

# the spire on the seine

# The American Church in Paris



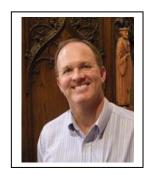
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April 2010

www.acparis.org

65, quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris, France

From Rev. Scott Herr Senior Pastor



Dear Members and Friends of the ACP.

As we enter into the celebration of the mystery and miracle of the Resurrection, I always find myself wondering behind all of the beautiful worship and praise for God raising Jesus from the dead so far away and so many years ago. what does the miracle of Easter mean for me personally here today? How does the hope and joy of the Risen Lord permeate and flow through my life? It's been my experience that Resurrection life begins in the most surprising and unexpected places. Strangely, Easter hope begins with the confession of my own fears of failure and loss, or the real grief of shattered hopes and dreams. Sometimes life renewal emerges from those areas of life where I feel trapped in the tomb. What does the miracle of Easter mean for you? And how does the gospel message of the Risen Lord impact the existential realities of your life?

I am humbled by the fact that so many people in our community have dramatic stories to tell about how the good news of the Resurrection has given them hope after the horrors of war, torture, rape, or the losses of a loved one, a divorce or a job. Death indeed has a sharp sting with the various wounding that happens in life. Sooner or later all of us experience life-changing loss. I'll never forget when I was traveling for the first time in Japan and visiting friends from university during

(continued next page)

#### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

**Palm Sunday, March 28**, regular worship times (9:00, 11:00, 13:30)

**Holy Monday, March 29**, 19:00 – 19:25, worship in the sanctuary

**Holy Tuesday, March 30**, 19:00 – 19:25, worship in the sanctuary

**Holy Wednesday, March 31**, 19:00 – 19:25, worship in the sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 20:00 – 21:00, worship in the sanctuary (Communion)

**Good Friday, April 2**, 20:00 – 21:00, worship in the sanctuary

#### Easter Sunday, April 4,

- 7:15 Sunrise service on the quai (7:25 is exact time of sunrise)
- 8:15 Easter Fellowship Breakfast in the Thurber room
- 9:00 Traditional Celebration of the Resurrection (Communion)\*
- 11:00 Traditional Celebration of the Resurrection (Communion)\*
- 13:30 Contemporary Celebration of the Resurrection (Communion)
- \* Both 9/11 am Easter services are identical, with choirs, soloists, handbells and brass.

Easter Monday, April 5, Church closed

summer vacation. A few of us traveling together went to Yokohama to visit our classmate Yuko. She warmly welcomed us and offered us lavish hospitality. We enjoyed the tea ceremony in her family's garden. When it was time to go, we got on the train for Tokyo and looked forward to seeing one another back at school. From Tokyo that evening we called to say thank you again to Yuko and her family. We were shocked to learn that just after we left, Yuko and her boyfriend went shopping and were hit and killed along the road by a drunk driver. The silence of our grief was deafening.

We were all stunned at the news of Yuko's sudden and senseless death. I get a deep sense of sadness when I think of how many people in the world deal with such loss on a daily basis. What was interesting to me was the conversation my friends and I had later that same night. The conclusion was that we had to honor Yuko's life. College students that we were, we decided to go out dancing. Immature as it may have been, we wanted to assert ourselves in a dance of life, knowing instinctively that in the face of grief and death we had to live on, we had to celebrate life and not let death have the last word. We danced hard until early in the morning...

Professor Jürgen Moltmann writes in his autobiography, at age 60 he "looked into the future with a kind of happy resignation... But then something unexpected happened to me: I became young and lively again. On the meadows in the Swabian alps where the windfalls lie, a wonderful phenomenon can be seen in the springtime. Age-old trees, gnarled, deformed, and as if dead, begin to blossom and put forth the wealth of an exuberant bloom which one could never have expected of them. On spring walks I took that as a symbol for myself: there is life after 60!"

