



the spire on the seine

The American Church in Paris



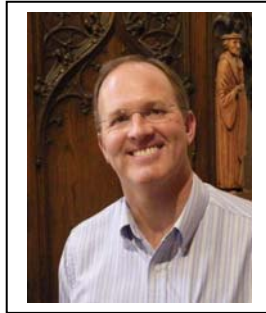
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March 2010

From
Rev. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor



Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

Annie Dillard writes in her book, *Teaching a Stone to Talk*, "In the deeps are the violence and terror of which psychology has warned us. But if you ride these monsters deeper down, if you drop with them farther over the world's rim, you find what our sciences cannot locate or name, the substrate, the ocean or matrix or either which buoys the rest, which gives goodness its power for good, and evil its power for evil, the unified field: our complex and inexplicable caring for each other, and for our life together here. This is given, it is not learned."¹

As we continue our journey through this season of Lent we would do well to remember that maturity in Christ leads us further down and deeper in. This year, we are trying to pay closer attention to the way of the cross and how this way down and in to those deeper places of life – as hard as it may be - is the grace-filled way for renewal and resurrection life to spring forth.

One of the temptations in Lent, however, is to make the way an individualistic exercise in spiritual renewal. This is not the way of the cross. Christian formation and maturation is always measured by the simple litmus test of whether or not we are becoming more loving people.

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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD BY ONE HOUR ON MARCH 28. CLOCKS CHANGE AT 2 AM, TO 3 AM.

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

Thursday, 25 March, 19:00, Thurber Room
Passover Meal at Thurber Thursdays:
What were Christ and his disciples celebrating on Maundy Thursday?

For the final Thurber Thursday in our "Stumbling into Grace" series we have the privilege of being led in a Passover Meal. **Reservations required** – suggested donation is 10 Euro to cover costs. RSVP to associatepastor@acparis.org or sign up in coffee hour on Mar. 14 and 21.

¹ Annie Dillard, via Parker Palmer's article *Leading From Within*, posted on-line at: http://www.couragerenewal.org/images/stories/pdfs/leading_from_within_2000.pdf, 3.

The hardest command of Jesus and the way of the cross beckons us to love our neighbors, particularly our enemies. Jürgen Moltmann tells of his experience of radical love during his time as a prisoner of war after World War II. He writes, "A group of Dutch students came and said that they wished to speak to us [German prisoners of war] officially. I was frightened at the prospect of meeting them, because after all I had been at the front in Holland, during the fighting for the bridge in Arnheim. The Dutch students told us that Christ was the bridge on which they were coming to meet us, and that without Christ they would not have been able to speak a word to us. They told us about the Gestapo terror in their country, about the killing of their Jewish friends, and about the destruction of their homes. But we, too, could step on this bridge which Christ had built from them to us, even if only hesitantly at first, could confess the guilt of our people and ask for reconciliation. At the end we all embraced. For me that was an hour of liberation. I could breathe freely again and felt like a human being once more..."¹

In addition to more traditional Lenten spiritual disciplines, I encourage you to plan to come to the lectures of Professor Moltmann the evenings of March 16-18 here at the ACP. I also encourage you to attend Karl Jenkin's *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* that will be performed here on Friday, March 26th. These are two extraordinary opportunities to reflect on what the way of the cross means for our church's ministry and mission vis-à-vis our neighbors in this city. Samuel Lehrer, former Rabbi of the Beth Israel synagogue in Mexico City, once gave a sermon to the church I served, the Union Evangelical Church of Mexico City. He challenged us with the simple question: *Are you building bridges or are you building walls?* It's a good question for us all in this season of Lent. How do we humbly yield ourselves to Christ as our bridge of love to our neighbors, even our enemies?

Grace and peace to you as you continue along the downward way of the cross, which paradoxically leads up to new life!

