



the spire on the seine

The American Church in Paris



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March 2011

*From
Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor*



Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

“Don't ignore this fact: One day with the Lord is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day” (II Peter 3.8, KJV).

Time flies. It was three years ago this March that I met members of the AFCU and ACP in Fort Collins in what would lead to God's call for me to serve in your midst. What a wonderful, if challenging, time it has been. Still getting used to being half a century old, I've been reflecting on time for a variety of reasons.

James Carroll, in his article *Keeping Time*, describes the difference between marking time with a clock that has a face and hands that go around in circles versus a digital clock that merely displays the hours and minutes in four-digit immediacy. Carroll writes, “The analog clock represents the totality of experience; digital time is only about here and now.” In other words, the physical continuance of the analog clock captures more the fluidity of time and reflects with circular symbology how our lives are part of a stream of connected moments and

meanings. The sweeping hands of an analog clock give a visualization of time in contrast to the precise flip or flash of a digital display fixed until the next second, minute or hour. Carroll concludes with a philosophical implication: “The modern digital clock is an eloquent indicator of the epistemological revolution unfolding in the aptly named digital age, when all knowledge is quantified by being literally reduced to the digits of computation...The reduction of time to numerical value promotes the reduction of meaning...”¹

God invites us to journey
through this life
paying closer attention
to the One
who came from eternity,
with a timeless love
for all.

Perhaps this is why I embrace the Christian marking of time. Throughout the year the church moves through seasons: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. Every year we return with new experiential capital to reflect on the meaning of God's Word moving through history and God's faithfulness from generation to generation. Ash

¹ James Carroll, “Keeping Time” (*The International Herald Tribune*, February 17, 2011) 8.

Wednesday, March 9th, begins the Christian marking of the time called Lent. Lent is a complicated counting of 40 days retracing Jesus' journey in the wilderness (Matthew 4.1-11; Mark 1.12-13; Luke 4.1-13) starting on a Wednesday (skipping Sundays - mini-Easters, days for breaking the fast) and ending with Holy Saturday just before Easter celebrations.

This season of Lent we invite you to enter into a different way of "spending time." We invite you to give new meaning to your time through a World Vision study entitled Call to Live. We all have 60 minutes in an hour, 24 hours in a day. We all have 40 days before us in the season of Lent. How will God meet us in that time? What significance will our journey through Lent have for us spiritually? How might slowing down, praying, fasting and giving of alms to the poor change us, and change the world around us? How does moving through this time with other people in a small group to practice simplicity, humility, generosity, compassion, creativity and fullness help us to live more into God's eternal kingdom?

Sooner or later, we won't have any more time (at least as we know it). In the meantime, God invites us to journey through this life paying closer attention to the One who came from eternity into our here and now to offer an historical sacrifice that initiated a timeless love for us and all creation. The apostle Paul calls us to "make the most of the time"

(Ephesians 5.16) and I encourage you to open yourself up to a more meaningful season of Lent this year. In Rainer Maria Rilke's *Book of Hours*, there is a wonderful poem which opens these Love Poems to God:

*The hour is striking so close above me,
so clear and sharp,
that all my senses ring with it.
I feel it now: there's a power in me
to grasp and give shape to my world.*

*I know that nothing has ever been real
without my beholding it.
All becoming has needed me.
My looking ripens things
and they come toward me, to meet and be met.²*

Whether you join in the study of Call to Live or not, consider ways in which you can live more in the flow of analogic time amidst the increasingly fragmented digital time of this life. How will you allow God's Spirit to open you up to an experience of time where all of your senses ring clear and sharp so that you are able to grasp and give shape to your world, to meet and be met by the One who loves you through all of reality?

May God who holds all of time in his hands hold us as we enter into a season of new life together,

In Christ,
Scott

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - The ACP Council invites all members of the church to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on **March 13**, in the Theater immediately following the 11:00 service. The agenda will include 2010 annual reports, the 2011 budget and renewal of the contract of the Senior Pastor.

² Anita Barrows and Joanna Macy, trans., Rilke's *Book of Hours: Love Poems to God* (New York: Riverhead Books, 2005), 43. With special thanks to Elizabeth Rand.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH DURING LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY is the gateway into the season of Lent in the Christian Calendar. Lent comes from the old English word “lencten,” which meant “Spring” from the *lengthening* of the days that comes in Spring. The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion & resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a 40-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a special time when members of the community of faith were reconciled through penitence & forgiveness & restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation may remember the grace of Jesus Christ & the need we all have to repent and renew our faith. You are invited to join us for this special service which includes the “imposition of ashes” and Holy Communion. Please mark your calendars for **Wednesday, March 9, at 7 pm** here at the ACP.