At whatever situation or stage of life we may be, the Christian proclamation declares there is always hope of new life. This new life is in God's power and promise to give us. As Professor Moltmann shared with us in his final lecture, "Good Friday is at the center of this world, but Easter Morning is the sunrise of the resurrection of God and the coming of God's righteousness. God's future begins at the end of Christ. In the end there is the new beginning!" I am looking forward to a new season of Easter joy (blooming and dancing?) with you.

In Christ, Scott

# **Weekly Events**

#### **Bible Classes and Fellowship**

Bible Class: Sunday at 10am. Room G5

**WOAC Women's Bible Study**: Monday at 7pm. (contact Amy Loewen on 06.24.24.53.84) **Thurber Thursdays**: dinner at 6.30pm, teaching from 7.30pm. *Thurber Room* 

Young Adults: Bible Study and Pizza Night on Tuesday evenings in the Thurber Room. On an

exceptional basis, the Young Adults Bible Study will merge with Thurber Thursdays

during the month of April.

Youth Group: Every Sunday 3-5pm

(contact <u>youthpastor@acparis.org</u> for more information)

#### Music

Celebration Ringers: Monday, 6.45 – 8pm. *Theatre*Adult Choir rehearsal: Wednesday, 7.30-9.30pm. *Theatre*Bronze Ringers: Thursday at 7.30 – 9.30pm. *Theatre*Contact music@acparis.org for more information

Youth Music: Wednesday, Theater.

Gaudeamus: Young Adult vocal ensemble, Tuesday 7.30 – 9.30pm. Venue TBA

Cherub Choir: 1 – 2pm; Children's Handbells: 2 – 3pm; Children's Choir: 3 – 4pm; Shine: Youth

Choir, 4 – 5:30pm; Youth Handbells: 5:30 – 6:30pm. Contact youthmusic@acparis.org

# Congregational Meeting Covers 2009 Highlights, Shares Outlook for 2010



Our first Congregational Meeting of 2010 took place on 14 March, with quorum easily reached: 60 ACP members were present, and 74 proxies were collected. The 21-page "ACP 2009 Annual Report" – which contains a total of 15 detailed reports from the Moderator, Pastoral team, AFCU and 10 Committees – was distributed. Year-end (2009) financial results were shared by the Finance Chair, and a detailed 2010 budget was presented. After a few minutes of questions/answers and open discussion, 2009 results and 2010 budgets were unanimously approved.

The Annual Report and full meeting minutes can be requested from the Church Secretary (secretary@acparis.org).

Mark your calendars: the next Congregational meeting will be held on 9 May 2010. The purpose of the May meeting will be to elect Council members for the coming term.

# Highlights from the February ACP Council Meeting

- Council reviewed outcomes of the September 2009 Council Retreat. The group took some time for a "mid-year" reflection and self-evaluation based on the themes discussed at their day-long September retreat.
- The Human Resources Committee reported that the search process is underway for the selection of a
  Development Consultant, who will be responsible for contact with the external community in an effort to
  promote ACP's facilities.
- The nomination of Sarah Holmes as the Chair of the Congregational Nurture committee was unanimously approved.
- Allocations (reserve transfers) of a 2009 budget surplus were proposed by the Finance Committee and unanimously approved.
- Finance & Stewardship Committee reported that the number of pledges (if not the monetary amount) had been reached in the recent Stewardship Campaign.
- Property & Development Committee reported that plans for the courtyard are progressing, and the committee is also working on the communion room, the attic and plans for the kitchen.
- Communications Committee reported that they are continuing work on the ACP Style Guidelines and
  associated ACP logo. They also shared a TV ad placed by Google called "Parisian Love" that aired during
  the Super Bowl in January 2010. It includes ever-so-briefly our church's name and a photo! Click on
  <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnsSUqgkDwU">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnsSUqgkDwU</a>, and at about 42 seconds, look carefully at the top of the
  "churches in Paris" search results list.

Full meeting minutes are available upon request from the Church secretary (secretary@acparis.org).



