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Mark your calendars

Christmas Fair
Saturday 18 November

Thanksgiving Dinner
Saturday 25 November

Christmas Concert
Saturday 9 December

Would you like to propose articles, write, proofread, do layout or take photos? Contact Alison Benney at Spire@acparis.org.  
Note: Deadline for the December/January edition of the Spire is Thursday, 23 November.
Thoughts from
The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

This month is full of important holidays for the church. The first of course is 1 November, All Saints’ Day, which reminds us on this 500th Reformation Anniversary season of Martin Luther’s emphasis on the “priesthood of all believers.” Secondly, this is the month for the American holiday celebrating Thanksgiving. We will be having a special service of worship for all on Thanksgiving Day, the 23rd of November at 12h15, then later are welcoming the American University of Paris students and faculty and administration for their annual Thanksgiving dinner in the sanctuary. We will also be hosting our own Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, the 25th of November, so buy your tickets after worship services on Sunday, as every year dinner tickets are sold out!

Lastly, the 26th of November is really two special days in one: It is both Christ the King Sunday, the end of the liturgical calendar and a celebration that, in the end, Christ rule will prevail in all peace and love. It will also be our Stewardship Commitment Sunday, remembering that all that we are and all that we have is but a gift from God’s hand. During worship we will dedicate our lives, our time, talent, and treasure to advancing the Kingdom of God here in Paris and around the world.

While all of this is going on, I have been having a weird reformation going on inside of me as a Reformed pastor and theologian... I spent significant time over Reformation Sunday weekend in Chartres enjoying a dedication ceremony for Jill Geoffrion’s new book, Visions of Mary: Art, Devotion, and Beauty at Chartres Cathedral. How ironic that my soul is being fed at one of the oldest Roman Catholic cathedrals in France by a lecture and new book about Mary. God does have a sense of humor!

What struck me in the book were two images of Mary. The first was at the crucifixion, where there is the depiction of the scene in John 19:26-27 where Jesus says from the cross to Mary, “Woman, here is your son,” and to John, “Here is your mother.” “And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.” The church has traditionally understood this verse as Jesus giving Mary not only to John but to all disciples who follow him. Indeed, Mary is an example to us all of welcoming Jesus into our lives and loving him with all our heart, mind, body and soul.

The second image is that of the assumption of Mary. It is a central sculpture in many cathedrals and is meant to inspire us to be united with Christ as Mary his mother was! Would that we Protestants might long for Christ like Mary does, opening our arms, our hearts, and our minds to receive him and be taken completely by him?

It was Stanely Hauerwas, theologian emeritus from Duke Theological Seminary, who wrote recently that the main thrust of the Reformation was “the recovery of the centrality of Christ for making sense of why Christians are not at home in this world. That emphasis turned out to be the overriding insight that shaped the work of Vatican II, meaning Catholics have overcome the major thrust of the Reformation.” Now, I feel we are all “catholics” in that we are all part of the holy catholic (universal) church, and that we need one another to keep from the heresy of thinking we alone are the Body of Christ.

Perhaps strangely, I believe therefore we are called in this month to learn from Mary, to give thanks for the many blessings we have received from the diversity of the Body of Christ, to remember that all the saints have gifts to share, and that God’s ultimate reign of love and grace will arrive as we continue the reformation by more fully giving ourselves to Jesus! So, Happy Thanksgiving Stewardship Reformation for All the Saints!

In Christ,

Scott Herr

ACP Spire, November 2017 3
**Bible readings for November**

1 November All Saints Day
Revelations 7:9-17:
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

5 November All Saints Sunday
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20;
Psalm 19
Phil 3:4b-14;
Matthew 21:33-46

12 November 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23: 1-12

19 November 24th Sunday after Pentecost
Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123 or 76
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew. 25:1-13

26 November Christ the King Sunday
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25: 31-46

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**Sunday Women's Fellowship**

**Jurie Ane Feleo**

Sunday 19 November: ACP member Jurie Ane Feleo will speak about her faith journey and how it led her to serve the homeless and needy of Paris. Jurie Ane founded Serve the City’s Paris branch and currently leads the breakfast/sandwich ministry at ACP. She plays the bass guitar with the band at the contemporary service, has worked with youth and young adult ministries and has been part of the Alpha Course leadership team. Jurie Ane says that both her conversion and calling to serve the homeless happened during worship at ACP, and she is excited to share her story.