In Christ,
Scott

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: A congregational meeting is scheduled on **March 14, 2010, immediately following the 11:00am service of worship**, to approve the 2010 annual budget and receive the annual reports. The entire body of the ACP members is highly encouraged to attend. Should a member not be able to do so, kindly fill a proxy ballot and turn it in to the reception desk for the Council secretary by Sunday morning, March 14, prior to the meeting. Proxy forms may be picked up at the reception desk.

In anticipation of the meeting, the Finance Committee will have the detailed financial information and budget available for your review at each coffee hour on February 28. This is an excellent opportunity to ask questions and discuss the details, which will not be presented at the meeting.

COUNCIL MINUTES - The ACP Council meeting minutes are available, upon request, from the ACP secretary at secretary@acparis.org, beginning with the January 2010 minutes. Should you have a question about the minutes, please get in touch with the ACP Council Secretary.

Following the Nominating Committee recommendations, the ACP Council is to happy to announce its unanimous approval of the nomination of Mary Crass Fenu as the Council Moderator and Mark Primmer as the Vice-Moderator, as of February 2010. Please keep Mary and Mark in your prayers as they walk in faith with the Lord while serving at ACP."

¹ Jürgen Moltmann, *A Broader Place: An Autobiography* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009), 34.

*From Rev. Laurie Wheeler
Associate Pastor*

CUMULATIVE

I had two types of courses in University. There were the cumulative ones – courses like French 201 or Writing for English Teachers – with weekly tests and writing exercises. Then there were the “all or nothing” sort – courses like Philosophy 120 or History of Ancient Rome – with two major exams or two papers that decided the entire grade.

I preferred the latter.

Cumulative has never been my strong suite. I thrive on the last minute – the big event – the all or nothing exam. In fact, one friend generously declared that if I were a superhero, my superhuman strength would be the “11th hour flash of brilliance”!

Problem, of course, is that I am definitely not a superhero – and there are a full 10 hours before that flash of brilliance comes around (if ever). Learning French is cumulative. Friendships are cumulative. Raising children is cumulative. Developing a career is cumulative. Weight gain – and loss – is cumulative. Spiritual transformation is cumulative.

This is why the season of Lent is very, very good for me. Lent is cumulative. We bill it as 40 days, but that actually undersells the length of the journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter – because Lent is 40 days PLUS Holy Week. It is 40 days to Jerusalem, then a further 6 days to journey with Christ from Palm Sunday celebrations to Good Friday terror to the long vigil before the dawn of resurrection.

This “add-on” bothered me for a while, what with my 11th hour personality. Can we not simply adjust the timing on Ash Wednesday to



include Holy Week? This year, though, I’m appreciating the wisdom of the 40 days. They remind me that Jesus’ final dramatic week in Jerusalem wasn’t one final exam with a divine 11th hour flash of brilliance that we now refer to as Easter. Jesus’ journey, like ours, was cumulative.

Jesus’ life, like ours, was day in and day out: eating – sleeping – teaching – healing – confronting – calling. The 40 days of Lent remind us that no one – not even the man who was God – can cut the coursework and skip to the final exam. There is a time and place for testing. The outcome of the test is determined by the cumulative choices made along the way.

Lent is a time to pay attention daily to the small compromises made along the way that so easily accumulate into a life direction that we hadn’t intended and may live to regret. It is forty days of intentionally forgiving everything, every day, in order to remove the tiny deposits of resentment that so easily accumulate into bitterness and anger.

Lent is also a season for the daily, cumulative encounters with grace. It is forty days for being gentle with one’s self while tough on one’s pride – a season for making one small choice a day to say “no” to self-interest and “yes” to the interest of another, believing that it is these small, daily choices that can accumulate into humility and love.

And if you, like me, are someone who gets easily discouraged with the seeming lack of

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progress in these cumulative encounters remember this good news: that the final outcome of your life isn't determined either by your cumulative score or your ability to conjure up an 11th hour flash of brilliance. Jesus Christ has

followed both the cumulative course of our living, and the final exam of our death, to give us abundant and eternal life. So be of good courage along the way – grace transforms the cumulative efforts of Lent into the glory and joy of Easter.

