacinto, one of the four founding members. The fellowship’s discussions are usually in their native language, but recently they have had guests from southeast Asia, India, former eastern bloc nations, and North America, and so they worship in English as well.

Most of the time when they have non-Filipino guests, though, they’re having a party. The Filipinos love to celebrate, Virginia says. It’s part of their culture, that of Filipino hospitality. “In our tradition, as long as you have something to share – whether it’s food or clothes or any little thing – you share it, even with people who aren’t invited!” she says.

That’s the kind of hospitality that has made the Filipinos memorable among so many members – and former members – of the American Church in Paris congregation.

“Oh, the Filipino Fellowship is what I miss most about ACP!” says Sarah Sours, wife of Steven Sours, who was the ACP youth director from 2001-2004. “The food, the kindness, the generosity, the fun – the Filipino Fellowship helped make the ACP ‘church’ for me.”

Ania Bannister, a current member, agrees. She especially appreciates the fellowship’s Christmas parties. “Thank you to all Filipinos for their hospitality, love, and kindness,” she says.

She is echoed by Marie Grout, who adds, “Thank you for welcoming us with open arms.”

Food seems to be a very common association that church members have with the Filipino Fellowship – and understandably so! From their tiny home kitchens and the huge Thurber Room kitchen come hot, fragrant, made-with-love favorites like *nems*, whole cooked salmons, and *palitaws* (native delicacy). It’s no wonder the Filipinos are invited every year to provide the lunches at what used to be the annual Arts and Craft Fair and now *Marché de Noël* hosted by the Mission and Outreach Committee. (The proceeds they gain from that event are added to a bigger collection, all of which go towards fulfilling their pledge to the ACP.)
“The warmth and welcome that come out of the Thurber Room on those feast days is amazing!” recalls Anne Losq, who grew up in the ACP and now studies abroad, still holding on to fond memories of the Filipino Fellowship. Without that experience, she says, she would never have learned “how precious those things are.” For her, the meals, conversations, and fellowship she found there were nothing short of “exquisite.”

But despite all this, the members of the Filipino Fellowship feel like they could always be giving more, always contributing more to the spiritual community that they find in the ACP. “We are spiritually fed by the American Church, and we have to share in supporting it,” Virginia says.

And that’s why, wherever you go, whatever you do, in whatever aspect of the ACP you might find yourself, there will be Filipino Fellowship members there. They’re in the Adult choir, the bell choirs, the team of ushers, the children’s worship, the church council, and many committees. Their tithes, offerings, and special collections filter into every church activity and fund-raising campaign.

For 25 years, they have been “sharing of their blessings,” as Virginia says, following what the Scriptures say and finding joy in doing so.

On the eve of the 25th anniversary of the fellowship that she helped put up, Grace Jacinto feels both joy and sadness -- an intriguing mix of emotions that cannot be helped when one looks back without losing sight of the future. *Manang* Grace, as she is fondly called by Filipinos younger than her as a sign of deference, said she is reminded of the many difficult times through the years. “You cannot please everyone, in spite of all your efforts to serve. Some see in me only the mistakes they say I have made.” But the sadness never lasts. “Whenever I feel sad or pain, it is quickly overcome by joy, and that joy is greater because the Lord has never abandoned me. I have gone through many trials but I have always clung to Him, and He has always guided me.” Then she cites one of her favorite Bible verses, Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

*Manang* Grace (see photo above) also finds joy in serving others and continues to do so despite her frail health. This dedication to others began early in her life: for over 20 years, she was a nurse in a Methodist hospital in the Philippines, and loved caring for patients. Many members of the Fellowship want her by their side during visits to doctors or to appointments with the French administration. “She is our Mother Teresa,” said Grace Laxa, who joined the Fellowship in 1994 but became active starting 1997. “In the Fellowship, I found my second home, a family who have stood by me in my times of trouble.”

