Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

I hope this edition of The Spire (hard copy or on-line edition) finds you enjoying the last few days of a beautiful summer here in Paris or wherever you may be in the world. I’m looking forward to getting back to share with you some of what I learned during a week of courses at the Oxford Summer School of Theology where we explored two major topics: Christianity in a Pluralistic Society, and Christianity and World Religions. As we are preparing to explore the theme of grace in Paul’s letter to the church in Rome September through November, these topics have raised my awareness of Paul’s desire to hold the tension between Christian orthodoxy and hospitality. After Danny’s trip to Burkina Faso in July, the courses at Oxford, and the simple fact that our family is currently traveling half way around the world to visit loved ones, I’m very aware of how our Christian faith connects us with peoples everywhere. A pastoral colleague recently shared with me a great t-shirt slogan. On the front side it reads in bold letters, “DON’T GO TO CHURCH...” and on the back side it concludes, “BE THE CHURCH!” For those of us who are traveling, how will our behavior “out there” reflect the fact that we are the body of Christ, the holy catholic Church? How will our words and actions reflect God’s call upon us to share the love of Christ with all people? A simple smile, patience, and basic acts of kindness and common decency can go a long way and I pray that our church will continue to “be the church” faithfully wherever we are!

As this is the time of year when we welcome a lot of newcomers to our fellowship, I invite you to consider making a special effort to reach out to those who you do not recognize or have met before. Say hello and ask them from where they come. I also invite you to take time to welcome Charlie and Edda Brown. Charlie is serving (again) as the Pastoral Assistant through the end of December, focusing on the wedding ministry of our church but both Charlie and Edda have expressed a desire to share in all areas of church life and fellowship. They are a wonderful couple who have come to share their wealth of experience and love during their time with us. I encourage you to get to know them early as the last six months with the Hustad’s just flew by!

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...and on the back side it concludes, “BE THE CHURCH!”
Finally, I want to encourage you to consider the ways in which this rentrée might afford you a variety of opportunities to enter into a more fulfilling path of Christian discipleship. Please take note of a variety of courses and small group opportunities, including Alpha and Gospel in Life: Grace Changes Everything, as well as other Bible study and small group study offerings. Please pray for our church as we are coming back together and welcoming newcomers and guests for a new season of worship, fellowship, and service. May we be the church, growing together and reaching out with God’s grace and love.

In Christ,

Scott

Pastor Scott Turns Two
Weekly Events

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

**Bible Study & Fellowship**
- **Bible Class**: Sundays, 10am. Room G5
- **WOAC Women’s Bible Study**: Mondays, 7pm. Contact Amy for more information.
- **Adult Discipleship Course**: Tuesdays, 9.30 – 11.30am (starts 21st September). Contact associatepastor@acparis.org for more information.
- **Men’s Morning Coffee**: Thursdays, 7.30am Starbucks (90 rue St-Dominique, 75007). Contact Ken for more information.
- **Thurber Thursdays**: Dinner at 6.30pm, teaching from 7.30pm. 2 courses – Alpha and The Gospel in Life. Thurber Room (starting September 16).

**Music**
- **Celebration Ringers**: (from 13th September) Mondays, 6.45 – 8pm. Theatre
- **Adult Choir rehearsal**: (from 8th September) Wednesdays, 7.30-9.30pm. Theatre
- **Bronze Ringers**: (from 9th September) Thursdays, 7.30 – 9.30pm. Theatre
- **Beginning Handbell Choir**: Thursdays, 3:00 – 4:00pm Theatre

Contact music@acparis.org for more information.

**Youth & Young Adults**
- **Youth Group**: every Sunday 3-5pm
- **Young Adults** alternating Bible Study and Pizza Nights: every Tuesday in the Catacombs at 7.30pm

For specific dates and times, please visit the Youth and Young Adult’s section.

**Youth Music**
- **Gaudeamus**: (from 14th September) Young Adults vocal ensemble, Tuesday 7.30pm – 9pm. Venue TBA
- **Cherub Choir**: (from 15th September) Wednesday 1 – 2pm
- **Children’s Choir**: (from 15th September) Wednesday 2 – 3pm
- **Children’s Handbells**: (from 15th September) Wednesday 3 – 4pm
- **Shine**: (from 15th September) Youth Choir, Wednesday 4 – 5:30pm
- **Youth Handbells**: (from 15th September) Wednesday 5:30 – 6:30pm

Contact youthmusic@acparis.org for more information.
Early in August I took in the Dreamlands exhibition at the Georges Pompidou centre. The exhibit explored the question of how the “dreamlands of the leisure society” – World Fairs, international exhibitions, theme parks, etc. – have shaped the imagination and influenced ideas about the city. Of the several images and ideas that fascinated me, two caught my attention as relating to my own life as an expat in Paris.