SUNDAY SERMON BIBLE STUDIES FOLLOWING THE 9AM SERVICE: Adult Bible study meets between the services for further study of the passages that are being preached. The Bible study meets 15 minutes after the end of the worship service in room G2.

2011 LENTEN LECTURE SERIES APRIL 5, 6 AND 7: Plan now to attend the 2011 Lenten Lectures, where we are honored to welcome Holmes Ralston, the University Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Colorado State University. Prof. Ralston is a leader in environmental ethics. Prof. Ralston was the recipient of the Templeton Prize for Religion in 2003, and delivered the Gifford lectures at Edinburgh University in 1997/1998 on the topic “Genes, Genesis and God” (<http://lamar.colostate.edu/~rolston/gifford.htm>). He will be speaking at ACP on the subject of his most recent book “Three Big Bangs.” The ACP Lenten lectures are on three consecutive evenings starting at 19h30 in the Thurber room: Tuesday April 5, Wednesday April 6 and Thursday April 7.

Looking ahead ...

(Watch for more details in the bulletins and in the next *Spire*.)

APRIL 17: PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 21: MAUNDY THURSDAY

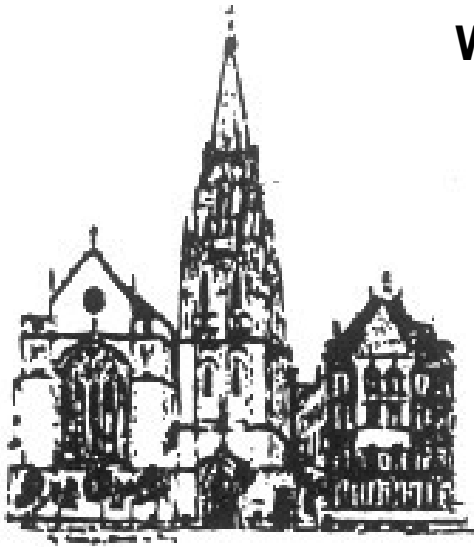
APRIL 22: GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 24: EASTER SUNDAY

DAILY EVENING SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK.

EASTER SERVICES AT 7:30 AM (SUNRISE SERVICE, BY THE QUAI), AT 9 AM, 11 AM AND 1:30 PM.

EASTER BREAKFAST AT 8 AM.



Weekly Events

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

Music

Celebration Ringers: Mondays, 6.45 – 8pm. *Theatre*.

Adult Choir rehearsal: Wednesdays, 7.30-9.30pm. *Theatre*.

Bronze Ringers: Thursdays, 7.30 – 9.30pm. *Theatre*.

Beginning Handbell Choir: Thursdays, 3:00 – 4:00pm *Theatre*.

Contact Hmusic@acparis.org for more information.

Youth Music

Gaudeamus: Young Adults vocal ensemble, Tuesday 7.30pm – 9pm. Venue TBA

Cherub Choir: Wednesday 1 – 2pm

Children's Choir: Wednesday 2 – 3pm

Children's Handbells: Wednesday 3 – 4pm

Shine: Youth Choir, Wednesday 4 – 5:30pm

Youth Handbells: Wednesday 5:30 – 6:30pm

Contact Hyouthmusic@acparis.org for

more information

Youth & Young Adults

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

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



From Ginger Strickland
Youth & Young Adults Pastor

This summer, ACP will send again a team of youth and young adults to Burkina Faso, to help this country's youth learn English.

One year ago, I left Paris for a trip to 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 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. 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.

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.

In light of this, ACP sent a team of youth last year to help in running a summer intensive course. They did a wonderful job helping to prepare Burkinabe youth for further study in English, but we found that we had a special love for the children of Shalom Primary School, also run by Heal the World. This year, an ACP Youth Team will be helping with a project based at Shalom, in which we lead a Scripture-based enrichment program in the morning, and help with physical work at the school and in the village in the afternoon.

Our hope is that program is a better match for our group. This project will allow youth to work with and influence younger children (as opposed to working with students their age or older adults) and allow for a deeper experience of and participation in village life and the life of the local church.

Ten youth aged 16-18 will join us on the trip, along with adult leaders.

In addition, this year we will be sending off 6 young adults to Ouagadougou, where they will be running Heal the World's intensive summer English course. They are a wonderful team who come from 6 different countries! All of them speak more than one language, and many know West Africa well. They share a deep passion for the Gospel and for Burkina Faso.

