Spire
The Beacon on the Seine
December 2017

Pilgrimage to Chartres
Christmas movies
Going to Ghana
Unto us a Child

The American Church in Paris  www.acparis.org  65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris
In this issue

Thoughts from The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr 3
Bible readings for December 4
Two prophets for Advent, by Rev. Lewis Poag 5
A special note from the Fondells, by Revs. Doug and Jodi Fondell 6
Youth and Young Adults at ACP, by Revs. Doug and Jodi Fondell 7
A pilgrimage to Chartres, by Kim Herr 8-9
ACP Christmas Market, by Kristie Worrel 10
ACP Thanksgiving, by Daphne Elfferich 10
Going to Ghana, by Anna Zweede 11
Body of Christ: What's up in Paris, by MaryClaire King 12
What's up in Paris: December event listings, by Karen Albrecht 13
Thurber Lecture series: C.S. Lewis & images of new creation 14
Movies for Christmas, by Rebecca Brite 15
Alpha update, by Lisa Prevett 16
For Unto us a Child, by Alison Benney 17
News from our missionary Patti Lafage 19
December ACP calendar, by John Newman 22-23

HOLIDAY SEASON 2017

ACP Candlelight Christmas Concerts: Saturday 9 December, at 17h and 20h
Children’s Lessons and Carols: 10 December, 11h and 13h30 services
Newtown Remembrance Service and Forum: Thursday 14 December, 18h
Christmas Eve Services: Sunday 24 December
   11h Traditional Service
   16h Family Service
   19h30 Candlelight Service (Prelude music begins at 19h)
   22h Candlelight Service (Prelude music begins at 21h30)
At a friend’s recommendation, I started reading the book *Revolution*, by French President Emmanuel Macron, recently translated into English. We both noted that President Macron has an uncommon respect for the elderly. He recounts the years that he enjoyed reading with his grandmother, and how she was instrumental in his early formation.

It got me thinking about two of the elderly in the Advent story that are often overlooked in this season associated with children, and of course this is the time we celebrate the miracle of the incarnation, how God is making all things new through entering into our world as a baby. Do you remember that old Zechariah and Elizabeth are part of the story, too?

It was just another day at worship for Zechariah. He was a priest, and he and his wife had elite lineage. He lived “blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord,” Luke writes. The problem was, they had no children, and that was for the gossips a sign that God did not look favorably upon them. They were an older couple, Luke mentions discreetly, “getting on in years.”

But Zechariah’s time came up to offer incense in the sanctuary of the Lord, and as he was going about the normal worship routine, an angel appeared to him. Zechariah was terrified and overwhelmed with fear. But the angel was bringing good news of a child to be born to his wife Elizabeth. And here is where the story gets interesting. Zechariah asked, “How will I know this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” And because Zechariah asks a reasonable question, the angel gets a bit snarky and punishes Zechariah with muteness, at least until he saw the promise realized.

While all this was happening, the people were wondering what happened to Zechariah. Had he fallen asleep? Had he fallen ill? Why didn’t he come out of the sanctuary of the Lord? And when he did come out and could not speak, he motioned to them and they realized he had a vision. So Zechariah and Elizabeth waited for five months in seclusion, apparently because it would have been too much of a shocker for people to see this pregnant old woman. But the child growing within her was such a blessing for them, as Elizabeth affirms that God “looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.” Their child will be born John, of course, who will later become John the Baptist, the one who prepares the way of the Lord!

As we move through the wonderful events of this Advent and Christmas season and into the New Year and Epiphany, I encourage you to notice the people around you, both young and old. How is God seeking to bless us “from generation to generation”? What is the disgrace some people endure? How are we, like John, meant to prepare the way of the Lord for them through our embodiment of the gospel, through words and deeds, through our welcome and acceptance? The birth of our Savior initiated a different Revolution than President Macron talks about, but it is a revolution nonetheless!

In a time for many when it seems God is silent or absent, or both, I am thankful for the opportunity this season of Advent yields to light candles in the dark, wait, pray, repent, and long for the coming Kingdom of God to come near. I pray for our congregation to be a community where we don’t just go through another season of Advent and Christmas *yada-yada-yada*, but that we might have visions, and even get struck dumb with awe and fearsome wonder at what God is doing and seeking to do here and now in our lives and life together, to bring forth new life for each of us, young and old, so that our weary world rejoices again.

My favorite verse in the Christmas narratives is the end of the *Benedictus*, or the *Song of Zechariah* (Luke 1:78–79), “In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

May God’s hope, joy, love, and peace be with you and yours as we move through the holidays.

In Christ,

Dearest Members and Friends of the ACP,

In Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor
### Bible readings for December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading 1</th>
<th>Reading 2</th>
<th>Reading 3</th>
<th>Reading 4</th>
<th>Reading 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 December</td>
<td>1st Sunday of Advent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Isaiah 64: 1-9</td>
<td>Psalm 80, 1-7, 17-19</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 1: 3-9</td>
<td>Mark 13: 24-37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 December</td>
<td>2nd Sunday of Advent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Isaiah 40:1–11</td>
<td>Psalm 85:1-2, 8–13</td>
<td>2 Peter 3:8–15a</td>
<td>Mark 1:1–8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 December</td>
<td>3rd Sunday of Advent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11</td>
<td>Psalm 126</td>
<td>1 Thessalonians 5:16–24</td>
<td>John 1:6–8, 19–28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 December</td>
<td>4th Sunday of Advent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Psalm 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Titus 2:11-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Luke 2:1-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 December</td>
<td>pm Christmas Eve</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Isaiah 52:7-10</td>
<td>Psalm 98</td>
<td>Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)</td>
<td>John 1:1-14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December</td>
<td>am 1st Sunday after Christmas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December</td>
<td>pm New Year’s Eve</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**BEHOLD, I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW.**

**REVELATION 21:5**
We know that Advent has arrived when John the Baptist shows up. In the first chapter of Mark we’re told that John has been deep in the wilderness of Judea living off the land. What a sight he must have been: wearing skins instead of clothes, hair probably down to his waist. Mark says he lived off of wild honey and locusts. (That means unfiltered raw honey from the comb. Maybe he dipped locusts into some of that.) Can’t you hear John’s family talking about him, “What’s happened to Johnny? He was always his own person, but now he looks like a wild man!”