**Sunday 19 November, 12h15-13h30, Thurber room.** All women welcome for a time of fellowship, food, and conversation. Free childcare available on courtyard level downstairs.
Zombies, North Korea and Donald Trump… What do these three things have in common? These were the first three responses to this question that I asked at our All Church Fall Retreat, “What words come to mind when you hear the word APOCALYPSE?” Yikes.

How about you? What words come to YOUR mind?

Clearly the most common view is death, destruction and the end of the world. But the word “apocalypse” actually means, “to unveil or reveal,” hence the English name for the last book of the Bible, Revelation. And what is revealed? Jesus. And what does Jesus reveal? The truth. So we are looking less for secret knowledge about the end of the world and more for Jesus’ character and what he reveals about our world and us.

This is the first refreshing piece of the Book of Revelation. It’s about Jesus and not a zombie apocalypse!

Secondly, there are multiple images of God drawing close to earth, close to humanity, close to us. And with this closeness is an invitation to participate in Jesus’ work of making all things new. As another person on the retreat noted, we are invited to be co-creators with Christ.

In the letter to the church in Laodicea (in modern-day Turkey), Jesus describes their community as lukewarm. Laodicea was located between two cities, one with hot springs (that could heal the body) and one with cold mountain spring water (which was thirst-quenching and refreshing). But Laodicea had neither, so when they piped in water from these sources the hot water was no longer hot and the spring water was no longer cold. It was lukewarm.

This meant that the church in this city was like their water. They were neither refreshing nor healing. But then... Jesus is pictured as standing and knocking at the door of this community. In other words, Jesus is close and with this closeness comes the possibility for us to become a people who are refreshing and healing.

So the natural question is this, “what might it look like for ACP to be a healing and refreshing community?” What might it look like for us to be active participants in Jesus’ work of healing the nations?

The third way that the Book of Revelation can be refreshing is that we are invited to reconsider our preconceived images of God. In the culture of the Roman Empire (or any rich and powerful nation in human history) the main assumption was that peace on earth would come from those with the power and courage to wield the sword. And for many the sword-wielding God is the God often depicted in the Book of Revelation. But contrary to popular belief this book is actually trying to turn that violence upon its head.

Consider this image... the lion of the tribe of Judah has conquered and is worthy to open the contents of a sealed scroll, which contains the truth about God’s character. BUT then John (the author) turns to look at this fierce beast and instead sees a lamb that was slain. This is the key to the Book of Revelation. God will deal with evil not like a violent lion, but through the self-sacrificial love of the lamb (Jesus).

Last, the Book of Revelation is refreshing because in it Jesus is inviting us to come out of hiding. “To come out of hiding” is, after all, the meaning behind the Greek word for truth (aletheia).

Two things can happen when we come out of hiding. One, what needs to be healed can be healed. What needs to be refreshed can be refreshed. And two, when we come out of hiding our unique gifts, qualities and characters that have been in hiding can be unleashed upon the world for our own good and the good of others.

Yikes... that’s maybe too much refreshing. Just know that Jesus is refreshing us and our world by his close presence, his character, and his compelling invitation to come out of hiding and become active participants in his work of making all things new.
Thurber Lecture series

Please join us for the Thurber lectures. They take place at the American Church in Paris, in the Thurber room. All are welcome to a light meal at 19h, before the presentation which starts at 19h45 and ends at 21h15.

Astrobiology

Come to the Thurber lecture on 16 November, given by Anne Marie Reijnen. Astrobiology is the quest for life in the Universe and the study of life from a planetary perspective; it is a new scientific field based on the collaboration between different “hard sciences” such as astronomy, geology, and biology. When it raises questions of meaning and purpose, the confrontation with theology becomes indispensable and stimulating. We will discuss the new meaning of the ancient theme of the plurality of inhabited worlds. Finally, we will ask: What do we mean by the question "Are we alone in the universe?"

Anne Marie Reijnen (b.1957 in Utrecht) is a Protestant theologian. In 2015-2016, she was in residence at the Centre for Theological Inquiry in Princeton (New Jersey) to participate in the "Inquiry on the Societal Implications of Astrobiology," funded by NASA. She currently holds the Kairos Chair for Ecumenical theology at the Catholic University in Paris, after several years of ministry in the parish and of teaching as the professor for Systematic theology at the FUTP in Brussels. Dr. Reijnen is the past President of the French-speaking Paul Tillich Society and has been a commissioner of Faith and Order (WCC). Since 2011 she is a member of the Groupe des Dombes.