**Thursday, March 18, 9:30 am, Pastor Laurie's office (Garden level)
Women on the Move: Ruth**

Making Friends in a Foreign Land

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.

New to Paris? The **BLOOM Program** helps English-speaking newcomers settle in and make new friends. Come to BLOOM to CONNECT, LEARN, DISCOVER. All are welcome!

The BLOOM Program

Date: Saturday, March 13, 2010
Venue: The American Church in Paris
Time: 9am - 5.30pm
(Lunch will be provided)

Pre-Registration Fee:
20€ per Adult
10€ per Child

Information and Registration: www.woac.net
or phone 01 40 62 05 00

The full-day program will include interesting speakers covering topics essential to newcomers, such as:

- understanding French/Parisian culture
- how to access the French healthcare system
- a cross-cultural panel who will answer your questions



- tips on sports, antiques and hidden secrets in Paris
- a French cooking demonstration, cheese and wine tasting and much more!

Children will enjoy separate forums hosted by other children who have lived in Paris and experienced settling in to a new school environment. Childcare can be arranged for very young children.

Youth and Young Adults Corner by Pastor Ginger Strickland



Mission Trip to Africa for Older Youth (ages 16-18)

This January, I left snowy Paris for 90 degree weather and dust storms in Burkina Faso. I went to check out the work of Heal the World, a Christian non profit founded and directed by ACP young adult John Roberts (newly married to Lira Low Roberts, also an ACP-er). I traveled with 5 pastors from Texas, who had come to see the work that their churches were supporting in Burkina.

I was deeply moved by what God is up to in this West African nation. Burkina Faso is a landlocked country with few natural resources. Thus their future depends on their ability to

Burkina Faso's national language is French, but leaders in Burkina and outside it are in agreement that the country needs future leaders who can communicate in English. So all of Heal the World's educational work includes a strong emphasis on learning English, particularly through intensive summer courses. John shared that Heal the World is in need of bilingual (French-English) volunteers in order to move forward, and that he views ACP as a key partner in providing this essential help.



produce "human capital" – an educated populace – doctors, teachers, lawyers, government workers, creative business people. Heal the World has partnered with the people of Burkina on numerous educational projects. Their first primary school opened last year; another opened in January, and number three is scheduled for September 2011. Heal the World teaches after school English courses for 60 young students, and a teacher training program is scheduled to kick off this fall. The vision is to open a desperately needed university outside the capital city of Ougadougou in 2013. I got to be present as a village council decided to donate their land for the university in exchange for the building of a primary school and a well for the village. The university will be extraordinary – courses will be taught in English and primarily through distance learning, making tertiary education more affordable.

In light of this, ACP will be sending a team to work for two weeks in Ougadougou this summer. The group will be made up of 2 adult leaders (Daniel Grout and I) and ACP youth between 16 and 18. Our youth will be assisting a team of American language educators who are running an intensive summer English course. They will partner with the teachers for classroom work (50 kids in a class!), make it possible for teachers to communicate with students and families; and meet with students for tutoring and extra help. In addition, we'll be helping out with other tasks that need doing at the primary schools, and get to take a weekend to travel around this amazing country. As John is Paris-based, he'll be able to meet with our group several times for training before we arrive in Burkina and prayerful reflection.

We are so excited about this trip, and about the possibility of an ongoing relationship with Heal the World. Please pray for our trip, and check out the amazing work being done in Christ's name: www.healtheworld.org.

Young Adults – THE EASTER COMMISSION

The Roman authorities are nervous, very nervous. As usual, the Jews are causing problems. Everyone 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.

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 and 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.

Please join us for this month of study on Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances. For this month, the Tuesday night Bible Study will combine with Thurber Thursday and meet at 7:30 pm in the Thurber Room (bring your own sandwich for dinner; we'll provide coffee and dessert). The commission will be at work until 9 pm, when we'll close the evening in the Sanctuary with Compline, the traditional 15-minute candlelit prayer service marking the end of the day.

STAND UP!