First of all, there was a theme of “self-enclosed parallel worlds” – replicas of the Eiffel Tower in Las Vegas, for example, or theme parks where one can pose for a photograph in front of iconic architectural models without wandering far from home. Now, I have travelled to this city with the original works of art and architecture. Yet as an expat and stranger, particularly one with a limited command of the French language, I can easily feel that I am living in a self-enclosed parallel world to the real world that is Paris.

The second theme on display interacted with ways that leisure society embraces an aesthetic of accumulation and collage. Which has me wondering how much of my Paris experience is lived according to an aesthetic of accumulation? Am I simply here accumulating as much experience as I can before I pack it up for home? Sometimes collage is exactly the way that I engage this city – cutting and pasting together what I enjoy and leaving out what I don’t understand or appreciate.

Dreamlands challenged my own ideas about life in Paris. The exhibition provoked a desire to bridge the real life of Paris and the self-enclosed world within which I so easily operate. I didn’t move to this city simply to accumulate a collage of Parisian experiences and interactions. You and I both know – the only way to really live in a city on its own terms is to build relationships that break us out of a self-enclosed dreamland and into the real lives that surround ours. And the best way to break away from accumulation and collage is to give and to serve.

Dreamlands challenged my own ideas about life in Paris. The exhibition provoked a desire to bridge the real life of Paris and the self-enclosed world within which I so easily operate.

In my experience it is a trustworthy and provocative introduction both for those who are new to faith and also for those who need a refresher course in the building blocks of belief.

We know this because of Christ’s incarnation. Instead of establishing a dreamland religion that operates in a self-enclosed parallel world to the real life of the city, Jesus risked relationships and rejection. Reading the gospels, we discover that God’s relationship to us in Jesus wasn’t one of accumulation or
collage. Jesus didn’t accumulate the power or prestige. Jesus didn’t cut and paste a collage of the people and things he wanted and reject the rest. In contrast to an aesthetic of accumulation and collage, Jesus demonstrates a life of self-sacrifice and service, giving himself totally to the totality of humanity.

I’m an expat in Paris. According to our faith, I am also a stranger in this world. And the key to moving from the dreamland experience to gospel reality is identical: connecting in real relationships, and giving my life away in self-sacrificial service. One theme that we are exploring this autumn is this move that leaves dreamland religion behind and seeks to live out the gospel in the real life of the city.

We’ve chosen two courses for Thurber Thursdays this autumn that help us to make this move. One is the Alpha Course – a ten week exploration of the Christian faith. I’ve participated in the Alpha Course several times. In my experience it is a trustworthy and provocative introduction both for those who are new to faith and also for those who need a refresher course in the building blocks of belief. Alpha begins on the 16 September.

The second course that is being offered at Thurber Thursday is the Gospel in Life. This is an 8-week course that explores the dynamics of living out the gospel of grace in real life, a real city, with real people. Gospel in Life also begins at Thurber Thursdays on 16 September.

And what if you can’t come on a Thursday evening? Both of these courses are DVD based courses that are designed for small group interaction. As a leadership team, we believe that one of the best ways to break any church out of a self-enclosed dreamland and into the city is by starting home study groups. I know that this is a challenge in Paris, with smaller living spaces and long travel times – yet tell me anything worth doing that isn’t a challenge requiring creativity and sacrifice? If Thurber Thursdays won’t work for you, yet you would like to participate in a small group study, then contact Sarah Holmes who is volunteering to help start home groups: connections@acparis.org.

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The Alpha Course  
@ ACP this fall

Thurber Thursday evenings  
beginning September 16

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

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

-- The Guardian, London

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

-- Time Magazine
Also on this fall ...

The Gospel in Life
“Grace Changes Everything”
An eight week DVD & Small Group-based course
Thurber Thursdays
beginning September 16.

“The Gospel in Life” is an 8-session course on the gospel and how it is lived out in all of life—first in your heart, then in your community, and then out into the world.
In each session, Timothy Keller presents a ten-minute teaching segment on the gospel.
Session 1 opens the course with the theme of the city: your home now, the world that is.
Session 8 closes the course with the theme of the eternal city: your heavenly home, the world that is to come. In between, you will look at how the gospel changes your heart, changes your community, and changes how you live in the world.