You'll see members of the youth and young adult teams at coffee hour selling cookies and telling people about Burkina Faso. You'll also be invited to a talent show and other fun events. We are asking for your financial support for this ministry opportunity, but most of all for your prayers for the work of the Holy Spirit in Burkina Faso this summer and every day..

CONGRATULATIONS TO GINGER, very soon to be **the Rev. Ginger Strickland!** Thanks be to God that Ginger received official notice that she passed her ordination examinations, and therefore will be ordained as a minister of the gospel in the Episcopal church. In the meantime, we rejoice with her at her successful completion of the examinations and pray for her as she prepares for the next steps of obedience to God's call upon her life. Look for more details of the ordination date and time that will take place at the American cathedral in Paris in the near future.

TALENT SHOW!!

7pm, April 2

ACP THURBER ROOM



In Support of the Youth Mission Trip to Burkina Faso

A team of ten ACP youth and leaders are headed to Burkina Faso in July to serve with Heal the World, a Christian non-profit focused on building a future in Burkina through education. We are eager to see how the Holy Spirit is already at work in one of the poorest countries in the world.



ACP YOUTH - SPRING 2011

The Youth Group meets on Sundays from 3-5pm for fun, fellowship, and Bible Study. Please wear/bring comfortable clothes and shoes.

Meeting dates: **March 6, 13, 20, 27**

Other dates: April 3, 10, 17/May 8, 15, 22, 29/June 5, 12, 19, 26

COOL STUFF!!!

- *March 5:** **ACP Talent Show.** Please join us at 7:30pm in the Thurber Room for dinner and a great show. Sign up if you'd like to perform!
- *April 14 :** **ACP Seder.** Join the youth table as we learn about what Jesus was up to on the night before He died.
- *May 21 :** **Worship Night.** Music, fun, and fellowship. Please meet in the Catacombs at 7:00pm.
- *June 18 :** **Study Break.** Join us at 2pm for a break from studying for exams. You'll need it!

CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

ACP YOUNG ADULTS 2011



BIBLE STUDY. Join us every Tuesday night at 7:30pm in the ACP Catacombs. For deep conversation and fellowship during *1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays of the month.* **Dates:** **March 8 and 22. Other dates:** **April 5/May 3, 17 and 31/June 7 and 21**

PIZZA NIGHT. Come at 6pm to cook or 7:30pm for pizza, prayer, and small group discussion. In the ACP Thurber Room. *2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.* **Dates:** **March 1, 15 and 29/April 12 and 26/May 10 and 24/June 14 and 28.**

SPECIAL EVENTS

- March 5:** **ACP Talent Show.** Please join us at 7:30pm in the Thurber Room for dinner and a great show. Sign up if you'd like to perform!
- April 8-10:** **Young Adult Retreat.** Please join us in Jambville for a weekend of campfires, community, and prayer.
- May 28:** **Deepening Your Spiritual Life** – join us for a night of reflection, discussion, and prayer; a chance to focus on the living God in the midst of a busy life. Meet in the Catacombs at 7:30pm
- June 11:** **Pentecost Picnic.** Come enjoy friends, food, and prayer. 6:00pm. Location TBA.

For more info, contact Ginger Strickland at 01 40 62 05 07- Friends are always welcome at ACP youth events! To be put on our email list, Ginger Strickland---Office: 01.40.62.05.07/youthpastor@acparis.org



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 13 from 12:15 -1:15pm in the ACP Catacombs.
- Weekend retreat from March 25-27
- Meetings with faith mentors (dates TBD) and a family dinner on May 7 from 6-8pm.
- Worship service including baptisms and confirmations, May 8.

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

UPDATE ON THE SEARCH FOR NEW DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Since we are fast approaching the March 15 closing date for applications, it's timely to give an update on progress in our search for a new Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at ACP.

From December 2010, the position was widely advertised. It appeared in a number of journals and publications, on seminary websites and bulletin boards, youth worker websites, church mailing lists, and of course on the ACP website.

In the three months since advertising, the Search Committee has received numerous queries, requests for information and resumes from interested persons. Currently, we have received 33 completed applications, with a number of others still expected.