Zeny Ricafort echoes the same sentiment. She joined the Fellowship in 1993, and is grateful for the many acts kindness that she has known. “I can tell that I have received so many blessings,” she says, recalling specific incidents involving both herself and her husband Emil (Emil’s late mother also helped set up the Fellowship). “It is in the Fellowship that I unload my problems, and the prayers and the sharing of insights and advice have given me courage. I have realized that I am not alone during the hard times. On the contrary, I have the Fellowship by my side.” This is what the Fellowship celebrates – anniversary or not.
SEPTEMBER AT ACP: The month in review
(Photos by Fred Gramann)

9/11 commemorative events at the foot of the Statue of Liberty

Council members in retreat
From Mark Primmer, Council Moderator

As we begin our work as a new Council, I am strongly encouraged by all of the enthusiastic and committed Council members. As Moderator, I see the grace of God’s work within our congregation exemplified by the high level of participation and positive energy generated during the many events taking place during the rentrée. I feel that this has put us in a good position that enables us to succeed in the important tasks ahead, including the Associate Pastor Search and hosting the Friday Mission Lunches.

The Council went into retreat on 17 September, Saturday. The retreat was centered on “Equipping Teams for Ministry”, with the one-day program divided into two sessions, theological and spiritual equipping in the morning followed by practical equipping in the afternoon. Like in previous retreats, we invited a guest facilitator, Mr. Robert Crane, to lead us through some morning exercises and to assist with our discussions. Robert is a bilingual, bicultural, and bi-national resident of Paris. His work has focused on cultural differences and how to overcome them in both business and religious contexts. Thus, he has taught both executive and student audiences Cross Cultural Management, as well as organizing interfaith workshops for both clergy and laymen. During the Council retreat, he helped us explore the rich diversity within the Council and how we can strengthen our work together in serving the ACP community. (See Council directory on page 19)

Ministry Fair, 18 September
On Saturday, 17 September, the ACP opened its doors for the annual Journée du Patrimoine. Volunteers welcomed the some 200 visitors curious to see the windows and the sanctuary, while docents led them through the church.

On Sunday, 11 September, some 15 women ran the famous all-women marathon La Parisienne – the first race of the newly born Runners Club. They were among the 25,000 participants who ran or walked “with perseverance” the 6 kilometers of the race, starting from the foot of the Eiffel Tower. La Parisienne joins the fight against breast cancer.

(Photos courtesy of Kim Herr)
ACP COUNCIL 2011-2012

Moderator:
Mark Primmer

Vice Moderator:
Mary Crass Fenu

Treasurer/
Finance &
Stewardship Chair:
David Smidt

Human Resources
Chair:
Pierre Lisbonis

Secretary:
Bettina Skaff Chéhab

Assistant Secretary:
Arthur Radford
Laney
Committees

**Christian Education:**
Sharon Hermanson, Chair
Edwin Sianturi, Vice-Chair

Plans, coordinates, recruits and trains volunteers for the following programs and activities: Adult [Bible studies Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Lenten study groups, and Retreats]; Youth and Young Adults [Tuesday night Pizza, Bible studies, Retreats, Sunday youth groups]; Children to age 11 [Sunday School, nursery care, Christmas pageant, and mission projects].

**Communication:**
Alison Benney, Chair
John Newman, Co-Chair

Responsible for all internal and external communication processes of the ACP: the Sunday bulletin and worship publications, the Web, Spire, branding for congregational and community outreach, promotional brochures, ads, and the bulletin boards.

**Community Life:**
Camilla Macfarlane, Chair
Nathaniel Akujuobi, Vice-Chair

Christian hospitality, support, fellowship and love for those in particular need. Activities: Prayer Team, French-English conversation group, Prayer Chain, Multicultural Couples Group. Oversees: Thanksgiving Dinner, Easter Breakfast, Potlucks, Welcome and Departing events for Pastoral staff.

**Finance & Stewardship:**
Dave Smidt, Chair
Julia Kung, Vice-Chair

Oversees the financial issues of ACP: budgeting, review of monthly performance, cash management, compliance with laws and regulations, oversight of day to day financial operations, management of financial interactions with AFCU. Educates, challenges and organizes the ACP members and friends to respond to the gifts God has given us through the regular and annual sharing of time, talent and treasure in support of the ministries of this congregation. Coordinates the Annual Stewardship Drive.
**Human Resources:**
Pierre Lisbonis, Chair  
Avril Lee, Vice-Chair

**Mission Outreach:**
Kristie Worrel, Chair  
Ann Mildred Gontard, Vice-Chair

Oversees Easter and Christmas donation distribution to local and international charities, collects food for the Friday Mission Luncheon program, collects ‘Love in a Box’ at Christmas, Rafiki Prayer Group, Habitat for Humanity, Friday Mission Luncheon Program.