Discipleship Seminar
Greater Knowledge – Deeper Dedication
9.30h – 11.30h every Tuesday, starting from September 21

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

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

Topics include: The Character of God; Creation; Sin, Evil & the Fall; The Incarnation; The Death of Christ; Resurrection & Ascension; The Holy Spirit; Fulfillment
The aim of this experiment is to gather a group of people who can be available during the day, who are committed to attending weekly, and who commit to the values of community and conversation as we seek to deepen our knowledge of Christ. The format of this Tuesday morning discipleship course is based on input from a DVD series of lectures from St. Paul’s theological centre.

Each week either Pastor Scott, Pastor Laurie or Peter Bannister will lead discussion around the lectures. To register for this Tuesday morning seminar please email smallgroups@acparis.org.
What if I’m interested but can’t come on a Tuesday morning?
We realize (with regret) that a morning class during the week is not possible for everyone. If you are interested in this type of weekly discipleship training but can not attend during the day, there are 2 things that would be helpful: in the short term, please consider attending “Gospel in Life” on Thursday evenings beginning Sept. 16. This is an excellent discipleship course.

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

The Wedding Ministry
By Rev. Charlie Brown, ACP Pastoral Assistant,

We, Edda and I (pictured above), arrived at the American Church in Paris to begin our six months being a part of the larger staff team, on July 1. Even trying to explain to friends at home what the work would be, wasn’t easy. They wondered how I could do “legal weddings” in Paris. Let’s clear that up in a hurry. I don’t do a legal wedding in Paris. The program at ACP is to offer to people from all over the world a wedding blessing service or a renewal of their wedding vows.

Most people from the states would recognize the service order as a Christian “Interdenominational Service”. The Church provides a beautiful historic setting, music, and pastoral involvement. I meet with the husband and wife to decide the details of the service order, and with those who will be sharing in the blessing.

I was asked if it became routine after doing a number of services. The answer is a resounding NO! To share such a special moment in peoples life journeys is an honor and a privilege. I share the significance of our Christian tradition with each couple.

It is a joy to be a part of people’s celebration of one of the most significant decisions they make in life...a life covenant and commitment to love and care for one another. We work with translators in many different languages, with our part being in English. We strive to make it another resource in the lives they share with one another and their families.

It obviously doesn’t hurt that this is Paris. Although, when we arrived, it was in the 90’s. The old song “I Love Paris” has a phrase like: “I love Paris in the summer when it sizzles”... hmmm...we were delighted when we got down to the pleasant 70’s.

We look forward to reestablishing our friendships and making new ones. Coming to ACP is like coming home.

Love, joy and peace,

Rev Charlie Brown
It's a brand new year and once again the world of leisure time is your oyster. So what will you choose to do with those precious hours of free time? Which activities will lay claim to your personal schedule?

Confused? Overwhelmed? Need some assistance? You're in luck! The eminent therapist Dr. Gramann is "IN". Based on my 34-year-old "practice", I want to share with you ten good reasons for using some of your extra time this year to get involved in the ACP music program:

1. As Christians we are called to **witness to the love of Christ** and that is exactly what vocal choir and handbell choir members have the privilege of doing each and every time they share their music in worship.

2. Our spiritual life is intended to be lived out with others, not alone and apart. Being in a musical ensemble leads to **stronger community**, builds **new and lasting friendships** within the church, and offers **unique opportunities to minister** to each other on a long-term basis.

3. Commitment to a choir **encourages discipline**. Our accountability to fellow choir members gets us to church on a regular basis! Church is no longer simply one option among others in our busy weekend. It becomes a commitment to serve as part of a team. Choir membership **makes church a priority**.

4. Making music is **GOOD for you**. Study after study has shown that singing or playing an instrument on a regular basis **makes one more alert, improves memory, and helps relieve stress**. Just think of the boost that this physical and mental improvement will give your spiritual life.

5. You get the **best seats in the house**! The folks who sit up front in the chancel always have a reserved seat and an amazing view of the most beautiful window in the sanctuary, the Missionary Window.

6. You get **coffee BEFORE worship**! After we rehearse on Sunday morning, there is a special time for fellowship and coffee for the choir members.

7. Being part of a choir brings **the satisfaction of achieving short and long term goals**. The music is often challenging and requires weeks, sometimes months, to master. This year the choir will be learning the Cherubini “Requiem” which will be sung during Lent with full orchestra. There’s nothing that can replace the satisfaction of learning and sharing a major work like this.