I doubt John cared what people thought. He went into the wilderness to focus on God’s will for his life. Like his fellow Jews, he carried the words of famous prophets around in his head. He remembered the Prophet Isaiah’s words: See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you...the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight’ (Isaiah 40:3). John believed that he was that voice for his day. He didn’t express himself like Isaiah. No “prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,” from John. Instead he says, “Repent and be baptized!” leaving the subtleties to his predecessor.

What John and Isaiah did have in common was the predicament of their people. Though separated by hundreds of years, both prophets spoke to a nation in captivity. John’s Israel isn’t in a foreign land, but it is definitely living under pagan rule, as Israel had in Babylon. After more than 70 years of exile, Israel had adapted to Babylonian ways, values, and beliefs. Alien gods were pushing the great God of Israel aside.

John sees the same thing happening under the Romans. Along with their conquering legions the Romans brought legions of gods and goddesses. Their statues were displayed in public places...Jupiter, Juno, Mars, and Venus up on pedestals in front of public buildings. Their coins carried the image of the Emperor. John and Isaiah saw a people held under the thumbs of a superpower, being tempted by pagan values and glitz.

I wonder what they would think of our situation. Perhaps the seven deadly sins are a little old-fashioned, but aren’t Greed, Gluttony, Envy, Sloth, Pride, Lust, and Wrath well represented throughout our western culture? It wouldn’t take long to fill in appropriate examples for most, if not all, of them. And what about the wildernesses of drug addiction, violence, and poverty that plague the United States and other wealthy nations? Maybe the prophetic messages that came out of Babylon and Israel are appropriate for today.

To the people of Israel, so accommodated to the surrounding culture that they couldn’t find their way out, John says, “Get ready! The Lord is coming!” “You may not be able to find your way to God, but God is finding a way to you. Prepare yourselves!”

And how do we do that? John leaves no doubt: “Repent!” In the New Testament Greek that word means to change the way you think. In Hebrew it calls for even greater change: to turn your conduct, your will, and your heart around. In other words, your life! Isaiah may be more poetic: Every valley shall be lifted up, every mountain and hill made low,... but it’s the same idea. Repenting is like rearranging the whole landscape of your life.

Repentance is primary, but the prophets also preach forgiveness. Be baptized, said John, and God will forgive you. Isaiah promised that...all flesh shall see the salvation of God. That is their full message and our ultimate destination during Advent.

Advent is an opportune time to take John and Isaiah seriously. They are telling us to get ready because God is reaching out to our world. In fact, God is becoming one of us. The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:7-8).

As the Gospel of Mark tells us in its first verse, Advent is: The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Come, Lord Jesus. Come.
A special note from the Fondells

With the calling of Victor Greene as the new Youth and Young Adults pastor, we are preparing for their departure. Our last Sunday at ACP will be 7 January. We leave with full hearts and great memories, blessed beyond measure by the youth, young adults and entire experience of being part of the ACP family of faith. We've been especially blessed by Jake and Tricia Van Asten this autumn. Jake will continue to provide capable and steady leadership during the transition period as we wait for Victor's paperwork to be completed.

We are so grateful for God’s goodness in leading us to ACP. There are not enough words to express how meaningful this experience has been for us. We are confident that Victor will be a wonderful addition to the staff and that the students and young adults here will thrive under his leadership. Thank you for the love, warmth and support you have extended to us during this interim period. We will miss you all, especially the youth and young adults who have pulled out our youthful spirits and given us life and joy beyond measure. Thank you for surrounding us for these past 10 months. ACP is sealed in our hearts forever.

Looking for fellowship with other young adults, between 19 and 30 years old? Join the Young Adults group every Tuesday evening at 18h30, at the ACP. For more information, contact interimyouthpastor@acparis.org.

Sunday Women’s Fellowship
Sunday, 10 December
12h15-13h30, ACP

Come and celebrate Christ's birth! All women are welcome to join the women's fellowship in Kim Herr's apartment, accessible via the elevator or stairs. Joelle Benoliel will lead us in music. It'll be a fun, festive holiday time. Bring a snack to share if you can, but if not, join us anyway to chat, sing, and praise the Lord! Free childcare on the basement level.

Did you know you can follow the American Church in Paris on social media?

@AmChurchParis /AmericanChurchParis
Eight Lycee students and Tricia and Jake Van Asten attended the Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East (AICEME) Youth Conference at the beginning of November. Here’s what Henrik Berger had to say about the experience:

“The AICEME youth conference is held every autumn. The conference brings together high school students from youth groups in international churches like ACP around Europe for a few days of learning and fun. This year’s conference was held in Stockholm at the Immanuel Church. The theme was: Abide—in community, individually and in Christ. Over four days, we heard from three guest speakers, participated in small groups and seminars, and enjoyed lots of singing and dancing! The conference was also a great place to socialize and meet amazing people from different backgrounds through great games and events both in the church and around Stockholm.”

We are thankful that our students could participate in something like this, where they can be challenged in their faith, meet other students in similar situations, and grow closer as a youth group as well. Doug and Jodi were delighted that this group got to experience their former church and the beautiful city of Stockholm, Sweden.