# The Easter Commission



# Exploring Jesus' Post-Resurrection Appearances

The Roman authorities are nervous, very nervous. As usual, the Jews are causing problems. The Romans had been sure that all the fuss would die down as soon as they crucified Jesus of Nazareth. After all, that was what usually happened. A Jew would claim to be king, the Romans would kill him, his followers would go home. End of story.

But this time, the messiah's disciples aren't going home. They are claiming that he has come back from the dead – and that he keeps appearing to them, making outrageous claims for himself and sending them out to cause more trouble.

You have been sent by the Roman authorities to interview the witnesses – the people who claim to have seen the crucified Jesus of Nazareth alive and walking around. What exactly do they claim to have seen? What do they think that it means – for them, for the Romans, for everyone? Are they going to cause more trouble? Your job is to figure out what's going on and report back to the commission.

This will be your task for four consecutive Thursday nights in April (April 8, 15, 22, 29), beginning the Thursday after Easter. You will be divided into small groups, and each small group will be in charge of interviewing a witness who claims to have seen the risen Jesus. You will report back to the Commission with your conclusions.

For this month, the Tuesday night Young Adult Bible Study will combine with Thurber Thursday. A meal will be available from 6:30 – 7:15pm (suggested donation, 5 euros). The commission will be at work from 7:30-9pm, when we'll close the evening in the Sanctuary with Compline, the traditional 15-minute candlelit prayer service marking the end of the day.

REMEMBER: Young Adults Bible Study/Pizza Night will meet on Thursdays during the month of April in order to participate in this event.

# Thurber Thursdays in the Month of April

# An Artist's Easter Story

## by Monica Bassett-Montoliu

An amazing miracle surrounded by so much love and grace is what makes the Easter story so joyful. Unending faith in God's love for us is the gift that is given. Paying attention to events that occur at Easter time can be one way of remembering that God's timing is perfect.

Last November 2009, I wrote about the Holy Spirit's presence in an artist residence project that my husband and I created along with our 2 kids, renting a house and factory (from the government) that is to be demolished for road construction at an undetermined date. After 11 months of work to turn the house into a two-story installation or "un palais éphémère" as one journalist described it, we received a letter stating that we must vacate the property on April 1, 2010. Divine intervention called our first artist in residence to this site to work with us over the past few months in order to allow our dream project to unfold by creating art full of spirit and grace. It was a very long and cold winter. Heating the factory was nearly impossible; nevertheless, the artistic flame kept burning.

After several attempts, we finally got an appointment with those in charge of the construction in hopes of any possibility to negotiate a bit more time to create in the space. I prayed to relinquish any rigid attachment to a specific result and to live in the wisdom of uncertainty. I was intent on enjoying every moment of this adventure without knowing the outcome, trusting God's great plan for me. What one may call "the way of the cross" others can identify as the "hero's journey." In either case, we are all destined to face adversity and darkness at certain times in our lives. It is in refusing to allow obstacles to consume us, maintaining serenity and commitment to our passion that propels us forward on our chosen path in

order to experience the sunrise of a renewed Springtime. With the approaching departure deadline, I focused on detachment; it took many months to reach a place of complete acceptance.

A new form of expression—more abstract, full of color and spontaneity—emerged from my own creative work. My husband, a sculptor, experienced inspiration to begin creating large-scale, conceptual paintings. Simultaneously, something else quite unexpected that emerged was a deeper, more profound faith. What occurred is what I call a miracle—the real sense that I, my husband, my children had grown spiritually and artistically from a commitment to our dream on this journey by taking the risk to trust that we were being guided on our path.

No matter the outcome, I felt confident that we would continue to create with intention and purpose. I told my children to be prepared to celebrate whatever decision was made at the appointment. It was an extraordinary meeting where gratitude and photos showing lots of paintings, sculptures and installations were present. When we returned, we rejoiced. We were graced with 9 more months of creating at this incredible space. Precariousness can be stressful but pushes us to enjoy each moment much more than permanence might be able allow.