8. **It’s educational**. Not only do you learn about different types of music and a variety of composers, you learn how to
improve your musical skills. While most members are amateurs, there are a number of seasoned professional musicians in the choirs who are always eager to share their knowledge with fellow members.

9. **We work hard but also laugh hard.** While music rehearsals at ACP are taken very seriously, they are also fun. There are often humorous moments or comments that spark smiles and laughter. And we DO take time to laugh!

10. **God asks us** to use our musical talents to serve him. The psalms are full of that message!

Convinced? I thought so! My therapy sessions usually get pretty good results, and you’ll be glad to know that the cost of this session is included in your choir membership – which is absolutely **free**. So come see me. Let’s talk about your musical gifts and how best to put them to use for the Lord.

*Clockwise from top left: The ACP Bronze Ringers, choir accompanist Laurana Mitchelmore, singing the Hallelujah Chorus on Easter Sunday, the Youth Choir (Shine), Adult Choir, Easter Sunday 2010.*

Here is what ACP offers in terms of music ministry participation:

- **Adult Choir**
- **Beginning Adult Handbell Choir**
- **The Celebration Ringers** (intermediate)
- **The ACP Bronze Ringers** (advanced)
- **Cherub Choir / Children’s Choir**
- **Children’s Handbell Choir**
- **Shine** (Youth Choir)
- **Youth Handbell Choir**
- **Gaudeamus** (Young Adult Ensemble)

*LET THE BELLS RING!* A brand new adult handbell choir for total beginners is starting in September on Thursdays, from 3 to 4 pm. No previous musical experience is necessary. Come join the fun. Please speak with Fred or send him an email.
THE SERIES STARTS ITS 115TH SEASON
Back in 1895 a very special Parisian gathering was initiated: a weekly meeting held in various ateliers on the Left Bank for young English-speaking students. The goal was to use music, the spoken word in the form of a brief address and refreshments as a basis for fellowship and spiritual grounding in Paris. When the new American Church facilities were completed on the quai d'Orsay, this program was invited to make this church its home as of 1931. This September marks the 115th season of these programs, and the 80th anniversary of the series at the American Church. While the programs no longer include a spoken address, they do offer a program of classical music by amazingly talented musicians who have received advanced degrees in music and often won highly coveted international competitions. The programs begin at 5pm each Sunday in our sanctuary and are free to the public. A free-will offering at the exit helps cover the expenses. Plan to attend at least one these concerts planned for September:

Sunday, September 5:
Christine Azzoni Dow, piano and organ
& Sandra Azzoni Wood, violin
Works by Bach, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Howells, Alain, Biber
Christine Azzoni Dow is on the music faculty at Irvine Valley College and maintains an active private studio for piano students. She is organist for the Mission Basilica qt San Juan Capistrano in California.

Sandra Azzoni Wood (above) received her Bachelors Degree in music from Immaculate Heart College in Los Angelesm and her Masters Degree in violin performance from California State University at Northridge.

Sunday, September 12:
Harumi Kinoshita, harpsichord
Works by Bach and Rameau
Harumi Kinoshita studied harpsichord with Jean-Patrice Brosse at the Ecole normale de musique de Paris where she earned the diplôme supérieur de concertiste. She completed her music
studies at the International Academy in Sienna, Italy.

**Sunday, September 19:**
Le Trio Pomposa:
Jeanne-Marie Anglès, soprano
Pascal Szymczak, viola pomposa
Hakim Mioudi, guitare décacorde
Works by Bach, Vivaldi, Scarlatti, Strozzi, Jomelli

Okay, you recognize the word *soprano*, but what are the other two strange sounding instruments? The *viola pomposa* is a bowed string instrument with five strings, imagined by J.S. Bach and used between 1725 and 1770. It can be thought of as a tenor violin which, because of its size, is played supported on the arm. The *guitare décacorde* is simply a ten-stringed guitar.

**Sunday, September 26:**
Noëlle Thibon, mezzo soprano
Olivier Dekeister, organ
Works by Handel, Vivaldi, Bach, Chaumont, Langlais

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### HAVE WE GOT PLANS FOR YOU!