And now it’s Christmas at ACP! Soon we’ll be decorating a beautiful Christmas tree in the catacombs, eating holiday treats and journeying toward the birth of Christ as we celebrate Advent and Christmas together. Here’s a look at what we’ll be doing in the month of December.

**Special events for December include:**

3 December: Looking at the themes of Justice and Family Matters.

10 December: Advent Stations: An interactive experience that will help all focus in on what’s truly important as we prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth later in the month.

17 December: Youth Christmas Party. Food. Games. White Elephant Gift Exchange. More details to come but plan to be part of this fun end-of-year celebration!

Sunday Youth group will resume on 7 January, and this will be Jodi and Doug’s last Sunday.

We’ve had a great season of experiencing a variety of fun times and interesting topics for growth. We were especially blessed to welcome Pastor Matt Canlis, as he came and shared after we watched his powerful film *The Pace of Being Known: Godspeed* ([www.livegodspeed.org](http://www.livegodspeed.org)). We highly recommend that you take time to watch this beautiful film. It’s a call to live more presently and to pursue our relationships with the priority of spending time with one another face to face. It urges us to slow down in order to more fully experience God. It was a great and challenging word for all of us who can easily get caught up in the crazy fast-paced world of Paris.

The semester is soon ending and we’ve already begun to say farewell to several of our young adults who are ending their time in Paris. This is always bittersweet as it’s never easy to bid farewell to people who have been journeying alongside of you and yet, we are also thankful for the people who God brings to ACP for whatever season of life they happen to find themselves experiencing. We know that come January, several newcomers will join us and we look forward to welcoming them as well!

**Here’s what December looks like for the Young Adults:**

5 December: We’ll join the Thurber Lecture for the talk on C.S.Lewis and the New Creation by Dr. Judith Wolfe.

12 December: Young Adults Christmas Party! 19h30 in the Thurber room. Come enjoy a festive end of the semester party together. This will be the final Young Adults Tuesday of the year.

Young Adults will resume on 9 January, and this will be Jodi and Doug’s final gathering with the group.
The Refugee Task Force makes recommendations to the Mission Outreach Committee on ways to motivate members of our congregation to help alleviate the refugee crisis in Paris. The task force is looking for new members. If you would like to join or see what we do, please contact Ursula Perrier at ursulaperrier@gmail.com.

Seeking the presence of God:

On Tuesday, 31 October, eight women from ACP began a five-day journey walking from the Tour de Saint Jacques in Paris to the Cathedral Notre Dame in Chartres, following the Chemin de Saint Jacques de Compostelle. Our small group was made up of diverse individuals: the hopeful newcomer, the reluctant comedian, the joy-filled millennial, the enthusiastic administrator, the uninhibited entrepreneur, the wise matriarch, the observant consultant and the steadfast team player. Different backgrounds, yet all wanting to step out of the busyness of life and make space to seek God’s presence.

The 103 km route, which takes a train only an hour to complete, took us through beautiful villages, newly plowed fields, forests, parks, along slow meandering rivers, and wooded areas full of pheasant. The first day was a challenge. It seemed an eternity before we could shed the crowds and noise, the hard pavement and roads of Paris. And maybe it was difficult to shed the thoughts of things we had left undone or worries we normally carry on our backs.

The second day was more enjoyable, sharing stories about our lives, joking about “life in the forest,” among other things, and getting acclimated to the pace of the group. But we all sensed something more challenging on the third day. We each found ourselves straining in different ways. For some it was the physical toll of blistered toes and aching muscles. For others it was more relational; living in close quarters exposed parts of ourselves that we would have possibly preferred to keep hidden: we were being, rather than seeming. We dragged ourselves into Rambouillet, putting a bit of distance between ourselves as we walked. Our dinner together was somber and our shared time in the evening, a bit more guarded. I went to bed wondering what tomorrow would hold.

We were all thankful for the shorter distance of day four. Heading for Epernon, the sun was shining on the most spectacular views of nature. We stopped for lunch beside a beautiful pond filled with ducks, which reflected the old church in the

Why? When reading about Kim’s plan to go from Paris to Chartres on the Camino, I was immediately enthusiastic to get on that journey, where the purpose, I imagined, was to simply dedicate every day to the Lord and find days of peace as well as fellowship with the other women.

Insight? In the beginning, it felt astonishingly silent from the Lord, while I struggled with my physical limits even more. But every day, my body improved, every day, my breathing improved, and every day, simple thankfulness improved that I was just able to make it, with the Lord watching over me. – A pilgrim

The Refugee Task Force
A pilgrimage to Chartres
by Kim Herr

distance. Initially dividing ourselves into two groups, we all came back together, squishing ourselves around a small picnic table, sharing our food and laughing together. It’s hard to resist an inviting table when Jesus is the host!

On our final day’s walk, the longest distance we’d cover, there was a hopeful anticipation that pushed us along through the rain and headwinds. I think there was a touch of sadness as well; our time together was drawing to a close. As the kilometers passed by and we saw the spires of Chartres Cathedral in the distance, our pace quickened and the laughter increased. We just needed to climb that final hill, because the church is, of course, built on the summit. Our destination was only a hundred meters away. And then, we had arrived!

Before entering the Cathedral we embraced one another, to share a thank you and congratulations. We had a celebratory dinner that night, knowing that the following day we would return to Paris. We woke up Sunday to a beautiful sunrise over Chartres. We had breakfast together and moved into a time of quiet, individual reflection as we walked the labyrinth. Then we gathered as the body of Christ and celebrated communion, remembering that Christ wants to accompany us on the journey, that we just need to take the time to invite him to join us.

While it was a shared pilgrimage, it was also very much an individual journey. We will each spend time unpacking all that we experienced. Each day offered its lessons of the beauty of nature, the peace of silence, the weariness of bodies, the determination of the will but most importantly, the wonderful grace and love of the Father who met each of us in our devotions, quiet moments and our group interactions.