Youth, are you ready for a challenge? Are you ready to explore the BIG questions about God? Are you ready to talk about what being a Christian really means? You are invited to join us for STAND UP, a chance to spend some intense time with a small group and to explore your faith in a new way.

This experience is designed for youth group members who have not yet made a public profession of faith. This might be youth who have not yet been baptized, youth who have been baptized but want to declare their faith and join the church, or youth who have been baptized and would like to be confirmed.

STAND UP includes:

- Introductory meeting for youth and families on March 21 from 12:15 -1:15pm in the ACP Catacombs.
- Weekend retreat on April 23-25
- Meetings with faith mentors (dates TBD) and a family dinner on May 22 from 6-8pm.

Please contact the youth director for more information: youthpastor@acparis.org.

HAITI'S CATASTROPHE: WHO'S RESPONSIBLE, GOD OR MAN ?

By Jacques Perrier



Many people are asking this question. If we say God is responsible, we are left with sterile fatalism or a demobilizing revolt because we just can't understand how God could act in such a way. God would be perceived as simply unjust and unloving. And faced with the cruelty of the situation, God's only excuse, according to Stendhal, would be not to exist. There is however, another way of approaching this question which is to consider the concrete facts.

First question: Is God responsible for the cracking of the geological layers of the earth or repeated hurricanes? I don't think so. Nature has a life of its own. The movement of the natural forces are not of an ethical nature. But that is no reason to accept the violent forces of nature as a fatality. Faced with what appears unpredictable, we have a responsibility. The stories in Genesis show us that God has entrusted to man the management of our

planet. It is up to us to dominate, domesticate and work with nature. And the intelligence and experience of man often allows us to escape its violence, notably by building differently. In Japan and California which are frequently hit by earthquakes, the precautions taken and the anti-seismic constructions help avoid massive destruction in areas where the population is often denser than in Haiti.

One of the causes of the disaster in Haiti resides in the imposed price by powerful lobbies on cement (not only in this sector but in many other vital sectors such as rice). These lobbies which have a monopoly on cement and iron, artificially multiply the price by 10 to shamelessly enrich themselves. Generally, Haitians who have very limited means cannot afford to pay this inflated price, and thus to pour enough cement into their cinder blocks

and to use reinforced iron or at least not enough of it. This explains the flimsiness of the floors and ceilings which collapse easily.

So, when we talk about earthquakes provoking the anger of God, we ascribe a lot to Him! To talk in such a way illustrates too often an anthropologic vision by which we despicably place on God the responsibility for our own selfish actions.

I will add here, that as a general rule, I have a certain reservation concerning those who rely on the direct action of God in the world. Certainly, it is He who created the universe. But how do we exercise our responsibility in this world that He entrusted to us? Or to say it differently, when one wants to discover the action of God in the world, we are immediately referred back to the responsibility of man. The problem is that most of the time men do not properly use the responsibility and freedom which they have been given.

The pretentiousness of man selfishly grabbing hold of a gift which he received to manage well and share with his fellow men, often resembles embezzlement. In any case, when one considers Haiti, one is struck by the repeated tragedies that are a defining characteristic of its history. They have been mainly caused by the abuse of the powerful of this world, whether they be foreign powers which have not hesitated to intervene directly in Haiti, or the Haitian governments themselves, which on the whole, have been highly authoritarian and brutal and sustained by these same foreign powers. The principle consequence of this has been immense poverty which is the primary cause of the extent of the current disaster.



Today the people are thirsty. They are hungry. Let it be known that the culinary specialty which is increasingly popular, where 80% of the people live below the poverty line and 54% in abject misery, are mud pies.

A Pathetic and Little Known History

The pathetic history of this country began with the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1492. The Spanish followed and under the guise of evangelism, almost completely eradicated the pre-Columbian populations of the Tainos, decimated by abuse and disease. This continued with the occupation by French who imposed the dreaded "black code" on 550 000 slaves whom they brought from Africa to serve 30 000 colonial rulers who mingled with the robbers of the day. At that time, the accumulated wealth of the plantation owners was such that by the end of the 7-Year War, Louis XV, King of France, preferred to lose Canada rather than Haiti!