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Oct. 2</td>
<td>Bloom orientation</td>
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<td>Sunday, Oct. 17</td>
<td>Concert by ACP choirs and handbell choirs</td>
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<td>Saturday, Oct. 23</td>
<td>A journey to the Promised Land, for children</td>
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<td>Saturday, Oct. 23</td>
<td>Hallowed Be concert by the contemporary band</td>
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<td>Friday-Sunday, Oct. 29-31:</td>
<td>All-church retreat</td>
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<td>Saturday, Nov. 20</td>
<td>Marché de Noel</td>
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<td>Saturday, Nov. 27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving worship service</td>
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<td>Saturday, Nov. 27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving dinner</td>
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<td>Saturday, Dec. 11</td>
<td>Candlelight Christmas concerts</td>
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The ACP mission team left Burkina Faso at about 2pm and arrived back in Paris at about 10pm on Bastille Day. We left from an airport without a finished roof, bathrooms, or a single working computer. We left behind brothers and sisters in Christ, new acquaintances well on the way to becoming friends, who live with malnutrition, dirty water, disease. We returned to one of the cleanest and most beautiful cities in the world, and a fireworks display that cost far more than the annual budget of the school in which we served. It was a stark contrast.

It’s a typical reaction to time in a developing country – being filled with sadness, frustration, anger, guilt and relief upon returning home. But I did feel all those feelings, and I think all of us on the team found the first week home to be a bit strange. We had a lot of questions: How can God let such unfairness exist? How can suffering people show such deep faith? And what are we supposed to do in response to what we experienced? How do we keep faith with our Christian family in Burkina?

Some of us gathered for a meal and time to hang out a week or so after we returned. We found that we shared a sense that being part of the Body of Christ is an intimate connection with another person, a connection that transcends time and geography. Being a part of the same Body with the people we met in Burkina meant that the ways in which we worshipped, prayed, studied, lived somehow needed to reflect that connection.

I immediately went into social worker mode. How could we plan to go back? What programs did we need to start here to collect supplies and funds? How could we better welcome refugees into our congregation? The youth wisely didn’t follow me down that road. They told me that they wanted to go back, certainly, and would work for that. But they reminded me that the way to integrate our experiences into life, the way we could keep faith with brothers and sisters in Burkina wasn’t a program or a project. That would be oversimplifying complex problems – and denying our own need to change and be changed.

The way to live as parts of the same body as the people we met in Burkina was simply to live as a part of the body of Christ – to live from a point of view transformed by this experience with a new and wider reality. It was deepening our friendships with the people we met there, asking them how we could walk with them. It meant that seeing a person begging on the street, walking through a grocery store, turning on a tap – all these experiences could and should be transformed by the knowledge of how other people in the world experience daily life. Any program/action/project has to come out of a view of reality changed by God’s Spirit.
My sense is that the ACP congregation is becoming more and more interested in allowing our worship, our work, our prayer, our lives to be transformed by the knowledge that we live in a suffering world and that we are called to respond. I hope that the conversation continues. And I cannot thank the people of this church enough for the support that allowed us to travel to Burkina Faso.

Young Adults & Youth Events

**Young Adults**

**Tuesday, September 7** 7.30pm  
Bible Study in the *Catacombs*

**Friday, September 10** 7pm  
ACP Café – join the ACP Band for a relaxed evening of music and fellowship on the *patio*.

**Tuesday, September 14** 6pm/7.30pm  
Pizza Night in the *Thurber Room*

**Tuesday, September 21** 7.30pm  
Bible Study in the *Catacombs*

**Tuesday, September 28** 6pm/7.30pm  
Pizza Night in the *Thurber Room*

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 6pm to help cook and from 7.30pm for dinner and small group discussion.
Youth

Sunday September 5  3 -5pm
Youth Group in the Catacombs

Sunday September 12  3 -5pm
Youth Group in the Catacombs

Sunday September 19  3 -5pm
Youth Group in the Catacombs

Friday Sept. 24 – Sunday Sept 26
Rentrée Retreat to Jambville! Fun, fellowship, marshmallows bonfires - start your year off in Christ!

Sunday September 26  3 -5pm
Youth Group in the Catacombs

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.

Can you name all of these figures on the pulpit?
No?! Join the docent tours of the sanctuary on Sundays after the 11:00 service, and find out. See you there!
Under the leadership of Youth Pastor Ginger Strickland, we went to Burkina Faso to help the organization Heal the World (www.Healtheworld.org). This non-governmental organization (NGO) has been set up by John W. Roberts (a former ACP member) to help the burkinabés (the people of Burkina Faso) to learn the English language, broadening their possibilities to study and become leaders for their country. The ultimate goal of Heal the World is to set up an English-speaking University in Ouagadougou within the next 3 years. As of today, Burkina Faso has the resources to offer higher education to only 1% of its population of 26 million, so more opportunities for education are essential.