Through this experience, letting go and letting God means abandoning the chase for security in the material world and trusting that God's love, synchronicity in life, the Universe (or whatever one may call it) is the only true compass to great joy, real success and love. What better way to peace and fulfillment than cherishing the mystery and wonder of the Easter message.

# Worship Inspiration - The 1:30 Team Goes to London

**by** Natalie McConnell Contemporary Service Music Director

Six members of our 1:30 worship team joined 2,200 worship leaders at Cetral Hall Westminster in the heart of London last weekend for a worship conference lead by Tim Hughes, Al Gordon and other leaders of Holy Trinity Brompton. Thousands of musicians pouring out their hearts in choruses and hymns in countless harmonies was a sound I will not soon forget. And spending time with this amazing group with whom I get to lead worship was priceless. Time together at the National Gallery and Tate Modern with Pete Chalmers as our guide, watching (and participating in) a street performance at Covent Gardens and many a delightful sites and delectable snacks in between, were such a blessing refreshment.

become exhausted trying to lead out of our best efforts. But God is not a well, but a Mighty Waterfall. To receive from him we need only to stand still in his presence to be utterly immersed and enabled for everything to which he's called us. What a conviction and encouragement! So we must make room, not only in our private lives but in corporate worship to listen and wait in his presence. It's so easy to avoid that intimacy and move quickly into the next rehearsed moment. But hearing from God as we worship together in this place, at this time, is a glimpse of heaven here and now.

The third deep theme was that of service and identification with each other's sufferings. Pastor



Three themes moved me deeply over the conference's Friday evening of worship and teaching and a Saturday packed full of seminars, worship and times of prayer. First, that worship is primarily "worth-ship", or ascribing highest value to God. We are made to worship and whatever takes that highest place in our lives will control our emotions and our actions. The joy we had worshiping together reminded me again that when your heart truly feasts on God every other desire and need is miraculously and superabundantly met.

Secondly, worship is an invitation to receive from God. As Tim Hughes shared, we so often see God as a well. With effort we drop our buckets and pull up the water that we feel we need. We

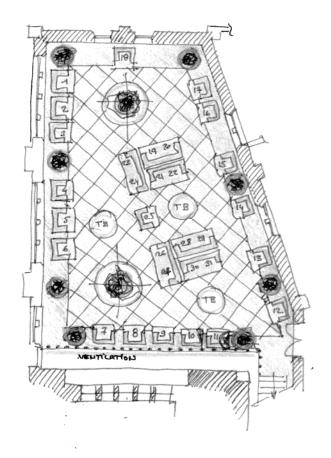
Mike Pilavachi related that before the prophets could deliver God's message, they had to first develop God's heart for the people. After forty years of leading a rebellious people through the wilderness Moses had such a heart for the people he lead that when God threatened judgment he asked to be blotted out of the Book of Life in their place. We were challenged again and again as a team to be serving in many areas of the life of the church and to love each other and the congregation we want to serve.

Special thanks to WOAC for the opportunity to attend this conference. We are excited to serve in this community and to see what God desires to do here in the next season.

# Spring has Sprung!

Last autumn a Paris-based Boy Scout working to earn his Eagle Scout rank (the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program of the Boy Scouts of America) generously offered his services to clear out our garden. The timing was perfect; we had already begun to think about next steps on improving the garden to create a more spacious and usable space. The work was completed and recently we disposed of the bagged debris.

The Property &
Development Committee
and ACP staff are now
working with architects and
contractors to ensure a
proper long-term



waterproofing solution for the walls of the building surrounding the garden. When this step is complete, the courtyard area will be paved, and plants and flowers will be put in place. Spring is here, and we will soon have a beautiful outdoor area to enjoy!