I’m glad I didn’t take the fast train to Chartres. I don’t want to race to the next goal for the day, for the week, for the month, for the year. I’d like to slow down and focus on the journey itself. It really is all about the journey and Christ wants to be present with each step I take.

“Walking the Camino felt like an immense spiritual release and lightness. Though the road offered aches and pains, the physical act of walking it out helped me to focus on the beauty of God’s creation and release all my stress and worries to a God who offers the world to me. An incredible blessing that left me wanting more and planning my next pilgrimage!” – A pilgrim

God is with you in all that you do.

Genesis 21:22
ACP Christmas market
Saturday, 18 November, 11h-17h
by Kristie Worrel

This year’s Marché de Noel on Saturday, 18 November was a great success in every way! We had 40 artisan vendors and seven Mission Outreach groups participating in this all-day pre-holiday sale offering handmade goods, jewelry, Christmas cards, ceramic pottery, wreaths and Christmas decorations, knit wear, children’s clothes, specialty food items and International goods from around the world.

The ambiance was made especially festive by the Habitat for Humanity Marché Café where you could sit and enjoy a cozy and quaint hot coffee and delicious homemade baked goods or even toast to the season with a tasty mug of hot mulled wine. The Filipino Fellowship hosted another ACP renowned luncheon, which was a sellout hit. The day was made even more festive thanks to the ACP Christmas Carolers who graced us with a musical selection of traditional and favorite Christmas carols. The finale of the day was the drawing of the grand prize Tombola winners.

A huge thanks to all participants, supporters and especially to the many, many volunteers who gave of their time and talents to ensure that all went smoothly for this very special ACP event. The proceeds made from this successful event will go to supporting our many ACP local and global mission ministries. A HUGE MERCI à TOUS!

Love in a Box and the FML Food Drive

These projects are still underway and it’s not too late to participate! Donations and contributions are greatly needed for the Friday Mission Lunch Food Drive. Items we’re requesting and use every week include: pasta, rice, long-conservation milk, coffee, sugar cubes, olive oil, vinegar, mustard, napkins, sponges and liquid dish detergent. You can also still make a LOVE in a BOX gift which will go to children who would not otherwise receive a Christmas present this year. Instructions on what and how to pack your special gift box can be found at the Love in a Box table in the Theater the next two Sundays or at reception. The deadline for turning in boxes is Sunday, 10 December. We are so very grateful for your generosity and support! Thank you!

ACP Thanksgiving
by Daphne Elfferich

Over 200 people enjoyed ACP’s traditional American Thanksgiving Dinner on the evening of Saturday, 25 November, devouring 27 turkeys, 50 kilos of potatoes, loads of homemade stuffing and cranberry sauce, gallons of gravy, 16 pumpkin pies and 14 cheesecakes, among other taste treats!

A crew of about 40 volunteers prepared the beautifully decorated dining room, welcomed and served 190 adults in the theater and 20 children in the library, where kids had their own entertainment and activities schedule. Volunteers then took time to enjoy the meal themselves in the Thurber Room, which served as food staging area.

Finally 12 volunteers from Giving In Paris boxed up another 55 warm meals to distribute to the homeless on the streets of Paris that evening. There was much to be thankful for!
I spent two weeks in Ghana earlier this fall. That might not sound like a big deal to you. Trust me, it was.

I went because God told me that’s where he wanted me. Yes, literally. One morning a year ago. Let me just insert here that I have not only never been to Africa before, but never anywhere out of the ordinary. I’m a suburban WASP. Pushing 60. A middle-school teacher, heavy into planning and routine and the predictable. Not your typical “going to Ghana” material.

In light of the improbable mandate I had received, I turned to my friend Carolyn Bouazouni, who is liaison person for The Living Truth Foundation in Elmina, Ghana, run by Anna Cobbinah. Carolyn was enthusiastic and put Anna and me in touch. I also turned to my cousin, Rev. Dr. Peter de Vries, a pastor in Pennsylvania who has long-standing ties with Ghana. He not only was supportive but even arranged that we be there at the same time. The only difficulty was that he kept asking me what I wanted to do and I kept replying that I had no idea. I’m here to say that he is a master planner and a very patient man!

We spent a few days in Accra, two days in Elmina and Cape Coast, and the rest of our time in the Volta Region. I learned a few – too few! – words and hymns in Ewe. We worshipped at Evangelical Presbyterian churches and were also invited to attend a funeral. I loved that hymns are often accompanied by drums and other percussion instruments, and that dancing is a natural and integral part of any church service.

We toured the slave castle in Elmina and were allowed to visit the Ankaful Main Camp Prison thanks to Anna Cobbinah. My heart broke as I stood in the place where my Dutch ancestors imposed horrifically inhuman conditions on thousands of fellow men and women, all the while proclaiming their devotion to Christ.

I had the privilege of spending time at the E.P. Seminary in Peki, where Peter taught a full course and I led two English-language workshops. I discovered that having plans change, even when that went as far as having to make up course content more or less on the spur of the moment, can be totally fine and a lot of fun.

Peter’s connections opened doors for me at the Presbyterian Church of Ghana headquarters and the Ghana Prison Ministry, as well as University College and two primary/secondary schools in Ho. Everywhere, absolutely everywhere, we were told, “You are welcome.” This is not a catch-phrase, uttered mechanically as a greeting. It is a gracious invitation, extended unselfishly and lived out. People invariably made time to talk and listen. What a gift. What an example!!

It may be that God’s purpose has been fulfilled, that I just needed to get out of my comfort zone and into the unexpected. Or perhaps this is about building bridges and fostering relationships. Between schools, or choirs, or churches, or NGOs… And though I still think I’m an unlikely candidate, I feel hugely blessed by the opportunity and excited to see what’s next.