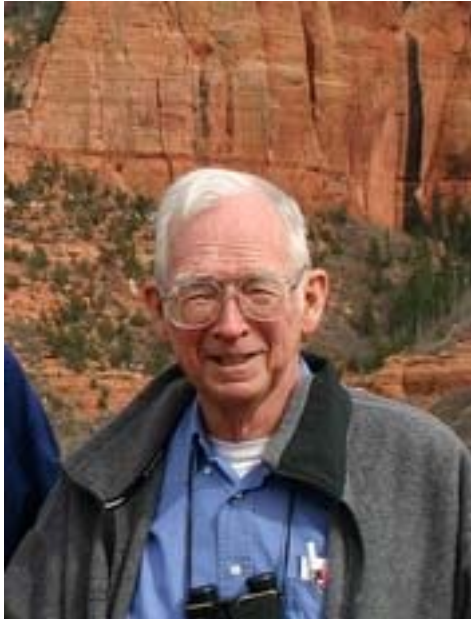
The Search Committee is meeting fortnightly to consider these. Candidates are being classified into one of three categories: unsuitable, suitable and highly suitable.

From this, we will shortlist a small number of applicants for interview. Initial telephone interviews are expected to commence early in April, leading to personal interviews of the top two or so candidates.

The Search Committee is aiming to propose a final candidate to Council for approval at its meeting on May 24.

We would value your continued prayers, specifically for discernment and wisdom, so that we would be directed to choose God's person for this position at this time.

On behalf of the Search Committee,
Michael de Looper
Chair



ACP Lenten Lectures 2011

April 5, 6, 7

19h30

Thurber Room

Holmes Rolston III

Three Big Bangs: Matter- Energy, Life, Mind

Those of us present at our inaugural series of Lenten Lectures last year are not likely to forget Professor Jürgen Moltmann's powerful *Reflections on the Cross*. It was a rare privilege to have a visit from and to interact with one of the leading Christian theologians of our time, an event that we hope will set the standard for future lectures intended to

bring the best of contemporary spiritual reflection to the American Church congregation and the broader Paris community. This year we are therefore delighted to be playing host to another seminal thinker, Holmes Rolston III, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Colorado State University, who will be lecturing on the subject of his latest book, *Three Big Bangs: Matter-Energy, Life, Mind*. Winner of the Mendel Medal of Villanova University (2005) and the Templeton Prize (2003), the world's foremost award for exceptional contributions to 'affirming life's spiritual dimension',³ he is highly regarded internationally as the pioneer of the discipline of Environmental Ethics as well as for the depth and critical engagement of his writings on nature, science and faith. He has lectured on all the continents, speaking at the 28th Nobel Conference (1992) and the World Congress of Philosophy (1993/1998) as well as delivering the prestigious Gifford Lectures at the University of Edinburgh in 1997/1998.

Of the many reasons which should encourage us to take heed of Professor Rolston as a figure at the cutting edge of current Christian thought, it is perhaps worth briefly mentioning three in order to whet our appetites for his lectures:

- Firstly, being both a Presbyterian minister and a scientifically-trained philosopher, Holmes Rolston has brought a profoundly poetic spirituality and keen metaphysical insight to his contemplation of the natural realm and the latest advances in scientific knowledge. He emphasizes that a Biblically-formed worldview can and must go hand in hand with a sense of wonder at the history of the universe that modern science is increasingly revealing to us. This feeling of awe is however far from naïve; Rolston does not shrink from the mysterious, indeed disturbing aspects of a 'cruciform' nature whose history is also a 'passion play' characterized by the suffering as much as by the flourishing of living creatures.
- Secondly, at a time of ever-deepening ecological crisis, Holmes Rolston III has issued a prophetic philosophical challenge to an exclusively anthropocentric view of our planet, stressing the intrinsic value of non-human nature and human duty towards it. His work asks penetrating questions of science, knowing that, for all the apparent miracles of modern technology, 'the whole scientific enterprise of the last four centuries could yet prove demonic. We may be caught in a Faustian bargain, in a scientific sink'.⁴ Rolston is acutely conscious of the way in which our insatiable urge to master our environment through knowledge, a desire to conquer that is anything but pure, has brought humanity to the brink of self-destruction. His

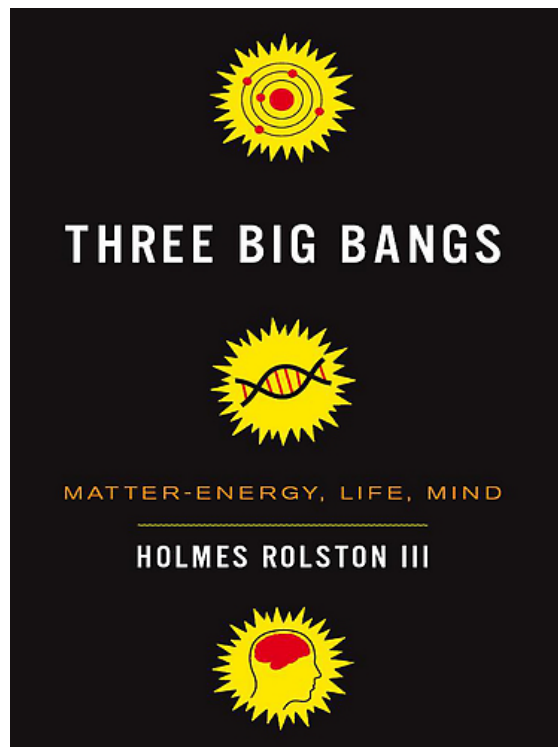
³ Past recipients of the Templeton Prize (<http://www.templetonprize.org/previouswinner.html>) have included Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Brother Roger of Taizé, Billy Graham and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