The ACP Prayer and Care team is a group of around 15 members who demonstrate the love of Christ to the ACP community by making hospital visits, rejoicing with those who are celebrating, calling those who are going through a loss or transition or need a listening ear or a prayerful presence. We are also planning to set up a prayer time at the steps following the worship services if anyone in the congregation would like to be prayed for. We follow training in order to be equipped to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. We are always looking for more members and are happy to receive requests for visits or calls. If you know of anyone that could use a visit or call from us or if you would like to become a member of our team, please contact Pastor Laurie or François Pierre (fkpierre@gmail.com).

# TAIZE, MY SPIRITUAL GETAWAY

by Deborah First-Quao



'Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the same. All may change but Jesus never. Glory to his name'. This is a Sunday School song that even at 22 I remind myself of. Unfortunately, it is not as easy to apply this to human life. So many things change in our lives that change us as we grow. For me, my identity for the past 4 years of my life was quickly coming to an end - my internship and consequently my life as a student, my au pair contract, and soon, my CDs were the catalysts of this change. I went to Taizé to address my need for direction, to turn all of these ends into promising beginnings. As we grow in age, knowledge, and status, it becomes increasingly difficult to remember that we are always children in God's sight, and he expects us to play that role in our

journey with him. Taizé was an ideal place for me to focus on that. Being away from the distracting objects, places and voices was ideal in allowing me to listen for His voice. I learnt a great lesson from a Taizé Brother. He encouraged us all to live each day like our life would end, and at this end we would feel confident enough to say that God's will was fulfilled. As a graduate it was a reminder that in the process of trying to achieve a long term goal of getting a Bachelors degree, I did not always remember to fulfill my daily quota of fulfillment, because I easily made them long term goals. I prayed for God's constant direction, humbly singing my favorite Taizé song: 'Dieu mon seigneur, lumière intérieur, ne laisse pas mes ténèbres me parle'.

# The Moltmann Lectures: Stories and lessons in hope and compassion

By Gigi Oyog

The timing was almost uncanny.

Last January, a massive earthquake had just hit Portau-Prince, the capital of Haiti, nearly wiping it off the earth. Haiti was already one of the world's poorest countries, and now this. The breadth of the destruction was numbing: according to estimates, over 200,000 had died, more than 300,000 injured, and some 1 million homeless, and the

numbers were expected to rise. As though this weren't enough, the earth also shook in Chile, Venezuela and Argentina, sending waves of fear and despair.

In the face of such ruin, many uncomprehending people were tempted to ask God: "Why did You allow all this?"

At the same time at the ACP, Pastor Scott had just announced that a very important theologian was coming for a series of lectures in March. Professor Jürgen Moltmann, a young soldier in Nazi Germany imprisoned in Great Britain at the end of World War II, had himself asked a similar question. For three nights in March, people filled up the sanctuary as Prof. Moltmann spoke about his personal trials, his search for God, and the passion of Jesus Christ. Some came as far as Denmark and Seattle, Washington. Friends from other churches in Paris also came to hear him. Perhaps some of them came in the hope of finding ways to cope with the Haitis and Auschwitzes of the world and of their lives.

The question "How can God let this happen?" is an onlooker's question. It isn't the question which the people involved ask. I look back to July 1943, when I lay under the hail of bombs that rained down on my home town of Hamburg, annihilating 40,000 people in a storm of fire. In what seemed like a miracle, I lived and I still don't know why I am not dead, too, like my companions. In



that hell, I didn't ask: why does God let this happen? My question was: my God, where are you? Is he far away from us, an absentee God in his own heaven? Or is he a suffer among the sufferers? – Prof. Moltmann.

According to Pastor Scott, he, Pastor Laurie Wheeler and Peter Bannister, Chairperson of the Christian Education Committee, were brainstorming about who to invite in order to help people reflect more on the significance of the Cross and the passion of Christ for the Church today. They had all decided on Prof. Moltmann. Pastor Scott was responsible for contacting him and a week after he sent the formal invitation, he heard back from Prof. Moltmann. Pastor Scott was in the middle of his breakfast when the phone rang. His wife, Kim, answered the phone and told him that Prof. Moltmann was at the other end of the line. Stunned, Pastor Scott nearly spilled his coffee on his shirt!