Serve the City Mission Project

Are you feeling the urge to help those less fortunate around you, but not sure how? Log on to facebook.com/servethecityparis. Here you will find great opportunities to a part of the Serve the City movement of volunteers, who are seeking to show compassion and kindness to the most vulnerable in our city.
Body of Christ: What’s up in Paris
by MaryClaire King

A selection of interesting events for Christians in and around Paris. All events are in French unless otherwise stated.

Media, truth and post-truth

This series of six conferences on narrative construction sponsored by the Protestant Temple d’Auteuil begins with a discussion on language and the construction of reality led by Pierre-Oliver Monteil, professor at EHESS, and a talk on the apocalypse or reconfiguring reality led by Patrice Rolin, Protestant pastor.

Saturdays, 2 & 16 December, 10h. Temple d’Auteuil. 53 rue Erlanger, Paris 75016. Donations to defray costs are accepted.

Founding texts: Historical or living?

A debate in the presence of Rabbi Delphine Horvilleur, Islamologist Rachid Benzine and Father Eric Morin. Revealed in history, founding texts derive meaning in the renewal of their reading over generations. To claim the Qur’an, the Bible or the Torah is to listen to a complex word that has had multiple interpretations throughout the centuries. How can we register the experience of the sacred in history without relativizing it? To make it bear fruit for our time, without perverting it? To interpret it without betraying it?


Pope Francis: A discussion with Dominique Wolton

Over the course of one year, Pope Francis met with Dominique Wolton 12 times. The result of these meetings is the book Politique et société. Dominique Wolton, Michel de Virville, and Fr. Jean-Marc Furnon will debate the main points of the book: peace and war, politics and religions, globalization and cultural diversity, fundamentalism and secularism, Europe and migrants, ecology, inequalities in the world, ecumenism and interreligious dialogue, the individual, the family, otherness, time, trust and joy.


Helping other Christians

"From East to West" by Jérémie Maillard (cello) and Nicolas Tulliez (harp), members of the Philharmonic Orchestra of Radio France.

Friday, 1 December, 20h. Eglise Saint Germain l'Auxerrois, 2 Place du Louvre, 75001 Paris. Free participation for the benefit of Eastern Christians.
What’s up in Paris

December event listings

by Karen Albrecht

It takes one to know one

Paris-born Julie Collas chucked in her legal career to concentrate on comedy, and created a one-hour, one-woman show caricaturing that most exquisite and exasperating of creatures: the female native of the French capital. "Oh my God, she’s Parisian!” strings together a series of sketches delivered in lusciously French-accented English, taking on everything from crackpot child-rearing methods to microscopic Parisian parking spaces, all in a breezy, accessible and refreshingly self-deprecating style.

Friday & Saturday evenings until 30 December, www.juliecollas.com

A year in the life

Titillatingly subtitled “année érotique,” the Musée Picasso's new show documents precisely one year in the life of the modern master, zooming in on his production from 1 January to 31 December 1932. Picasso famously said that art was just another way of keeping a journal, and the hundred-odd paintings, drawings, engravings, and sculptures on display demonstrate that his diary for that year positively overflowed with the witty, polymorphously perverse energy that characterized Picasso throughout his long and colorful life. It may not be your idea of sexy, but it’s hard not to be bowled over by the variety, the intensity, and the sheer creativity of it all.


Holy Land(s)

This winter, two very different Paris exhibitions are showcasing themes related to Christianity’s coexistence with other faiths. The Institut du Monde Arabe, which usually focuses on Islamic culture, is hosting "Oriental Christians: 2,000 Years of History," exploring the rich culture and artistic heritage of the Coptic, Assyro-Chaldean, Syriac, Armenian, Maronite, and other churches from around the Middle East. At the Musée de l’Immigration, a fascinating look at pilgrimage sites and other sacred places that are shared by Christians, Jews and Muslims alike. Moving photographs and other documents bear witness that a sense of the spiritual can transcend difference and divisiveness.


Artistic alchemy

French Post-Impressionist master Paul Gauguin is best known for his colorful oil paintings of idyllic South Seas scenes featuring lush vegetation and luscious nudes, but he was also an inveterate experimenter with other, highly varied media, techniques and subject matter. The “Gauguin the Alchemist” retrospective at the Grand Palais gathers some 200 top-quality works, including many iconic canvases but also Gauguin’s intriguing woodcarvings, sculpture, ceramics and fancifully decorated furniture.


Out of Africa

The early 20th-century Dadaist art movement thrived on madcap mash-ups of various art forms and artifacts, creating juxtapositions that challenged conventions and conventional wisdom. The "Dada Africa” show at the Orangerie, like Dadaism itself, hails from Zurich but draws on art from Africa and a wide range of other non-European sources. Arreting Dadaist works are displayed in company of the dramatic African masks, fetishes and statuettes and the uncannily graceful Asian sculptures that inspired them.


Percussive provocateurs

Need a break from the overheated intellectual hothouse of Paris culture? Come let off some steam with “Stomp.” The high-voltage troupe of drummer-dancers lives up to its name in a dizzying number of ways, beating out supercharged rhythms with trashcan lids, oil-drum stilts, match boxes, broomsticks and, yes, even the kitchen sink. It’s rousing, rambunctious and downright suspenseful, as you wonder just what they will come up with next. Best of all, absolutely no French skills required — and even those with no sense of rhythm whatsoever are sure to find themselves clapping along.

7-24 December, www.foliesbergere.com

ACP Spire, December 2017 13
Did you miss any of ACP’s Thurber Lectures this year? You can still enjoy our amazing speakers and discussions. The archived videos are available on the ACP website at acparis.org, under “Prayer & Learning.”