Heal the World, a Christian organization which is linked with the “Eglise AD. Beraca” (led by Pastor Frédéric Zongo), extends financial support to an elementary school in a poor suburb of the capital, Ouagadougou. The school also helps parents give their children a proper education in French and English and gives the students hot meals for lunch.

Heal the World brings American teachers to Africa so they can help French-speaking students. Part of the ACP’s contribution was to be a link between the French-speaking students and the American teachers, ensuring that everyone involved could communicate with each other and could understand the classes.

Arriving in Burkina Faso

Even before touching down in Burkina Faso, we all felt that we were about to have an experience unlike any other we had ever had. The landscape was flat and dry. Small groups of mud huts were scattered across the terrain with thin dirt roads running between them. We could make out people traveling up the roads either by foot or on bicycles - but there wasn’t a car in sight. A short time later, after getting off the plane, we stood in line in the Ouagadougou Airport waiting to go through customs. We all had similar first thoughts: “This cannot be an airport!” We were standing on dirt floors inside a hot and humid building that was small and unfinished. It seemed as if the building was still going through early stages of construction.

After going through customs and claiming our bags we exited the airport to go and take taxis to the building where we would be staying for the next two weeks. The moment we left the building we were bombarded with locals that were desperate to sell us cigarettes, food, souvenirs, or any other goods or services they could offer. It was overwhelming to have so many people surrounding us and demanding our attention but we finally loaded our baggage into the taxis and drove off towards the Heal the World center where we were staying. All the buildings we passed were no more than one storey high, and were either mud huts or small metal booths selling anything from apparel to food. I was amazed at the number of motorcycles that were on the road. Everyone that was driving on the road was on a motorcycle. Also, trash was laying everywhere in the street. Whenever we would stop at an intersection, young boys would come up to the car and knock on the windows attempting to convince us to buy whatever it was they were selling.
When we finally arrived at the Heal the World Center, we were surprised (and very excited) to walk into a huge home, fully equipped with air-conditioning, electricity and running water. We all slept very well that night.

First days in Burkina Faso
The first 2 days in Burkina Faso were the registration days for the English classes we taught to French-speaking high school students during our time in Burkina Faso. So we spent those 2 days recording students’ name, age, school, etc. in order to enroll them into our program. It was incredible to me how many people showed up and waited in line just to sign up for a 2-week English course. We ended up having around 200 students come to school everyday for 8 hours to learn English.

None of us had ever seen anyone anywhere as eager to learn as these students were. Some of them lived up to 5 kilometers away from the school but would bike everyday to school and back. That takes so much dedication and passion and we admired all of those students so much for their eagerness to learn English in order to ensure as good a future as possible for themselves. In a country that is one of the 5 poorest countries of the world, where so many people live in awful conditions, the fact that these kids are doing all they can to learn and provide themselves with the best future possible makes it clear that there is hope for Burkina Faso. Even the smallest contributions can aid them in equipping themselves to turn their country around and improve the current situation there, because they are willing to make changes. All that they need are the tools.

Starting the second day here now! We worked hard yesterday registering about 150 students and administering an entrance exam. Today we have reached a total of 187 students!

The Working Week
The days were long, with the morning lasting from 9am to 1pm and the afternoon starting at 3pm and finishing at 6pm! Some of us were also responsible for organizing games in English in order to break up the long hours of studies! We also spent some time at the school for the end of term festivities and helped them make new bricks which would be used to construct new school buildings. The school has a nice yard, covered with red local soil, with trees giving some necessary shade. The classrooms are in a one-storey building, in an L-shape around the yard. Each student had taken a written and oral exam before starting the classes, to determine their level of English, and the classes were then organized accordingly.

07 July
Today we witnessed the first of what were supposed to be one of many intense rain showers during our trip. The storm itself only lasted about 20 to 30 minutes but it was one of the strongest I had ever seen.

The students were of BAC level, so aged between 18 and 20, and it was interesting to talk with them about their vision of the world, their future and their ambitions...
To me what was just as impressive was the students’ attitude. They were not at all startled or surprised by the shattering raindrops on our sheet metal roof, they just kept on working. When the power went out, they did not stop. All they did was pull out their cell phones and kept reading. Although all of the students are used to this rain, what seemed to me like a freak storm was an everyday thing to them. Through this shower I saw the true and honest dedication of these students to learn the English language. This truly showed me why we are here and what difference we must make, however small it may be.