And yet, the slaves managed to free themselves from this ferocious yoke, defeating the armies of Napoleon deemed strongest in the world. They established the first black republic in 1804 and created the first independent country of Latin America. But that victory, unique in the annals of mankind, of a nation of slaves freeing itself on its own from oppression was deemed offensive by France, which decided to make the Haitians pay dearly for liberating themselves. The French imposed on Haiti from 1825 to 1885, a huge unfair amount of 90 million gold francs (equivalent to the budget of France at the time). Thus, Haiti was in fact forced to buy itself! It was enough to put this young country on its knees.



The photos of Haiti are through the courtesy of *Action Contre La Faim*, a French humanitarian organization dedicated to fighting against hunger in the world. Citing figures by the Food and Agriculture Organization, ACF calls attention to the 1.2 billion people in the world suffering from hunger. In Haiti, ACF remains mobilized, putting up programmes on water, hygiene and food and nutrition.

The most recent period was dominated for nearly 30 years, from 1957 to 1986, by the sinister Duvalier regime, father and son, who made a fortune equivalent to the country's debt by specializing with their dreaded militia in organized crime, extortion, rape and torture. Then came the demagogic and populist regime of Aristide, a priest in whom the people had high hopes, but eventually his abuses had nothing to envy of those of his predecessors. Note that it was under pressure from Bill Clinton that Aristide applied a notoriously disastrous ultra-liberal program called by the Haitians the "death plan".

Since 1957, more than forty governments have come to power. Almost all have been extremely self-serving and have developed systemic corruption by plundering the resources of the state, often with the active complicity of certain foreign countries.

The result is that Haiti is currently the most looted country in the world and one of the poorest with record breaking illiteracy, poor health, AIDS, drugs, and hunger. Yet, Columbus, approaching the island, described Haiti as peaceful and enchanting.

The Haitian people are not free from defects but they are for the most part full of kindness, sensitivity, and courage. One only has to notice how, in the current disaster, the Haitians, without means, organized themselves to rescue and help each other. They are a cultured people. Recall that in 2009, eleven Haitian writers received literary awards of international repute.

It would be unfair and inaccurate to say that the misfortune of Haiti comes from a curse meant to sanction a so-called Haitian original sin.



Alas, there is an all too common tendency to say that the victim is the author of his misfortune and has been incapable of freeing himself from the chains that were put on him! Consider from what has just been said, who put on the chains! Haiti is a metaphor of ourselves!

The Action of God and the Mission of Men

But back to God! God does not reveal himself as omnipotent in the sense commonly understood by men. Because a loving God created us "in His image and likeness, He who is Love par excellence makes us responsible for and mediators of this love. He would not have given us freedom if it was not to be used for good. But if we refuse to put this love into practice, it is clear that we can only assume the consequences. In other words, God acts within our soul, through our freedom.

So, it is in the order of spiritual realities and not the material realities that divine intervention takes place, at least generally speaking. God's action transforms the heart of man who is then invited to do the right thing.

Finally, what we are asked above all in a crisis situation is to answer the fundamental question of how we can love more, that is, better. We can love more by first understanding that love is something consistent, demanding, not necessarily obvious, something which transforms us and explains why

we must struggle and resist often; also by understanding that the exercise of power is limited by the rights of others, and that relationships begin with respect. Respect is an integral part of love. Love begins with all these, many of which have been forgotten in Haiti, by the Haitians themselves and by us!

To love is to understand that it is not our prayer that transforms God so that He'll comply to our requests for Haiti, in other words, to a certain extent God acts on our behalf as our agent. No! It is we who are transformed by prayer so that we can comply to what God expects of us – an active and supportive presence for Haiti.

Finally, do as the philosopher Emmanuel Mounier said: "Commit yourself to God in everything you do, but act as if everything depended on your decision."

.Jacques Perrier

Author's note: The complete article, in French can be found on ACP's website and the author can be contacted at perrier.jacques@gmail.com.