⁴ Holmes Rolston III, *Science & Religion: A Critical Survey*, 2006 edition (Philadelphia : Templeton Foundation Press, 2006), 342. The prefatory section, 'Human Uniqueness and Human Responsibility', which can be downloaded at <http://lamar.colostate.edu/~rolston/> , is especially recommended as a powerful and eloquent introduction to Professor Rolston's thought.

reflection on science is therefore no mere theoretical speculation, but rather an ethically-charged call to action: 'we not only *have* a paradigm, we need ourselves to *be* the paradigm, the disciplinary matrix, the disciple who incarnates the truth.'⁵

- Thirdly, while writers associated with the New Atheism such as Richard Dawkins or Daniel Dennett are loudly proclaiming that natural processes are random, unguided and ultimately meaningless, Holmes Rolston offers an inspiring alternative vision in which God is discreetly but faithfully active at the deepest level of universal history. We are a part of a dynamic creation whose essential openness is demonstrated by the three 'Big Bangs' of 'radical genesis': the generation of matter-energy, life and mind. Our cosmic epic is full of emerging novelty and spiralling complexity, characterized by the repeated appearance of unpredictably new levels of being. These depend on previous levels just as biology depends on physics and chemistry, but in each case the higher level cannot simply be explained in terms of the lower. You cannot simply read off dinosaurs, elephants and Presbyterian pastors from quarks, protons and trilobites; 'the universe story, the Earth story is a phenomenal tale of more and more later out of less and less earlier on'.⁶ Contrary to the narrative of blind chance and necessity perceived in the natural order by scientific atheism, it is in this phenomenal tale that the lens of faith enables us to perceive the hand of the Creator who is 'making all things new' (Revelation 21:5).

*'In the end we must ask the questions with which Genesis begins: wondering about creation resulting in persons who image God. We are better placed than any generation in human history to ask these questions, to take the measure of them. But answers to ultimate questions still lie almost beyond our reach. If found, answers will focus on the three big bangs.'*⁷



Further biographical information together with extensive selections from Professor Rolston's publications can be found at <http://lamar.colostate.edu/~rolston/>

by Peter Bannister, Chair, Christian Education Committee

⁵ Ibid., 339.

⁶ Ibid., xvi.

⁷ *Three Big Bangs : Matter-Energy, Life, Mind* (New York : Columbia University Press, 2010), xi-xii.

Seeking Shalom: A Christian's Challenge

By Charlie Gay

Highly acclaimed author and Presbyterian pastor Jim Belcher urged listeners at ACP's February 3 Thurber Thursday gathering to engage with their city as Christians to influence positively Parisians and the culture here.

His expression, "seeking the shalom of the city," is taken from Jeremiah 29, in which God tells the exiles in Babylon to settle there and "seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

Belcher planted Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, California, in 2001, wrote the award-winning *Deep Church* there in 2009 and resigned from the pastorate last spring to pursue a writing ministry. He and his young family are on an extended stay in seven European countries as he researches his second book, *Deep Christianity*.

In *Deep Church*, he attempted to end the rhetorical shouting match between the traditional evangelical church and the emerging church by civilly speaking to both sides, dissecting their perspectives and proposing a conciliatory "third way" to do church. He was trying to prove churches do not have to choose between orthodox evangelical doctrine and cultural engagement or commitment to social justice.

The book examined the emerging church's criticisms of the traditional church, including "tribalism" stemming from the traditional church's fear of engagement with a culture it considers ungodly. Belcher realized there was a huge divide in the church over whether to "join" or "reject" the culture around us.

For Thurber Thursday, the pastor narrowed his discussion to explain why he cares about

culture. He quoted his former professor, who said Christ claims every square inch of the world. Belcher dismissed the assumption that we must choose between assimilation or tribalism – joining the culture or having nothing to do with it. He said the exiles in Babylon weren't called on to join the culture or reject it but to participate in it and influence it. And he cited Daniel as a good example of living in another culture without giving in to it.