Thursday 16 November: Light dinner at 19h, presentation from 19h45 to 21h15.


Sharing our bounty

This year we are pleased to partner again with the group Giving in Paris, to supply Thanksgiving meals to the homeless of Paris. Last year we were approached by this group of expats who were looking for a way to distribute such a meal on or around the holiday. The resulting project was a blessing to all. ACP prepared our traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings for our annual dinner, but also made extra portions to be handed out that evening. Giving in Paris augmented the meal with fresh fruit, baguettes, and Halal turkeys for the homeless Muslim recipients. Each package was carefully boxed with the food, utensils, napkins, and a Thanksgiving prayer translated into three languages.

2 Corinthians 9:11: You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.
Reflections on returning to the ACP

by the Rev. Lewis Poag
Visiting Pastor

It is now three weeks since our return to Paris and the ACP. It has been a whirlwind, with a new job (Visiting Pastor), new colleagues, new living quarters, new church life, and a changed neighborhood and city. I would like to share some of my reflections about these experiences in this issue of the Spire, and in the coming months.

Let’s start with the job. First, I think that creating the position of Visiting Pastor was a wise one. My earlier pastoral experience here involved frequent wedding services as the Associate Pastor, and later as the Sr. Pastor. They took a lot of time, which meant giving less attention to other aspects of ministry that needed thought and energy. So I’m happy that our regular ACP staff can focus on the variety of ministries for which they are responsible, and leave the weddings to us VP’s. But what does this new wedding ministry involve? Now, with more than 20 weddings under my belt, I can give an informed account.

ACP’s wedding ministry involves more people than just the couples we marry. Our Wedding Coordinator, Emma Barton, puts in hours of time scheduling wedding and renewal services. She also prepares customized copies of the ceremonies and maintains supplies of Bibles (in several languages), wedding certificates, unity candles, and informative DVDs about the American Church. The Bibles include personalized messages to the couples from the visiting pastors. These are given to them following the service, along with a signed certificate, the candle used in the service and the DVD. Emma works with several local agencies as well as private individuals to make arrangements for each wedding. The church receptionist and other staff members are also involved in making the wedding experiences successful.

At every wedding or renewal service Fred Gramann plays the organ. Some of the music is requested by the couples, which Fred incorporates with his choices, and matches it all with what is happening in the service itself. His efforts are seamless, surrounding all of us with beautiful music, whether walking down the aisle, or lighting the unity candle. After thousands of weddings, Fred still keeps things fresh.

Flowers are also part of each wedding. The number of services make it impossible to provide fresh flowers each day. Instead, attractive artificial bouquets are in place on the pews, along with altar arrangements that, together, brighten the sanctuary. The visiting pastors, with much help from the wedding coordinator, are responsible for putting the flowers up and taking them down, depending on what other uses are being made of the sanctuary that day. We also help with the upkeep of champagne glasses, and occasionally are required to properly dispose of the left-over bubbly (someone has to do it.) If couples are showered with rose petals, we help sweep those up as well.

But enough of the nitty-gritty wedding duties. What stirs the hearts of the visiting pastors are the people we are serving. They are largely young couples, but a number of older ones seek renewals. All come to us looking for a meaningful experience of joyful commitment. They are already legally married, so we have the privilege of celebrating the loving spirit that brought them together, and will continue to be part of their lives. The unique individuals who present themselves in each ceremony show genuine love for each other (often expressed with tears from groom and bride) and in the gratitude they offer following the ceremony. My guess is that, like me, all VPs are moved by their experiences with these couples.

Thanks to Doug Fondell for his early coaching, to Emma, Scott, and all of those who have made it possible to serve the church in this meaningful way. We are most happy to be among you again.

Lewis and Pat

Discoveries living in Paris

Can you believe that there are black sheep abiding in the heart of Paris? (Not the human kind.) Pat and I couldn’t either. But check out the photos and you will see what we saw in a little park near Les Invalides.

- Lewis and Pat
What does it mean to truly follow Christ out from the shelter of what we’ve known as comfortable and into the great unknown? How do we walk this out when the rubber hits the road? How do we even recognize God’s character when life appears to be going in the opposite direction of what we had hoped for? How do we take this into the real world and truly be His hands and feet in relation to others?

These are just a few of the deeper questions facing our young adults today.