If you are looking for a reliable charity to contribute to Haiti, please contact the Chair of the Mission Outreach Committee at : ursulaperrier@gmail.com

OBSERVING LENT 2010

Lent Small Groups continue throughout the month of March.

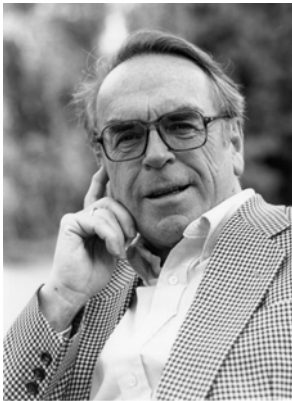
There are 2 ways to participate in a small group this Lent. You may come to Thurber Thursdays for dinner (6:30 pm) and small groups OR join another small group that is following the same materials and is meeting during one of the times listed below:

Friday evenings at 8:30, at the Berger-King home. Contact MaryClaire;

Sunday mornings at 10 am, in G-5.

This year's theme for Lent is "Stumbling into Grace". Jesus calls us to follow him on his way to the cross as the way to life. But you have to ask: how can this way of self-denial and death be the way to life? Join a small group study this Lent to discover how previous generations of Christians have discovered God's grace on the way of the cross.

Lenten Lecture Series “Reflections on the Cross”



MARCH 16, TUES.: The Passion of Christ –
Compassion of God”

MARCH 17, WED.: The Passion of Christ –
God’s Solidarity with Victims

MARCH 18, THURS.: What does Christ’s passion
mean for God?

8.00pm - ACP

Lenten Lecture Series “Reflections on the Cross” Prof. Jürgen Moltmann, Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology at the University of Tübingen in Germany. Professor Jürgen Moltmann is one of the most widely read theologians of the second half of the twentieth century.

Widely hailed as one of the most important Christian thinkers since 1945, he has inspired generations of readers, students and church-goers all over the world with his creative and challenging reflections on the meaning of the call of the Gospel for our times. Not that his work is lacking in intellectual substance, but it has always remained rooted in a personal encounter with Christ as a young German soldier given a Bible in a British prison camp where he was held for three years after the end of the Second World War. Having known first-hand the horror of armed conflict as a teenager followed by the harrowing confrontation with the revelation of Nazi Germany’s responsibility for the Holocaust, he subsequently developed a theology whose interest could never be merely theoretical. Instead it consistently sought to answer the deepest and most pressing questions both of the individual and of our world. Looking back sixty years later to his experience of the Allied fire-bombing of Hamburg in July 1943, code-named ‘Operation Gomorrah’, he comments :

‘I am not only a theologian who is concerned with the hopes and fears of humanity on the scholarly level. I am also a survivor of ‘Sodom and Gomorrah’. To say this is not poetic licence in the religious sense. It is painful fact. Whenever I call up that catastrophe and descend into the dark pit of remembrance, I am overwhelmed again by fear and trembling. [...] But in that catastrophic night, for the first time in my life I cried out to God: ‘God, where are you?’ That was my question in the face of death. It was not the theodicy question we are all familiar with – the question, how can God allow this to happen? That always seems to me like an onlooker’s question. The person who is in the grip of a catastrophe, or is already in the jaws of a mass death, asks differently about God. And then came the other question, the one which has haunted me all my life ever since: why am I still alive and not dead like the rest?’

by Peter Bannister

Thurber Thursday, 11 March — 18:30 meal, 19:30 presentation

Preparing for Prof. Moltmann’s Lenten Lecture Series: Who is Jürgen Moltmann, and what should I know about his theology?

Come along to a special Thurber Thursday when Peter Bannister, the Chair of our Christian Education team, will answer those questions. Your experience of the three night Lenten Lecture Series will be greatly enriched by this pre-lecture by Peter.