Belcher said one of our roles is to be the "organic church" outside the institutional church on Sunday. And years ago a mentor helped him have a revelation about people using their lay callings to "pursue the peace" in the community. He started asking parishioners what they did for a living. One of them was Anaheim Mayor Curt Pringle, who told pastor what he was doing in the community.

Years earlier, Anaheim had destroyed a downtown that was "old" to build a "better" one. Unfortunately, that destroyed housing, too, and the people left. They had to live in sprawling outlying housing developments and commute to Anaheim for work. The mayor was working to recreate housing in the new downtown to make it a community again.

Belcher told Pringle that the entire Los Angeles Basin needed that vision and suggested a conference to get people thinking like that. He wanted to "seek shalom for the city," not just for believers but for everyone. Because "if it prospers, you too will prosper." They set up the "Restoring Community Conference" for city officials, planners, builders and architects. Among other things, it covered the importance of beauty, community and family in a city, not just sidewalks and buildings.

Belcher said the conference, now held each year, was an example of the church coming alongside the community and working together to seek the “peace of the city.”

He asked whether we were in Paris to seek the shalom of this city. If it weren’t and instead are simply seeking to use the city, perhaps we should go somewhere else, he said. We should be asking how we can impact the law, media, fashion and other things here, he said. If not, we’ll become

assimilated and useless for seeking the shalom of Paris, he contended.

Christianity has the answers to the current condition, Belcher insisted. God has recreated us, he said, concluding, “He’s not only creating shalom in you but in everything you touch.”

The American Church in Paris condoles with the family of Jean-Pierre Williams, son of Rev. Dr. Clayton and Fernande Williams, who passed away a few days ago. Dr. Clayton Williams served at the ACP from 1933 to 1940. During WW II, the Williams family returned to the United States. Following the war, Jean-Pierre decided to make his life in the US and became a medical doctor in California. Jean-Pierre and his wife Kathy returned to Paris to visit his mother Fernande and sister and brother. They always attended church. He liked it when the then Senior Pastor Tom Duggan recognized him after church. Jean-Pierre was a regular contributor to the American and Foreign Christian Union.



An international domestic violence forum for the English-speaking community: Friday, March 25, from 6:30 pm to 10 pm, at the ACP. Admission is free. Contact and reservations: ParisDVforum@gmail.com.

Learn from concerned French and international presenters in the field what English-speaking expats need to know about finding help.



“The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind and give the godless world evidence that you’ve sent me and loved them” - John 17 (The Message)

Gospel in the City April 8-10, 2011

Grow in unity & live the Gospel in the city and our lives.



Event hosted and led by the American Church in Paris, along with other English-speaking churches in Paris.

WHO: English-speaking young adults, ages 18-30. Come with friends from your home young adult group, bring friends from school, make new friends from other congregations.

WHAT: A weekend of fun, Bible study, prayer, worship, camping, campfires, stories.

WHEN: We will meet at 6:30 pm on Friday, April 8, in front of the ACP. We will be travelling by hired bus. We return to the ACP before 4 pm on Sunday, April 10.

WHERE: Jambville Retreat Centre, 50 km northwest of Paris.

Bring a Bible, warm clothes and outdoor shoes, toiletries, towel, shower shoes, sports equipment or games, a drink or snack. Each person will need a sleeping bag.

For more information, please contact Ginger Strickland at youthpastor@acparis.org.

SUNDAY ATELIER
CONCERTS
free admission, 5 PM

A large graphic of musical notation, including a treble clef, a bass clef, and various notes and symbols, set against a black background.

March 6

Stephanie Sabin, soprano
Pablo Veguilla, tenor
Laurana Mitchelmore,
piano
Music by Martini, Poulenc,
Satie, Fauré, Gounod,
Duparc, Weill, Sondheim



March 13

Ondine Musique:
Amy Blake, soprano
Eugenia Choi, violin
Debra Takakjian, piano
Music by Saint-Saëns, Debussy,
Duparc, Ravel, Beach, Schmidt,
Foss, Bernstein