**Property & Development:**
Daniel Grout, Chair  
William Johnston, Vice-Chair

Oversees and proposes in conjunction with the building architect and the Business administrator, maintenance and renovation projects of the ACP buildings and equipment. Develop long term, reliable sources of revenue to fund the Church’s missions. Activities: AFCU [www.afcubridge.org/] and Alumni relations, Donor care and recognition, Community relations, Wedding Team, monitor Church rental activity, drafting various grant proposals.

**Worship & Music:**
Anne Zweede, Chair  
Tara Tranguch, Vice-Chair

Aid the Pastors and Church staff in creating, planning, budgeting, fundraising, organizing and participating in all activities pertaining to Worship and Music: Ushers, Communion Service, Youth Acolytes, Adult and Youth Choir, Handbells, Liturgical Dance, and Altar Guild.

**Nominating:**
Thelma Fuchs, Chair  
Christopher Wobo, Vice-Chair

Appointed by the Council, this committee nominates one candidate for each position or Officer of the Church.
Opportunities for Adult Education, Fellowship and Ministry

We are looking for outgoing and friendly people to welcome and greet visitors on Sundays after each service!

This is a truly important ministry and a wonderful way to show a Christian spirit by warmly welcoming those who will, no doubt, appreciate being greeted and welcomed to our church home!

If you could volunteer your time to be a Greeter, or to sit at the Welcome Table, please look for the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Table so you can choose dates and a Sunday service to participate! You can also contact Camilla Macfarlane for further information. Let her know if one Sunday a month (or more!) for 15 or 20 minutes would work in your schedule! Unfortunately, there have been too many stories of people coming to coffee hour and having no interaction with a single soul, and leaving feeling deflated (no matter HOW good the sermon was!) This is an easy and informal way to put your “new personality” of Christian faith to work!

SUNDAY SERMON BIBLE STUDIES meets in the G2 between the 10h00 and 11h00 service. Please contact Kristie Worrel for more information.

TUESDAY WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY meets from 10h30 to 12h30 here at the church. All are welcome. We will be studying Be Mature: Growing up in Christ, a study of the Book of James by Warren Wiersbe. If you have small children, the church nursery is available for a nominal fee. Please let us know if you’d be interested so we can insure that we have the proper number of childcare givers. Questions or more information, contact our coordinators: Jennifer Jourlait and Diedre Grizzle.

SIMPLY CHRISTIAN - Why Christianity Makes Sense by N. T. Wright. Have you ever wondered why humans in all places and times have yearned for beauty, truth, spirituality, and justice? Bishop Wright contends that it is because we hear the echoes of God's voice – the same God who created the world, is known through the children of Israel and Jesus Christ, and who is at work in the world through the Holy Spirit. Connecting to this God through worship, prayer, scripture and the church leads to life that is full and abundant. Please contact MaryClaire King.

ACP MEN – come for coffee, conversation, prayer and fellowship. Any men interested in further information or in being added to our e-mail list should contact Ed Hyslip (gtmmsinc@gmail.com) for information about address and door codes.

CALLING ALL MULTICULTURAL COUPLES. Our next gathering will be on 14 October, Friday. Bring a dish to share and join the fun. For more info, contact Monica Basset or Susanna Anglada.

THE KNITTING GROUP welcomes newcomers and experts, and others in between – all are welcome. Bring your own project, join us in a group project, knit for the church or just sit with us for some laughs and finding new friends. Monday afternoons at 17h00. For more info, contact Antoinette Wolfe or Elizabeth Rand.
**MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP:** The movie group's October choices are Le Cochon de Gaza by Sylvain Estibal, We Need to Talk About Kevin by Lynne Ramsay, Drive by Nicholas Winding Refn, and The Artist by Michel Hazanavicius. See any or all of the films in the cinema at your own convenience, then join the group for discussion on Thursday, 20 October at 19h30 in the church basement.

**WOMEN’S RUNNING TEAM.** If you are interested in being part of the ACP running team (men and women are welcome) please contact Kim Herr. We will be looking for other races to run in the fall. Several have already signed up for various races in the coming months!