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.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

CAN YOU JOIN US TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR KIDS? Can you join us to share God's love with our kids? Our next team training is on Saturday, March 13 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in Pastor Laurie's office. Volunteers are welcome to begin as greeters and helpers on a team with more experienced leaders, which provide an opportunity to learn the ropes." Please contact childrensworship@acparis.org for more information.

LAY LITURGISTS TRAINING SESSION: Are you interested in reading in worship? Then you are invited to attend a training meeting on Monday evening, **March 8**, as a way to learn how to read the scripture well in corporate worship for any of our worship services at the American Church in Paris. We will meet in the Catacombs from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Ilinca Mreana, the Church Secretary (secretary@acparis.org). Our training session will hopefully be a time of training and encouragement for our experienced and new readers, as well as a time to coordinate a reading schedule for the coming months.

LAY CAREGIVER TEAM TRAINING. strives to be the hands and feet of Christ. We are a trained team of church members who make visits to hospitals, and call or send cards to those who are grieving or who are going through a difficult period. We also rejoice with those who have just had a baby or have experienced other joyful events. Please contact Kerry.

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 NEXT RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS: will be on **Sunday, March 21**. Those considering joining the church are invited to the **Prospective Member Orientation on Sunday, March 14 at 10:00 am** in classroom G2 on the Garden Level. At this session, we will discuss who we are at the American Church in Paris, what we believe, and how we live out our faith. The session will also be a privileged time for you to meet with the pastors and other church members.

Childcare is available. To reserve a place, please contact MaryClaire.

DOCENT TOUR: Docent tours will be given after the 11h service on the February 14, 21 and 28 of February. If you're interested in becoming a docent, email Alison.

THE MOVIE GROUP'S MARCH CHOICES are Tom Ford's "A Single Man," Tony Gatlif's "Liberté," Lone Scherfig's "An Education" and Scott Cooper's "Crazy Heart." See any or all at your convenience, then join the group for discussion on Thursday, March 18, at 7:30pm in the church basement.

NEEDED: BLOOM BOOK ADVERTISING & SPONSORSHIP HELP: No particular previous experience is needed but you should have some free time on & off from February through mid-October (excluding August). You should have easy access to a computer with e-mail and be familiar with the following programs: Word, Excel and Acrobat Reader (all available on your computer). Having attended a previous Bloom event and/or read the Bloom Book is a plus, and an eye for detail is very helpful. Most of the work is done by e-mail and in English. For more information, contact Christy.

Fundraiser Concert for "Habitat for Humanity", March 30, Tuesday, 8pm - in the sanctuary, Entrance : 25€ - 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). For more information and tickets: www.concert30mars2010.com or www.fnac.com (0892 68 3622) (0.34euro/min)

A CHOIR CONCERT NOT TO BE MISSED will be held in our sanctuary on **Friday, March 26** at 8:30 PM. The American Church Choir will be joined by the Choir "Lux Perpetua" and accompanied by the orchestra of the *Association Symphonique de Paris* under the direction of Franck Chastrusse. They will perform **The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace** by Karl Jenkins. Tickets are 15 euros and 10 euros and may be reserved by calling 06.31.58.62.85 or by using this email address: the.armed.man@gmail.com. Reserved tickets will be kept for 7 days awaiting a check. If the check is received before March 22, they will be mailed to you. After March 22nd they will be kept at the door.



Sunday Atelier concerts

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

March 7 Haruka Miyazaki, piano
*Music by BACH, CHOPIN, ALBENIZ,
JANACEK, MESSIAEN, TAKAHA*

March 14 Nancy Almquist, soprano
with Jeffery Watson, piano
Phil Frystak, alto saxophone et guitare
Anne Kivikko, flûte
*Quatre Chansons de Jeunesse - Claude Debussy
Cantata - John Carter (1932-1981)
Ivory - Ray Lynch
Stardust - Hoagy Carmichael (1899-1981)
Over the Rainbow de Arlen/Cassidy (1905-1986)
La vie en rose - Piaf/Louigy (1915-1963)
Summertime - Gershwin (1898-1937)*

March 21 Antti Manninen, piano

March 28 Junghwa Lee, piano