It is quite interesting to see that Burkina is leading studies on how to use local materials (clay) to build houses. The clay is mixed with other material like cement (in small proportion) to give it more consistency after it is compressed. Then they work on the shape of the mold in order to put bricks on top of each other without mortar. Burkina’s college is working with French and American universities to develop new technology in this field.

It was also fascinating to see a pilot station which is designed to produce electricity anywhere in the world. It uses a combination of solar energy and diesel and then develops bio-diesel. If this project works, it will allow every village and every community to have electricity without having long cables drawn across the country.

A nice atmosphere of friendship very quickly developed between the students and ourselves. We had a lot of fun and often shared jokes during the classes. Everyone was so happy and ready to have fun and a laugh. I think that the most touching experience was when many students decided to bring local gifts for the teachers and their helpers, to thank them for coming to Burkina Faso to help them.
**Sunday**

When we got to the church on Sunday, worship had already started. We could hear the sound of the music and the people praising God with everything they had as soon as we stepped out of the taxi. When we walked into the church we were given seats right at the front, behind the pulpit, facing the congregation. Everyone was worshiping, and many forms of worship were used during the service. This included singing, playing various percussion instruments and dancing, and in whatever way they worshipped, you could tell that they really had a focus on God, and were giving Him everything they had. Everyone was involved in the worship, and people in the congregation even joined in the instruments with percussion instruments that they had brought. The service included two sermons, one shorter one by the pastor of the church, Pastor Zongo, and one by Pastor Darrel Auvenshine who was joining us from Texas. This brought the service to about 3 hours long.

The whole service gave a new meaning to having complete faith in God. These people were very poor but they knew that something amazing was in store for their country and they had complete trust in God that He would be with the people of Burkina Faso.

“This trip has inspired me to help in any way I can and I feel that as a church we were called to help in any way we can. Whether that be simply praying for the people of Burkina Faso, sending donations to the Heal the World Organization, or continuing to send people down to Africa on mission trips, we will be helping them.”
“It was intriguing to hear from the students what they consider healthy and unhealthy food – the standards are very different!”

“I feel so excited about today. It felt like I am beginning to know a new country and culture and I felt like God was there.”
“Being a teacher will definitely help me become a better student.”

“If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand will lead me.”
Pssst - Fred Gramann, our beloved Director of Music, was having a Significant Birthday in August, and it called for a congregational celebration. This was how Pastor Scott asked a few of us to organize a fun event on August 22.

So 10 days before the event, emails went out and the whispering and the scheming began, and everyone responded with enthusiasm. The celebration began during the 11h service, when three of Fred’s Bronze Ringers, Anne, Megan, and Gigi rang out the happy birthday tune using handbells and Fred was escorted out from behind the organ. It was sublime. Everyone sang happy birthday, Laurie did a great job thanking Fred for his work, and his wife Nancy for her invaluable support, and we presented our collective gift of Photoshop software.

After playing the postlude, Fred walked into the theatre to find 60 people, each holding a candle to be blown out one at a time, which he did with youthful aplomb. We handed him a box full of tributes and greetings from the congregation and alumni. Laurie read a few out loud, including from former senior pastor Tom Duggan and his wife Gail, and former youth pastor Dan Randall. We then sang the Ode to Fred, written for him by former senior pastor Larry and his wife Carol.

We then presented Fred with the inevitable gag gifts. Fred put on a set of magnifying glasses, a hospital gown, used the cane, and accepted a package of Depends, hamming it up. The biggest laugh came after we presented the last gift, something that Scott was said to have sent urgently from the United States, where he was on vacation with his family. And what was side-splittingly funny was Fred’s response, showing that he did not need it – but you had to have been there …

Then we all ate birthday cake! And took lots of photos. Thanks go to Ken Loewen who put together a slide show DVD that looped constantly during the event, with photos of Fred and Nancy starting 35 years ago, when they were quoted as saying that Paris would be their first home together. Fortunately, it has been a long-time first home! Happy birthday to you, Fred!
ART WEEK
Exciting Fall Plans for the Women of the American Church

The rentrée is always an exciting time for the Women of the American Church (WOAC). Old friends return from vacation; new friends arrive in Paris; and kids head back to school. WOAC has been making plans for the fall season with our goal to bring events to the women of the church and community that will be meaningful and encouraging. A special welcome to any newcomers who have just moved here and may you quickly feel at home in your new environment. One way you can connect is to attend our activities and meet others. Please look at the church bulletin, or visit us at our Welcome Table after Sunday services, or at our upcoming new website.