**CHILDREN’S WORSHIP.** Volunteers are still needed for Children’s Worship. There are many ways to volunteer such as a helper, greeter, storyteller, story materials, activity materials, graphic design, visual arts ... the list goes on. If interested, contact childrensworship@gmail.com or simply fill out a connection form which is found in the pew.

**ANNIE VALLOTTON CHRISTIAN LENDING LIBRARY:** It’s time to renew your membership to the Annie Vallotton Christian Lending Library. The Membership Drive will be held through 9 October. As of 16 October, 2010-2011 memberships will no longer be valid. Stop by and renew your membership or join for the first time!

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION at 12h30 in the Library on the 2nd floor on the 2 October.** All who are interested in becoming members are welcome. The class will give a brief orientation on “Who We Are, What We Believe, and How We Live Out Our Faith.” Please rsvp to the church secretary at secretary@acparis.org.

**ACP “ANGELS” CLASSIC AMERICAN CHEERLEADING TEAM** has started up again this year, holding practices on Saturday mornings, 10H00-11H30 in the ACP Gym. Girls ages 12-16 interested should contact Shannon.

**ACP WOMEN:** You are invited to participate in a discussion of the future direction of The Women of the American Church (WOAC). We will be holding our second of three brainstorming sessions on Sunday, 9 October, 12h30-13h30 in G7. For those who will be on the retreat, we regret the conflict but would still like to receive your input. If you would like to receive a summary of the meeting, please email Kim Herr.

**SOS HELP** is recruiting new Listeners and Supporters. This is a great way to help fellow English speakers who are in need of anonymous, non-judgmental, trained and compassionate Listeners with whom to discuss their small or large problem. SOS Help operates 365 days of the year, and has long been a mission of the ACP. If you are interested in learning more, please come to an information session on either Wednesday, 28 September or Tuesday, 4 October at 19h00 at ACP. For more information you can go to the SOS website at www.soshelpline.org or e-mail Elizabeth Rand.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN TO RING HANDBELLS? This is your big chance!** Fred offers training on Thursday afternoons to brand new ringers. No previous experience necessary. Don’t read music? We’ll teach you! Please speak with Fred if you are interested. (Warning: there is no known cure for an addiction to handbell ringing… except more ringing!)

**THE FALL CHOIR CONCERT** will take place on Saturday evening, 15 October at 20h00 in our sanctuary. The program will be given by our youth and adult choirs and handbell choirs. The Adult Choir will perform a setting of Psalm 42 by Mendelssohn. Please join us! Admission is free.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worship services, 9h &amp; 11h, and 13h30</td>
<td>Knitting Group, 17h</td>
<td>(1 NOVEMBER – CHURCH CLOSED)</td>
<td>Youth and children’s choirs rehearsals, 14h-18h30</td>
<td>Men’s Morning Coffee, 7h30</td>
<td>Family retreat at Houlgate, until 9 October</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Docent tours, after 11h service</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td>- Spire Ringers, 14h30</td>
<td>- Adult Choir rehearsal, 19h30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Youth meeting, 15h-17h</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td>- Thubert Thursday, 18h30</td>
<td>- Bronze rehearsal, 19h30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Atelier concert, 17h</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td>- Movie Discussion Group, 19h30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Youth: Halloween party</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Worship services, 9h &amp; 11h, and 13h30</td>
<td>- Knitting Group, 17h</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Docent tours, after 11h service</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Youth meeting, 15h-17h</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Atelier concert, 17h</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Worship services, 9h &amp; 11h, and 13h30</td>
<td>- Knitting Group, 17h</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Docent tours, after 11h service</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Youth meeting, 15h-17h</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Atelier concert, 17h</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Worship services, 9h &amp; 11h, and 13h30</td>
<td>- Knitting Group, 17h</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Docent tours, after 11h service</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Youth meeting, 15h-17h</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Atelier concert, 17h</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Worship services, 9h &amp; 11h, and 13h30</td>
<td>- Knitting Group, 17h</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Docent tours, after 11h service</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Youth meeting, 15h-17h</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Atelier concert, 17h</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Worship services, 9h &amp; 11h, and 13h30</td>
<td>- Knitting Group, 17h</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Docent tours, after 11h service</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Youth meeting, 15h-17h</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Atelier concert, 17h</td>
<td>- Celebration Ringers, 18h45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Activity not held at ACP. Check with organizers for details. Please check the ACP website for a more complete and detailed schedule.