March 20

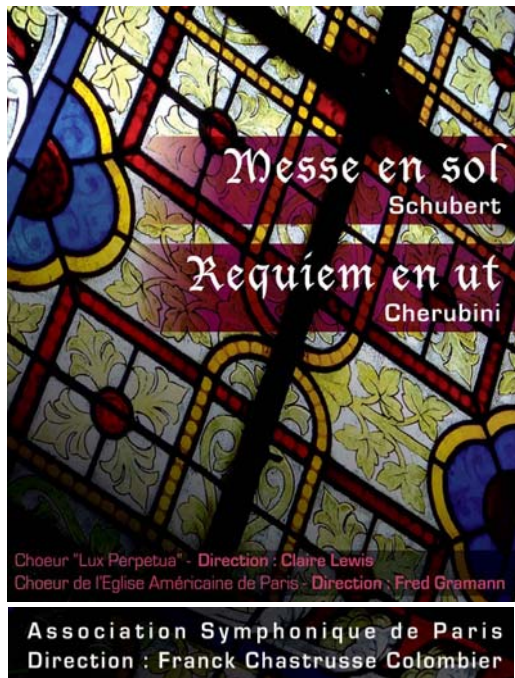
Ly Lan Magniaux, voice
Nicolas Zannin, organ
Music by Handel, Chausson, Dvorak, Bruckner, Franck.

March 27

Biruté Vainiunaitė, piano
Music by Couperin,
Beethoven, Chopin,
Debussy, Ciurlionis,
Vainunas



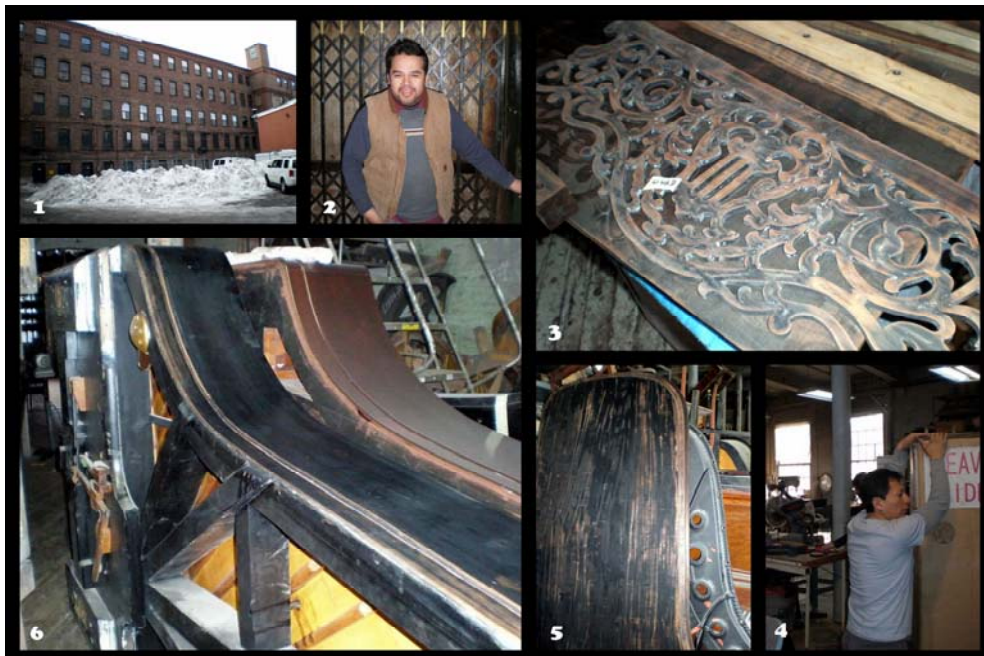
Special Choir Concert with Orchestra



The **ACP Adult Choir** will be joined by the choir **Lux Perpetua** to sing the Mass in G Major of Franz Schubert and the Requiem of Luigi Cherubini. They will be accompanied by the **Association Symphonique de Paris** under the direction of Franck Chastrusse. The concert will be at 4pm on **Saturday, March 26** in the American Church sanctuary. Tickets are 7 and 12 euros.

The Steinway gets a make-over

The restoration process for the ACP's 9-foot concert grand Steinway is well under way. The piano has been completely dismantled and the various parts are receiving specialized care by the various craftspeople.



1) The factory in Yonkers where hundreds of pianos get the nip and tuck treatment to recover their once beautiful condition; 2) Frank, who is taking care of the wooden case; 3) The music rack with serial number attached; 4) Luis, who will make the new soundboard; for our Steinway; 5) The lid which has been partially stripped. The rest of the black will come off with sanding; 6) The main case on its side, making friends to pass the time.