C.S. Lewis and images of new creation

Come to the Thurber lecture on 5 December, given by Judith Wolfe.

Many of C.S. Lewis’s stories – Narnia, Perelandra, The Great Divorce, Till We Have Faces – are inspired by images of new creation. We will be discussing what makes these images so rich and vibrant, and how they shape C.S. Lewis’s Christian outlook.

We will discuss the ideas – both religious and literary – that Lewis draws upon in crafting these images of new creation, and how they can inspire us, too, as we seek to shape our life and our world according to God’s promise.

Judith Wolfe is Professor of Philosophical Theology at the University of St Andrews, Scotland. She studied literature and philosophy at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and literature and then philosophical theology at Oxford. Before moving to St Andrews, she taught at Bard College Berlin and at St John’s College, Oxford. Her work is on Christian eschatology and on the interfaces between philosophy, theology and literature. She has a particular love for C.S. Lewis and the Inklings, on whom she has co-edited three books (C.S. Lewis and the Church, C.S. Lewis’s Perelandra: Reshaping the Image of the Cosmos, and C.S. Lewis and his Circle) and edits an academic journal, The Journal of Inklings Studies.

ACP Candlelight Christmas Concerts
Saturday 9 December, 17h and 20h

Children’s Lessons & Carols
10 December at the 11h & 13h30 services

Newtown Remembrance Service & Forum
Thursday 14 December, 18h

Christmas Eve services, Sunday 24 December
11h Traditional Service
16h Family Service
19h30 Candlelight Service
22h Candlelight Service

Remember, you can order a Poinsettia plant to decorate the Sanctuary, and take it home after the Christmas Eve services (20 euros).
Here’s your first annual update on the Christmas Day movie, a tradition in many families, whether at the cinema or in the living room. Everyone has their favorites. I’ve never quite understood the appeal of *A Christmas Story*. (“You’ll shoot your eye out, kid.”) Give me *Die Hard* any Christmas Day. (“Now I have a machine gun. Ho ho ho.”)

New English-language releases with holiday themes are generally scarce in Paris cinemas. This year there is a grand total of one: *A Bad Moms Christmas*, a vulgar comedy sequel that the Rotten Tomatoes critics website describes as having twice the moms and half the laughs.

For French speakers or those with French-speaking children, the choice is a bit wider. *The Star* (L’Etoile de Noël), a US animated feature showing here only in French, had a lukewarm critical reception but French audiences seem to enjoy it. There is also a new animated feature starring the Moomins, the balloon-like creations of Finnish illustrator Tove Jansson: *Les Moomins attendent Noël*.

In the realm of recent animated features without a specific Christmas theme, things look better. The new Pixar, *Coco*, has been almost universally praised. So has *Paddington 2*, sequel to 2014’s *Paddington*, a live-action film with a computer-animated hero winningly voiced by British actor Ben Whishaw and accompanied on his marmalade-flavored adventures by a who’s who of UK stage and screen. (Reviews indicate it’s not necessary to have seen the original.) Both these new releases are guaranteed to keep the grown-ups amused as well.

Two other movies for the whole family are being released near the holidays. *Wonder* by Stephen Chbosky is based on R.J. Palacio’s popular book about a young boy with a disfigured face who gradually wins over his schoolmates. And *Kedi* by Ceyda Torun is an award-winning Turkish documentary (likely with a French narration and/or subtitles) about the street cats of Istanbul.

Another Christmas tradition, especially popular among teens, is the blockbuster, usually unrelated to the holiday except by date. This year’s, opening 13 December, is *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*.

Those who prefer to rent a film online or at the local video store have a much wider choice of Christmas fare. Some of the best-known – and best – holiday offerings, while they may have a reputation now as feel-good movies, are in fact far more bittersweet, from Frank Capra’s postwar classic *It’s a Wonderful Life* to the mixed blessings of Richard Curtis’s *Love Actually* (2003). And holiday-themed wartime dramas such as *A Midnight Clear* (1992, set during the Battle of the Bulge, about a German surrender going horribly wrong) and *Joyeux Noël* (2005, based on the Christmas “truce” of 1914) can be downright depressing.

Unabashedly cynical modern crowd-pleasers such as *Home Alone* (1990) and *Bad Santa* (2003) stand in marked contrast to the simpler sentimentality of earlier times, which brought us *The Shop Around the Corner* (1940), *Christmas in Connecticut* (1945), *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947) and *White Christmas* (1954) – as well as the 1944 musical *Meet Me in St. Louis*, a series of seasonal vignettes including Judy Garland singing possibly the world’s saddest Christmas song, “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” thus driving little Margaret O’Brien to paroxysms of tears and a frenzy of snowman smashing.

And oh, all right, if I have to pick one of the many, many versions of *A Christmas Carol*, let it be the Muppet one (1992). God bless us, every one!

The movie discussion group meets on 14 December at 7:30pm in room G2. The films to see beforehand are *Thelma* (Norway’s submission to the Academy Awards), the above-mentioned *Coco* and *Paddington 2*, and *God’s Own Country* (Seule la terre). For more information: movies@acparis.org.
Alpha update
by Lisa Prevett

After 10 weeks of fabulous food and great discussion, the fall Alpha Course is drawing to a close. Back in September, we welcomed guests from our ACP family and the wider city of Paris with the invitation to “come and see” what life with faith is all about. For the past three months, the leaders and guests have journeyed together, looking at the basics of the Christian faith and asking some of life’s big questions. We’ve shared some exciting, honest and profound conversations and have seen God working in people’s lives, with some guests rediscovering their faith and others drawing close to Jesus for the very first time.