To help bridge the gap, we want to attempt to help shed light on these questions through a spiritually rich evening of deep, worshipful song and prayer in the Catacombs on Tuesday, 7 November at 19h30. Lisa Prevett, our interim youth pastors Jodi and Doug, Nathalie Raynal and I have worked together to form and shape what we hope will be a very encouraging and enriching time of worship for our young adults of ACP.

In planning for the evening, we wanted to address several areas of importance in the Christian life including praise, attributes of God, and action just to name a few. Our hope is to create an evening which inspires an encounter with the Holy Spirit, prayerful reflection, and motivation to carry out into the world the heart of God and all that that entails.

A focused flow for the evening will carry us through these topics, incorporating song, relevant scripture readings and guided prayer at various points. We will also have moments of special music as our very own Lara Caister ministers to us on the soothing strings of her violin and Lisa Prevett blesses us with flute and song.

We are looking forward to it and appreciate your prayers for the evening!

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The Council of the American Church in Paris requests the presence of all voting members of the ACP at a special congregational meeting.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive the final report of the Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adult Ministries Search Committee and to vote on their recommendation.

Please plan to attend this meeting, but if you cannot be present, make sure that your vote counts by filling out the proxy form that you will find as an insert in the Sunday bulletin and return it to the Council Secretary’s mailbox at Reception.
After a break for the Toussaint holidays, Sunday afternoon youth gatherings resume on 5 November. We're together every Sunday from 15h to 17h in the catacombs and gym of ACP so if you are in Collège or Lycée, please join us.

Here is an updated look at what we’ll be talking about in the coming month:

Friendships, Who Are You?, Family Matters, and Justice. In addition to our discussions, there will be dodgeball, Doug games, and other ways to have fun together. As always, there’s a snack! Thanks to the parents who supply this week after week.

Parents: We have a special opportunity for the parents of our teenagers. Please set aside Sunday afternoon, 19 November from 15h to 17h, for your own gathering. Denise Dampierre will be leading a conversation on how to communicate more effectively with your teenager. It promises to be a great time of learning and insight, all the while helping the parents of our teens connect with one another as well.

Special events for November include:

10-11 November, 20h-08h00: The Lock-in! Cost is 5€ for all-night fun and games.

18 November, Marché de Noel at ACP: Youth are responsible for the book sale. We will need help on Friday night, 17 November as well as all day Saturday, 18 November, so please plan to set aside some time to help with this important fundraising event for the church.

PLEASE NOTE: we are no longer able to accept any book donations. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

In October, we had a great hike to Fontainbleau - some of us visited the Chateau, some wandered through the woods, and then we met up for a nice walk through the gardens back to the train. Always good to get away from the city and soak in the beauty in nature that surrounds us!

Here's a look at what's happening in November. We meet Tuesdays from 19h30-21h15 in the Catacombs on the lower level of ACP.

7 November: Special evening of worship and prayer led by Sarah Elum and others from our young adults groups. Take advantage of this opportunity to connect with God and others through music, singing, and prayer.

14 November: Do we try so hard to live the perfect life, pretending to be something we are not, that we miss out on how to truly live?

21 November: What do we do when there aren't nice, neat answers?

28 November: Why do we overlook the feminine characteristics of God?

All young adults (ages 18-30) are welcome to join us.

Plan to attend ACP’s Marché de Noel at ACP on Saturday, 18 November.

Be sure and buy tickets for ACP’s Thanksgiving Dinner to be held on Saturday, 25 November. Tickets are available on Sundays and Tuesday nights.
A few weeks ago, I dropped by the American Cathedral on a Friday morning to deliver a few things to Kristie Worrel for the upcoming Marché de Noël (held at the ACP on November 18). What a hum of activity there was in the kitchen! Smiling volunteers were serving a large crowd of guests at the Friday Mission Lunch, held every Friday, rain or shine, at the American Cathedral.

Among the volunteers, I recognized Linda Crichton, a woman I have known for years and with whom I spoke regularly when I worked in the Annie Vallotton Christian Lending Library. She was very happy to be serving. When I was asked about writing an article for the Spire, I immediately thought of interviewing Linda.

I wondered why she had chosen to serve at the Friday Mission Lunch. She told me that she had heard of the FML and came in one day to investigate. She was impressed by the number of delicious, nourishing meals prepared on a small budget, and she was awed by the amazing team effort in place to produce a good hot meal for the homeless. “People in Paris like to eat out,” she told me. “It’s moving to see them chat and wait to see what they will be served. And many of these people don’t know where their next meal is coming from.”