A Memorial Handbell

Barbara Russ and her husband Allen were members of the American Church many years back. When Barbara passed away last year, Adrienne and Norm Findley chose to present a gift to the American Church in her memory. The Findleys were actively involved in the life of the ACP, and when they returned to the US, also participated in the AFCU. This gift is a unique choice in that it is a visual and aural gift: a beautiful bronze handbell made by the Whitechapel Foundry in London. Dating back to the 16th century, Whitechapel has an amazing history of bell making, including everything from the original Liberty Bell to Big Ben. The casting of our new handbell is engraved with the words "In memory of Barbara Russ". I was able to go to London to receive the handbell and see where it was cast, hand tuned, fitted with a hand-tooled leather handle and shined to a brilliant luster. The handbell will ring out for decades to come in glory to God and in memory of a special life.

By Fred Gramann





Welcoming the Stranger –

BLOOM Needs Your Help!

Do you remember what it was like to be brand new in Paris? For 40 years BLOOM has been an essential outreach ministry of the American Church, helping strangers to Paris find their way. These seminars, feature speakers and workshops on various topics from food and wine tasting to health care and general safety, need-to-know subjects, and just plain fun. BLOOM helps with understanding cultural differences, creating a new life in Paris, and getting connected with friends and organizations throughout Paris and the surrounding areas.

“Thank you SO much for the past two days. I met so many inspiring women from around the world and truly enjoyed each of the speakers and workshops. I am definitely EXCITED and hopeful for my future here in Paris as a result of this amazing experience!”
Holly, October, 2009

“I went to Bloom and found it great, not only a whole bunch of info, but met some great people too; I had no idea that so many activities take place at the church - also very multi-national.” - Student



Traditionally the program is run entirely by the core leadership team of the Women of the American Church. This year the WOAC leadership is expanding the leadership of BLOOM, in the hope that the coordination of this flagship outreach event can be better supported by our entire congregation. **So, we are putting out a church wide call for a BLOOM Task Force** that can evaluate and coordinate both BLOOM and the BLOOM Book. You don't have to be a woman—or an American – just someone who remembers what it is like to be new to Paris. This is your chance to help someone else settle in Paris by extending the hospitality of Christ to the stranger in our city.

Can you help with BLOOM or participate as part of a BLOOM Task Force? If so, please come to an information meeting on Sunday, April 3rd between the 11am and 1:30pm worship services in G7. If you are interested, please contact Christy at woac_bloomdirector@yahoo.com.

Adult Education Opportunities

SUNDAYS SERMON BIBLE STUDIES FOLLOWING THE 9AM & 11AM SERVICES: Adult Bible studies meet between the services. The Bible studies meet 15 minutes after the end of the worship service in room G2 (Basement level).

NOOMA STUDIES will be held every other Friday, from 8:30 pm. Please contact MaryClaire .

THURBER THURSDAYS continues every Thursday – dinner at 6:30 pm; class at 7:30 pm.

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** meets on Mondays at 5 pm in Pastor Laurie's office. We welcome newcomers, whether they be rank beginners, experts or somewhere in between. We even welcome quilters, crocheters, tatters and people who just want the fellowship! We knit for church missions as well as for our families and ourselves. We can guide you toward Paris knit shops, patterns, online resources and more. Drop in; bring a friend; check it out. Contacts: Antoinette Wolfe: alawolfe@gmail.com or Elizabeth Rand: ehtrand@gmail.com

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.

DOCENT TOURS: Did you know that our church is the first American church established on foreign soil, back in 1814? Do you know how many pipes the organ holds? Come along for a tour of the church after the 11h service (March. 13, 20 and 27). We'll meet up at the front near the chapel. For more info or to join the docent team, contact Alison.

LITURGIST MINISTRY: We have a wonderful team of lay readers (liturgists) who assist in leading worship at the 9 and 11 am worship services each week. If you are interested in being considered for this ministry, please contact the church secretary at secretary@acparis.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Offering altar flowers is a beautiful way to honor God, or people dear to you, to celebrate special occasions in your lives, or to remember your loved ones. If you would like to donate flowers, please contact the church secretary at secretary@acparis.org.

MULTICULTURAL COUPLES POTLUCK DINNER: March 4, 8 pm–11:30 pm, Thurber Room. If you are a Multicultural couple please join us for a potluck dinner, fun and fellowship. Bring a main dish or dessert, your good humor and a desire to grow in your relationship.

MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP: The movie group's choices for March are "Les Femmes du 6e étage" by Philippe Le Guay, "True Grit" by Joel & Ethan Coen, "Made in Dagenham" by Nigel Cole (playing here as "We Want Sex Equality") and "The Fighter" by David O. Russell. See any or all in the cinema at your convenience, then join the group for discussion on Thursday, March 17, at 7:30pm.

THURSDAY MORNING MEN'S MORNING COFFEE takes place at **7:30am each Thursday** at Starbucks, located near the church at 90, rue St. Dominique, 75007.