Some of the guests found Alpha via the ACP website or saw the giant banner hanging outside the church. For others, someone handed them an invite and encouraged them to come along and ask their questions. For the first time, ACP will be running consecutive Alpha courses — you no longer need to wait a whole year to come on the course or invite someone along...because Alpha will be back with the Launch Party on 11 January.

As we enter the New Year and start to think about our resolutions for 2018, why not make Alpha part of your new year’s resolutions? You could commit to praying for the course or helping out in the kitchen or as part of the welcome team. And you could even extend an invite to someone you know. We all know someone who has questions about life and faith but it isn’t always easy to discuss our faith with family, friends and colleagues. Giving them an Alpha invite and personally inviting them along to the Alpha Course is one of the easiest ways to reach out and give someone you care about the opportunity to come and discover more about God.

After the free Launch Party on 11 January at 19h30, the course will run weekly from Thursday 18 January, with a meal at 19h00 followed by a video talk and small group discussions.

Over 29 million people around the world have done Alpha – who will you invite to come and join the adventure?

For more information, please contact alpha@acparis.org. Details about the Launch Party and the course are available via the website at acparis.org and our social media channels.
For unto us a child
by Alison Benney

The stained-glass windows of the American Church were designed to tell a chronological tale. They circle the upper story of the Sanctuary, starting at the northeast corner with the patriarchs and then the prophets, and then go right into the Christmas story with the third window.

It contains standing figures of the angel of the Annunciation, Mary and the Child, the shepherds and the Magi. In the medallions below are depicted respectively the Annunciation, the Holy Family, the adoring shepherds, and the gift-bringing Magi. This window was assembled by the Lorin workshops of Chartres.

Gabriel
Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.
Luke 1: 30-32

Mary’s song (extract)
My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
Luke 1:46-49

The shepherds
Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.
Luke 2: 10-12

The magi
When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
Matthew 2: 10-11
5th anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy

Thursday 14 December

18h: Remembrance Service in the Sanctuary of the American Church in Paris

19h: Panel discussion, Public Safety and Firearms

Speakers:
- Christopher Dickey, Author and Journalist
- Celeste Schenck, President of the American University of Paris
- Mark Ulfers, President of the American School of Paris
- Jeffrey Hawkins, Director of the American Library of Paris and retired American ambassador

By video from San Francisco:
- Robyn Thomas, Executive Director of the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
- Alexander Blumrosen, Democrats Abroad France (gun violence working group)

Join us at the American Church, 65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris (63 bus, métro Alma-Marceau or Invalides).
Contact with questions: Kay Rolland, at kay.rolland@gmail.com

Sunday Worship

09h00: Traditional Service, with weekly communion

11h00: Traditional Service, with choirs, children’s worship service; communion first Sunday of the month

13h30: Contemporary Service, with children’s worship service, and live band accompanying sung worship
News from our missionary

Patti Lafage

with Rafiki, in Uganda

Rafiki Foundation’s two missions, as I’m always reminding ACP friends, are to help Africans know God and to help them raise their standard of living. The Rafiki Widows’ Program aims to do both.

Rafiki helps organize groups of needy women within our various local African church partner denominations who meet regularly to study the Bible and to teach, learn and produce high-quality handmade craft items. We order and purchase selected items for sale in one of our two shops located at Home Office in Florida and over the Internet. We purchase directly from the women who in turn bring grateful testimonies of how they are able to pay children’s school fees, install electricity or glass windows in their home, and then purchase craft materials for the next order.

Earlier this month, 18 ladies representing five different Rafiki Uganda church partner widows’ craft maker groups met for a semi-annual leaders’ Bible study training day. We reviewed the foundational biblical principles of salvation by Scripture alone, by Faith alone, by Grace alone, through Christ alone, and glory to God alone. We learned and practiced the ACTS pattern for prayer: adoration, confession, thanks, and supplication. We demonstrated Rafiki Bible teaching methods using lessons from study material prepared especially for Rafiki’s use in Africa. The ladies testified to the sad truths we know: the multitude of self-styled “Christian” pastors who draw large followings and personal wealth by preaching the “prosperity” gospel and distributing “healing” water. Sola Scriptura.

After fellowship over a lunch of sweet potatoes with ground nut sauce, spicy cooked cabbage and fresh garden pineapple, the ladies displayed some of their products brought that day to fill Rafiki orders. They enthusiastically traded secrets on places to find the best bargains on materials, then bought, sold and bartered among the group.

These 18 ladies departed with fresh ideas and renewed energy to continue leading the Rafiki Bible Study in their home church groups where they will collectively impact about 80 additional women.

Rafiki missionaries have been greatly encouraged by the turn-out and the highly active participation as we led the meeting. It was a joyful day. Sola Deo Gloria!

ACP Spire, December 2017 19
What’s going on?
Tune in to ACP Today radio

Have you ever listened to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show? Join us on Mondays at 20h45 – this month on 4 and 18 December. The 45-minute program is an exciting and inspiring mix of music, interviews, sermon highlights, and discussion on hot topics.

We’re at 100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante, and we broadcast especially for friends who may be housebound or who would simply like more devotional time on a Monday evening. Don’t like the radio? Listen online at http://frequenceprotestante.com or tune in at your leisure via the ACP website, at www.acparis.org/ACPtoday, or the ACP mobile app.

Friends and visitors, what better way to keep in touch with the ACP family and learn about the latest ACP news? All our shows are downloaded to our website, at www.acparis.org/acptoday. Faith Talk from Paris – it’s a kind of souvenir that never gets old.

If you have any questions, comments, ideas or would like to contribute to the show, be sure to contact us at acptoday@acparis.org.