So Linda joined up. She found that the FML team is well-organized and close-knit. She loves working under the “traffic control of Kristie Worrel and Italo Marchini,” who come faithfully to the Cathedral every Friday. Everyone does a job, and if there is a need for something to be done, one of the volunteers who is free immediately takes over that task. Before serving the guests, the team gathers to say this prayer together:

“Bless, O Lord, this food to our use, and ourselves to your service. And make us mindful of the needs of others, for Your love’s sake. Amen.”

The volunteers then serve the women guests first, followed by the men.

Before Linda became a regular at the FML, she worked in the British Embassy for 30 years...and she didn't like cooking! Inspired by her work at the FML, she has bought four cookery books, and her UK family is simply amazed. With a little effort, Linda is excited to be able to serve good food. At the FML and at home, Linda cooks to nourish guests and most of all, to serve God. “It is so satisfying,” she says with joy.

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.
It’s the time of the year when we’re still able to enjoy an occasional 20+Celsius sunny day while witnessing the tree leaves turning into beautiful colors and we try to catch that last warm ray of sunlight before putting on our winter coats. It is also this time of the year we celebrate our annual 200-seat Thanksgiving Dinner!

The event starts at 17h30 in the church theater on Saturday, 25 November.

ACP will provide a traditional American Thanksgiving meal, with roasted turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, green beans and a salad, finishing with a choice of pumpkin pie or cheesecake.

One glass of red or white wine is included. Additional wine costs 3 euros per glass or 10 euros per bottle. Water, juice, coffee, and tea will be provided free.

Children will have the option of eating with their parents, or going to the Library, where there will be a children’s menu, crafts and a cartoon movie, A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving. When purchasing tickets, please indicate if your children will be seated with you in the theatre or if they will be going to the children’s room.

Since we had a waiting list last year and because we want this dinner to be a celebration with brothers and sisters within our congregation, we’ve decided not to sell tickets online.

Tickets cost 20 euros per adult or 12 euros for children aged 11 or younger, and can be purchased for cash or check at the Welcome Table after the 11h and 13h30 services through Sunday, 19 November, according to availability. If you can’t be there physically at these dates or hours to purchase your ticket, please email Pastor Tim at associatepastor@acparis.org

The Community Life committee and our dedicated kitchen team will need many extra helping hands for this large event. Anyone who would like to assist with food preparation, serving, set-up, decorating, or clean-up, please write to Community Life at communitylife@acparis.org. And don’t worry, volunteers won’t go hungry!

Worship on Thanksgiving Day

12h15, Thursday 23 November

American Church in Paris

Please join in giving thanks together in this year’s Community Thanksgiving Service. It will be held in cooperation with the American Cathedral. All are welcome.
THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS PRESENTS

**Une Soirée à l'Opéra**
avec Laurana Mitchelmore pianiste
et ses amis

Dimanche 12 novembre 2017 à 17h

*Soprano*
Elisa Doughty, Nicole Primmer,
Nicole Taylor, Jennifer Young

*Mezzo-soprano*
Elise Bédènes, Rebecca Tepfer, Francine Watremez

*Ténor*
John Bernard, Philip Glenister, Pablo Veguilla

*Baryton*
Frédéric Goncalves

*avec*
Carol Mundinger clarinette  Lisa Prevett flûte
Jason Meyer violon

**Oeuvres de**
Mozart, Rossini, Donizetti, Delibes, Bizet,
Humperdinck, Massenet, Verdi et Puccini

à l’Église Américaine, 65, quai d’Orsay 75007 Paris
Métros : Invalides, Alma-Marceau

Entrée Libre (paf)  Free Admission (free-will offering)
Originating in Left Bank studios in 1895, the Atelier Concert Series became part of the cultural activities at the American Church in Paris during the early 1930s. These concerts provide a performance opportunity in Paris for talented musicians of all nationalities.

A different program is offered each Sunday evening at 17h00, September through November and January through June. There is no admission fee, but a free-will offering is taken at the door to support the series. For the schedule of concerts, see http://acparis.org

Sunday 5 November 17h00
Mayuko ISHIBASHI – piano

Sunday 19 November 17h00
Blandine WALDMANN – piano

Sunday 26 November 17h00
Ensemble Vocal Philippe Caillard

Maurice Duruflé
Quatre Motets Notre Père
Francis Poulenc
Salve Regina Gloria
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.

Theologicum’s Training Day

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me: the theological dimension of welcoming migrants."