Professor Moltmann was the latest in a series of widely respected visitors and guest speakers at the ACP. A number of inspiring and thought-provoking guest speakers had come to speak during Thurber Thursdays. The Christian Education Committee and the pastoral leadership saw this as an evolving component of the ACP congregation's response to Jesus' command to "make disciples of all nations".

Their vision was for the congregation to become a more learning and loving community. "Scholars who have thought and written deeply about various issues and topics important for the larger church can come and enjoy some time in Paris, and at the same time give us Biblical, theological and practical wisdom for living out our calling, as well as bless the larger community of Paris," said Pastor Scott.

Later, I read the gospel of Mark and came to the passion story of Christ. When I read Jesus' death cry: "My God, why have you forsaken me?", all of a sudden, I knew: there is the one who understands you. I began to understand the assailed Jesus, because I felt that he understood me. This was the divine brother in distress, who may take the poor prisoner with him, on the way to resurrection and life. I felt embraced by Jesus as a lost sheep in his arms. I am sure that then and there, in the dark pit of my soul, Christ has found me. Christ's godforsakenness on the cross showed me where God is present, where God had been present in those nights of death in the firestorm in Hamburg, and where God would be present in my future, whatever may come: "Even in hell you are there." - Prof. Moltmann

Marie Grout, ACP member and former Chairperson of the Membership and Evangelism Committee, said: "Dare I admit that I wasn't aware of Professor Jürgen Moltmann was before I learned he was coming to ACP? There was such a buzz of excitement around the church, I actually "Googled" Professor Moltmann to see for myself what the big deal was. Not knowing what to expect, but suitably encouraged by his theology of hope and compassion, I decided to come one night to listen for myself. Well, I ended up sitting in the front row for all three lectures. His humility and sense of humor shone through his prepared lecture. Moltmann did not disappoint with his lectures on compassion and the passion. In fact, his ability to easily communicate major theological perspectives of giant proportions is a sign of his greatness. I was impressed with the ease and comfort he shared his personal life journey to understand the passion of Christ and compassion of God. Not only was my understanding of the theology of hope expanded, his message on victims and the their need for a sacrament to come out of their

depression and humiliation touched my heart. Now, of course, the challenge is to put this into practice. I thank Professor Moltmann for his message on the needs of victims."

Pastor Scott added: "I was profoundly moved by Professor Moltmann's sharing of his personal stories, and by his attention to both the victims of sin and the slaves of sin. I was challenged to hear how part of the resurrection life involves allowing the victims of violence and shame to tell their stories. This comes at an important time as the larger church is dealing with the issues of abuse and cover-up around the world. The importance of hope and compassion for all people is another theme that was important and challenging for me personally. And finally, I loved his explanation of Holy Saturday, that great silence of God, as the exhaling of the Holy Spirit, and with Easter morning there is the great exhaling of resurrection joy!"

"I have always been impressed with Professor Moltmann's theology of hope and the crucified God, but what struck me most during his visit was the hope, love, peace and deep joy that seemed to flow from Professor Moltmann the man. Behind the scenes was a genuinely humble, Godly man, a man who was unassuming, loving, patient and kind", said Pastor Scott. "Now the question is, how will we as God's people live into this theology of hope?