WOAC COFFEE BRUNCHES: join us for coffee and a light brunch to celebrate la rentrée!! Anyone new to WOAC or Paris is encouraged to attend. Please bring a brunch item to share. Thursday, September 16 11 am at Kristina’s home and Thursday, Sept. 23. 11 am at Deb’s home. Please contact Lisa at woac_groupscoordinator@yahoo.com for the full details.

NEW! HOSPITALITY MINISTRY: If you love opening your home and encouraging others, come discover an exciting new ministry that ACP and WOAC are creating for women. We will discuss what hospitality is and what it could look like if we opened our homes to create a safe place for a small group of women from the church and community. Our goal will be to create small communities of women all over Paris who support, love, and pray for each other. If you would like participating in this ministry, contact Amy. The first meeting is early in September.

THE FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE will be sponsoring a number of events beginning this fall to support women in their journey as committed followers of Jesus Christ. Through bible studies, prayer groups, accountability groups, seminars and retreats, we hope to share what God is doing in our lives; to support and encourage one another and build friendships. If you’d like to see a small group formed such as mothers of preschoolers, teens, or any other age, mentoring for younger women, caregivers of aging parents, exercise/running/hiking, dining out, visiting museums, or have other suggestions, we’d like to hear from you. Or if you feel called to help in organizing or assisting in planning events, contact Kim Herr or Jane Oates.

FALL BLOOM 2010! Be a part of the re-designed, one-day “Bloom Where You are Planted” program on Saturday, October 2 from 9 am to 5 pm. This is for all who want to make the most of living in Paris (whether you’ve just moved to Paris a week ago or you’ve lived in Paris a year or two). There will be childcare for infants and toddlers, a children’s program, youth program, general topic sessions for adults and more specific breakout sessions that fit your individual need.

We also need volunteers to help us the day before and day of the program (both men and women). Please visit us at the welcome table and www.woac.net to register or more information on how you can help.
## Adult Education Opportunities

**Sunday Morning Bible Study**, from 10:00 to 10:50 in G-4 (basement level). All are welcome to attend. For more info please contact Kristie.

**WOAC Women’s Bible Study** will be held on Mondays, 7 pm. Please contact Amy for more information.

## Other Opportunities

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

**Men’s Morning Coffee**: meets on Thursday mornings at Starbucks (90 rue St-Dominique, 75007) at 7:30 am. Contact ken.loewen@hotmail.com for more information.

**Knit One, Pearl Two**: The Knitting Group will resume on Monday, Sept. 13 at 5 pm in Pastor Laurie’s office. For further information, please contact Elizabeth Rand.

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

**The Movie Group’s Choices** for September choices are "Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives" (Oncle Boonmee (celui qui se souvient de ses vies antérieures, Palme d'Or winner), "Rudo et Cursi," and "Des hommes et des dieux." See any or all at your convenience, then join the group on Thursday, September 16, at 7:30pm in the church basement.

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

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

**Getting to Know You**: We are rebuilding our directory, this time with photos. Please stop by one of our tables to fill out an info form and if you like, have your photo taken to accompany your information. Every Sunday in September, two tables will be set up for this purpose: one in the Theater and one outside the main church door. Please contact Diane Stoltz at ministryteams@acparis.org if you are able to help.

**WOAC Faith and Fellowship Event: Money, Food and Friends**: Mark your calendar to join us on October 15, from 10 am to 4 pm. We will be hosting a time of fellowship around the theme of “Money wise”. Please join us for an informative and entertaining course on financial principles by Sheila Ohlund. Sheila is a chartered financial analyst who has over 20 years of experience in investment research and portfolio management at international banks.

**All Church Retreat**: The all-church retreat will be held from October 29 – 31. Further details will be published in the worship bulletins in the following weeks.
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<td><strong>Worship services, 9 &amp; 11, and 1:30 pm</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Young Adults Bible Study, 7:30 pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Adult Choir rehearsal, 7:30 pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Men's Club</strong>&lt;br&gt;Small group leaders training, 7 pm&lt;br&gt;Bronze Ringers rehearsal, 7:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch, American Cathedral, 10:30, ACP Café, 7 pm, patio</strong></td>
<td><strong>Children's Team Training, 9:30-11:30</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Young Adults Rentrée Pizza Night, 6 pm</strong></td>
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* Activity not held at ACP. Check with organizers for venue.