This day of training focuses on how the church can welcome the poor and needy of the current migration crisis, not as an activity to organize, but as a core commitment that flows from our identity in Christ.

**Monday, 20 November, 9h30-17h. Institut Catholique de Paris, 21 rue d’Assas, 75006 Paris. 40€. Registration & Info: www.icp.fr**

Christ Before Reason

For the launch of the book *Christ Before Reason: Christology as a philosophical system*, the Institut Catholique will host a roundtable discussion on philosophy, theology, and Christology.


Between Continuity and Rupture: What is Reform?

"The Reformation is a movement inherent in the Church. It is in its own nature, because it tends to the form that Christ wants for it. Several times in past centuries, even before the time of Luther and the other reformers qualified afterwards as "Protestants," there were concrete expressions of the will to reform, to give or to bring about a renewed form. As part of the 500th anniversary, we are talking about the general movement, theological and spiritual, which was led by believers of a time and, by extension, the ecclesial dynamism in which Christians live." – Pastor Joly

**Tuesday, 28 November, 20h. Collège des Bernardins, 20 rue de Poissy, 75005 Paris. 6€. Registration & Info: www.collegedesbernardins.fr.**

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
Perfect Storm
While its usual premises undergo renovation, the Théâtre du Châtelet is taking up residence under the imposing glass dome of the Grand Palais, where it is putting on the classic musical "Singin' in the Rain". Based on MGM’s 1952 film, Robert Carlsen’s English-language production features well-loved show tunes, glitzy costumes, dazzling dance numbers and, of course, an on-stage rainstorm. Doors open two hours before show time, with makeup artists, karaoke and even tap dancing classes, guaranteed to get you into the Tinseltown spirit.

Jesus Christ… Superstar?
Singer-songwriter Pascal Obispo, a maven of TV pop-singing talent contests, has now taken on a far loftier challenge: bringing to the French stage the greatest story ever told, that of Jesus of Nazareth. In what Obispo bills as a “musical fresco”, Jesus, Mary, Judas, the disciples and Mary Magdalene all spring to vibrant life via original songs which relate in a catchy — if kitschy — way the gripping drama of Christ’s ministry, from Nazareth to Jerusalem. The singing is bound to be top-notch: several cast members are, after all, are graduates of "The Voice."
Until 3 December, www.jesus-lespectacle.com

A horse of a different color
Since 1984 the equestrian cabaret Zingaro, led by the legendary horse-whisperer Bartabas, has spun an ever more poetic mix of music, dance, dramatic lighting and equine acrobatics. Their new show "Ex Anima" pushes the envelope even further: the horses themselves are the stars, executing the choreography without riders on their backs, alternating between hoof-pounding bravura and haunting tableaux, one of which involves a horse levitating high above the stage.

Picture Perfect
This fall Paris is awash in echoes of the Big Apple, with New York’s Metropolitan Museum bringing to the Grand Palais a sumptuous selection of images celebrating the centennial of the birth of master photographer Irving Penn. Come and bask in the precise yet poetic fashion shots, the crisp yet velvety compositions in black and white, and the iconic yet idiosyncratic portraits of some of the 20th century’s most intriguing personalities.
Until 29 January

MoMa Lisa
If you have been looking for a reason to venture outside the city limits to see the splendid glass-and-steel sailboat that is the Fondation Louis Vuitton, the new show "Being Modern: MoMa in Paris" is well worth the (very easy) journey. New York’s legendary Museum of Modern Art has lent some 200 artworks, chosen to illustrate the story of how MoMa’s collection evolved to its current stature. Along with works by Signac, Klimt, Magritte, Picasso and other early modern masters, the show features iconic Pop art and challenging contemporary creations.

Nouveau Niche
Hector Guimard (1867-1942) was the design genius behind the deliciously drippy Art Nouveau Métro entrances which have come to symbolize iconic Parisian elegance. The Hôtel Mezzara, a mansion in Guimard’s signature style, will be open to the public for just a few weekends this fall. Art Nouveau junkies will swoon over the discretely curlicued arches of the facade, the curvaceous skylight overhead and the to-die-for fixtures and furniture, all in the same distinctive idiom.
Giving to church has been a part of our lives, from childhood until now. Our father was a pastor. Every Sunday, he handed us coins to drop in the offering plate in church, and coins to keep for ourselves. He and my mother taught us that money for church should not be used for our personal wants.