People who suffer without any reason always think first that they have been abandoned by God and that all the good things in life are in eclipse. People who cry out for God in their suffering can find that they are joining in Christ's death cry. They discover in the suffering Christ the God who understands them and suffers with them. Once we sense this, we perceive that God is not the cold, remote force of destiny but that in Christ, he has become the human God who cries out with us and in us, and who intervenes on our behalf when torment makes us numb. ... Why God permits all this we do not know. And if we did know, it would not help us to live. But if we discover where God is, and sense his presence in our suffering, then we are at the fountainhead – the source out of which life is born anew.— Prof. Moltmann

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# Sunday Atelier concerts

(5 pm, in the sanctuary, Free admission/free-will offering)

## Raj Bhimani, piano

Pianist Raj Bhimani's concerts are "virtuosic, heartfelt and eloquent," writes New York Times critic Michael Kimmelman. Time Out NY noted him for being a "gifted and highly expressive pianist." Mr. Bhimani performs regularly across North America, Europe and India. His performances have been broadcast on Indian National Radio and Television, Portuguese National Radio, and on WQXR and WHUS Radio in the United States.

# April 11

Sonata en mi mineur, Op. 90 (1814)

Ludwig van Beethoven

Avec des Eclats Dorés d'Espérance (2007 - 2009) Thérèse

Brenet

Sonatine (1905) Maurice Ravel

Nocturne en do mineur, Op. 48, No. 1 (1841) Frédéric

Chopin

Impromptu en la-bémol majeur, Op. 29 (1837) Mazurka en la mineur, Op. 17, No. 4 (1832/33) Etude en fa majeur, Op. 25, No. 3 (1832/36) Valse en la-bémol majeur, Op. 34, No. 1 (1838)

Ballade en fa mineur, Op. 52 (1842)

# April 18

Jean-Charles Monciero, viola Naoko Fujiwara, piano

> Contes de fées op.113 Schumann Sonate op.11/4 Hindemith Lachrymae op.48 Britten Sonate Bridge

April 25

Isabelle Durin, violon Grégoire Baumberger, piano

Music by Brahms, Debussy, Perlman, Saint-Saëns

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FUNDRAISING CONCERT

The American Church in Paris and the Rotary Club Champs Elysée are organizing fundraising concert on the 30th of March at 20h00. Come and join us for an evening of music and inspiration and help us raise funds for Habitat for Humanity. Vocals with "La Manufacture Vocale" chamber choir created and conducted by Aurore Tillac, conductor of "Chœur de l'Armée Française".- Instrumentals with a string quartet played by musicians members of the "Ensemble Orchestral de Paris" The two ensembles will intertwine and take us on a musical journey from classical to jazz (Haydn to Duke Ellington). Buy your ticket today! Tickets are available at the Reception.

For more information please go to <a href="https://www.concert30mars2010.com">www.concert30mars2010.com</a>.

### **ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY takes place from 10:00 to 10:50 in G-4 (basement level). All are welcome to attend. For further information please contact Kristie.

WOAC WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES:. We'll be continuing on with our Spiritual Transformation Study with the topic being "Grace." For more information contact Amy.

WOMEN ON THE MOVE: Ruth Making Friends in a Foreign Land - Thursday morning, 9:30am, Pastor Laurie's Office (Garden Level). In this Bible study that is designed for women who have moved to Paris, Pastor Laurie leads a discussion of Ruth's life. We'll seek to learn how we move from the experience of being an alien to becoming a beloved friend.

#### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

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

KNIT ONE, PEARL TWO: The Knitting Group convenes Mondays at 5 pm in the Associate Pastor's office. Newcomers of all skill levels, ages and gender are welcome. Bring your own knitting or participate in a group project.

PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY: whenever you capture a great digital photo of an acp activity, group of people or event, be sure to send a copy to music@acparis.org for our acp photo bank. please include all available information such as the date it was taken, the names of the people and the event. help us build a photographic memory for our publications and our archives.

THE MOVIE GROUP'S APRIL CHOICES are Fatih Akin's "Soul Kitchen," Hans-Christian Schmid's "Sturm" (La Révélation) and Olivier Dahan's "My Own Love Song." See any or all at your convenience, then join the group for discussion on Thursday, April 15, at 7:30pm in the church basement..

#### THE MINISTERS AND STAFF OF THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

The Congregation of The American Church in Paris Ministers

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