The Movie Discussion Group
19h30, Thursday 14 December
Room G2

This month’s movies to see beforehand: Thelma, Coco, Paddington 2, and God’s Own Country (Seule la terre). See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion.
Contact: movies@acparis.org

The Heritage Society

The American and Foreign Christian Union (AFCU), our US partner in ministry, has established endowment funds to help sustain our long-term ministry. Gifts from estates are a fundamental way these endowments are funded. If you would like to participate in growing these endowment funds, please contact the AFCU at AFCUHeritage@AFCUBridge.org
Prayer Chain Team

Do you have a prayer request for our Prayer Team?
If so, please forward your prayer by email to prayerrequests@acparis.org.
Your prayer request will remain strictly private and confidential.
Prayer is powerful. We are here for you.

If you would like someone to pray with you after services, a Prayer Team member is available.
Meet in the chapel next to the theater.

Curious about Christianity?
Got questions about the meaningfulness of life?
You’re not the only one.

Find out more at the Alpha Launch Party
19h30, Thursday 11 January
American Church in Paris, 65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris

Alpha is a 10-week course of exploring different aspects of the Christian faith.
No question is too simple or too tough, and everyone is welcome. For more information, contact alpha@acparis.org connect with us on Facebook or see our website at www.acparis.org

Would you like to propose articles, write, proofread, do layout or take photos? Contact Alison Benney at Spire@acparis.org.
Note: Deadline for the January edition of the Spire is Thursday, 28 December.
## Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Fellowship</td>
<td>Friday 1 Dec</td>
<td>From 20h</td>
<td>email contact for location</td>
<td>Daphne 30plusfellowship @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Fellowship</td>
<td>1 Dec</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</td>
<td>Monday 4 Dec</td>
<td>20h45-21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurber Lecture - Dr. Judith Wolfe will be speaking on “C.S. Lewis and Images of New Creation.”</td>
<td>Thursday 5 Dec</td>
<td>19h meal;</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Tim Vance associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurber Lecture - Dr. Judith Wolfe will be speaking on “C.S. Lewis and Images of New Creation.”</td>
<td></td>
<td>19h45 program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</td>
<td>Friday 8 Dec</td>
<td>10h-14h</td>
<td>The American Cathedral</td>
<td>If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel fridaymissionlunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</td>
<td>8 Dec</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACP MOPS (mothers of children ages newborn-18)</td>
<td>Friday 8 Dec</td>
<td>10h-12h</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mops@acparis.org">mops@acparis.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACP MOPS (mothers of children ages newborn-18)</td>
<td>8 Dec</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advent Hymn Sing</td>
<td>Friday 8 Dec</td>
<td>18h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advent Hymn Sing</td>
<td>8 Dec</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writers’ Group</td>
<td>Saturday 9 Dec</td>
<td>14h30 - 16h30</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td>Tendayi Chirawu <a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candelight Christmas Concerts</td>
<td>Saturday 9 Dec</td>
<td>17h &amp; 20h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candelight Christmas Concerts</td>
<td>9 Dec</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lessons and carols led by Children’s Worship</td>
<td>Sunday 10 Dec</td>
<td>11h service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lessons and carols led by Children’s Worship</td>
<td>10 Dec</td>
<td>13h30 service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Fellowship</td>
<td>Sunday 10 Dec</td>
<td>12h15-13h30</td>
<td>Herr apartment</td>
<td>Kim Herr <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Fellowship</td>
<td>10 Dec</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for turning in Love in the Box donations</td>
<td>Sunday 10 Dec</td>
<td></td>
<td>Love in the Box table Theater</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for turning in Love in the Box donations</td>
<td>10 Dec</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(please check [www.acparis.org/whatson](http://www.acparis.org/whatson) for updates and weekly schedules)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Newtown (Sandy Hook elementary school) tragedy remembrance Service</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 14 Dec</td>
<td>18h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Forum “Public Safety and Firearms” and light refreshment</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 14 Dec</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite <a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Movie Discussion Group**
Movie selection: *Thelma, Coco, Paddington 2*, and *God's Own Country (Seule la terre)*
See any or all at your leisure; join the group for discussion. | Thursday 14 Dec | 19h30 | Room G2 | Rebecca Brite movies@acparis.org |
| **ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show**
Tune in for inspiring music and interviews. | Monday 18 Dec | 20h45-21h30 | | 100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante |
| **Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner**
Fellowship and discussion on topics such as raising bicultural/bilingual children and cultural differences. Bring a dish to share. | Friday 22 Dec | 20h | Thurber Room | Monica Bassett & Anja Wyss multicultural@acparis.org |
| **Christmas Eve Worship Services**
**Traditional Service**
(note: no 9h and 13h30 services this day) | Sunday 24 Dec | 11h | | |
| **Family Service** | | 16h | | |
| **Musical Prelude**
**Candlelight Service** | | 19h | | |
| **Musical Prelude**
**Candlelight Service** | | 19h30 | | |
| **Cookie Reception** | | 21h30 | | |
| **Christmas Holidays**
Church building closed. | Monday 25 Dec - Saturday 30 Dec | | | |
| **New Year’s Eve Worship Services**
**Traditional Service, weekly communion**
**Traditional Service**
**Contemporary Service** | Sunday 31 Dec | 9h | | |
| | | 11h | | |
| | | 13h30 | | |
| | | Sanctuary | | |

Looking for help with your French or your English language skills? Join the **ACP Conversation Course** every Thursday night, from 18h-19h30, at the ACP. Just show up. Or, for more info, contact: Haig Gorton at haiggorton@yahoo.com
Christmas

4th Sunday of Advent | 24 December
Traditional Worship at 11h00
No Children’s Worship

Christmas Eve Worship | 24 December
Family Christmas Eve Worship at 16h00
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 19h30
  prelude music @ 19h00
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 22h00
  prelude music @ 21h30

25-30 December
Church Office Holiday Closure

New Years Eve | 31 December
Traditional Worship at 9h00 & 11h00
Contemporary Worship at 13h30