I arrived in Paris to join my sister Grace in the early 80s, and came to the ACP. We have been pledging to the ACP since then, as well as helping our home church in the Philippines. There were times since then when income was small, but pledging was never a problem. Once, when my savings were depleted, someone handed me €50 that another person had wanted to give me. Blessings like that prove that God does provide and he does keep his promises.

I also believe in walking the extra mile: even though you have already given, and you still have something to give, when there is a need, you give. That is why I also offer time and talent in various areas like setting up the Filipino Fellowship and leading the Bible study, being a volunteer Sunday School teacher, and playing in Fred’s handbell choirs, even though I knew nothing about handbells at the beginning. In the summer, when the ACP started running the Vacation Bible School, I have also been helping with that. Our lives have been centered on church and Jesus Christ, and we nurture our identity as pastor’s children in name and in deed.

I’ve been a regular church goer most of my life. But for years, I did not set money aside to give to the church; I put in the offering plate whatever I happened to have in my pocket.

"Planned giving" was simply too big of a step for me. I had to keep complete control of my money; I was afraid I wouldn’t have enough to pay my bills. I had lots of faith in other areas of my life, like trusting God with my family, my problems, etc. But money was like “The Final Frontier” for me in terms of what I was able to trust God with. So God got whatever was left after my bills were paid (which was usually not much, if anything at all). I was basically “putting God last” in my finances. Maybe some of you can understand what I’m talking about…

Then someone explained to me that it helps the church plan their spending - for things like mission projects! - if they know how much people are planning on giving to the church. That made sense to me, so I finally decided to start setting money aside for the church, and to not let anything else take priority over that money. Give money to the church first every month, and live on the rest. Knowing that it’s not the amount I give that matters, I realized that what God is really after is me and my commitment to Him. He wants me to put Him first, in all areas of my life - including my money. So I started small (to make sure it worked), then increased the amount annually.

The Lord moved out of “last place” in my finances! And it’s had a very surprising side effect. I still have financial struggles, but they don’t scare me anymore. I can only guess it’s because God has his rightful place in my finances now, so I have peace there.
November will see an emphasis on stewardship at the American Church in Paris, as leaders stress the need for members’ support for God’s mission here.

Members of an ad hoc stewardship committee have been focusing on giving in a series of “Minute for Stewardship” talks during services this month, and the congregation’s stewardship commitments will be dedicated at services on Christ the King Sunday, 26 November.

A new brochure produced for the stewardship campaign spotlights biblical principles, instructions and promises about giving; a look at budget numbers showing the need for contributions; a story about a man with the initials ACJ who contributed the money to build the ACP steeple in 1931 with the proviso that he remain anonymous; and a recap of the numerous ways people can contribute to the ACP financially.

Unlike churches in a lot of other places that raise 100 percent of their own operating expenses from contributions, the ACP collects only about 45% of its expenses from giving. Yet that 45% is considerable, since the budget stands at about 1.4 million euros. The congregation hopes to raise 590,000€ from contributions in 2017, up 2 percent from 578,000€ collected in 2016.

(Other revenue sources for the ACP include money from rentals of church property – 495,000€ in 2016 – and from the wedding ministry – 175,000€ last year. In addition, the church’s parent organization, the American and Foreign Christian Union, pays the salary and benefits of the senior pastor.)

A glance at some of the church’s costs last year shows the importance of congregational giving, if its mission in Paris is to continue at current levels. Just repairs and utilities for our beautiful building cost 225,000€ last year. Security cost 25,000€, the staff exclusive of the senior pastor totaled 753,000€, programs were 105,000€, and we spent 69,000€ on missions.

We all know what blessings we, Paris, and the world beyond receive from this special place with members from more than 40 nations and two dozen faith traditions contributing to its personality and spirit.

Look at our wealth: two traditional services with organ and piano, with adult and children’s choirs and handbell choirs, and the contemporary service with a talented band; Bible study, prayer and fellowship groups including the African Fellowship and Filipino Fellowship, and men’s and women’s ministries; ministries for children, youth and young adults; and support for missions in Paris – Foyer de Grenelle, Friday Mission Lunch, Homeless Ministry, Serve the City Paris, Refugee Ministry, SOS Help; plus our missions in Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Lebanon, the Philippines, Uganda, and the Habitat for Humanity projects; and don’t forget the Thurber lectures and other enrichment programs.

November’s stewardship campaign attempts to encourage ACP members to reconsider some of the main points we read in God’s Word about giving. To start, everything we have is God’s, and we are stewards of what he’s given us (I Chronicles 29:14). We are to give to God first, not give Him what’s left over (Proverbs 3:9). That practice honors God with obedience, shows where our heart is and forces us to trust God. This trust moves us toward relying on God rather than spending our lives worrying whether we’ll ever have enough (Matthew 6:25-34).

God instructs us to tithe and even asks us to test Him, promising blessings for giving (Malachi 3:10). By no means is the tithe the limit one should give, because some can afford to contribute even more (Deuteronomy 16:17). As the story of the widow’s mite illustrates, it is not the amount of the gift but the act of obedience and sacrifice that is important to God (Luke 21:4).

Finally, God tells us we shouldn’t feel pressure to give but should assume a spirit of generosity: “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (II Corinthians 9:7)
Pope John XXIII (1881-1963) served as the ecclesiastical envoy to post-WWII France and as the Vatican’s first Permanent Observer to UNESCO. Elected pope as an unobjectionable compromise candidate, deemed likely to be only a short-term placeholder on account of his advanced age, he instead convened the Second Vatican Council, which introduced sweeping reforms to the Catholic Church. His encyclical “Peace on Earth” significantly defused religious and political tensions during the Cold War.

John Wesley (1703-1791) started a “holy club” with his brother, Charles, at Christ College, Oxford. Their first attempts to establish this “Methodism” in the colony of Georgia ended in disaster. Back in England, Wesley had a conversion experience and became an itinerant evangelist, preaching a gospel of free grace and entire sanctification to the working poor of the Industrial Revolution. The holiness movement he fostered spurred concurrent passions for social justice and spiritual revival on both sides of the Atlantic.

St. Paul (c. 4 BC to c. 64 AD), like most of the church reformers that would follow him, did not set out to found a new religion so much as to call his own co-religionists into greater faithfulness to their own tradition. Paul became the apostle most influential in reinterpreting the Judaism of Jesus’ day in order to articulate the theological centrality of Jesus as the promised messiah, Lord, and savior, as well as the inclusion of the Gentiles in God’s redemptive purposes.

Martin Luther (1483-1546), an Augustinian monk, was excommunicated for condemning certain church tenets and practices, such as the sale of indulgences, that undermined the primacy of scriptural authority over church tradition and of grace working through faith as the means of salvation. The Protestant Reformation is often dated from when he posted his 95 Theses – a series of theological questions and proposals he wished to publicly debate – on the door of the Wittenberg Castle church on 31 October 1517.

John Calvin (1509-1564) wrote the first edition of his magisterial Institutes of the Christian Religion while in self-exile from his native Catholic France. He spent three years ministering to French refugees in Strasbourg, but is best known for his role in the theocratic experiment of Geneva, where he tried – for better and for worse – to organize the city around the principles in his Ecclesiastical Ordinances. The influence of Calvin’s humanism, theology, and polity is still evident not only in the Protestant church, but also throughout Western civilization.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968) was a Baptist preacher like his father and grandfather before him. His Christian ideals led him to become the best-known spokesman for the civil rights movement in the United States. His personal commitment to and powerful witness for non-violent resistance as a means of achieving social justice earned him the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of 35. The next year, he preached at this pulpit, on 24 October 1965.
The French reformation

by Rebecca Brite

The anniversary that Protestant churches around the world are observing this month focuses on the German theologian Martin Luther, as it was his defiance in Wittenberg 500 years ago that we now mark as the start of the Protestant Reformation.

But revolutions are seldom due to one person. Even if you knew none of the history of those others who made the Reformation, you could read it in the same kind of textbook that people in the Middle Ages used: the stained glass and carvings of the ACP.

Chief among the figures that appear here – the only one besides Luther to appear twice – is a Frenchman born in Noyon, in the Oise valley about 100 km north of Paris, in 1509. He was baptized Jehan Cauvin – a named rendered in Latin, the language of both his first career, the church, and his second, the law, as Calvino or Calvini, before passing down in history in re-Gallicized form: Calvin.

The Paris where precocious young Jehan came to study Latin in about 1523 had been abuzz with talk of church reform, despite the Sorbonne having officially condemned the movement two years earlier. News not only of Luther’s actions but also soon thereafter the reforms of Huldrych Zwingli in Zurich, and Martin Bucer in Alsace, had quickly reached the Latin Quarter.

Such news at first fell on relatively fertile ground. Even King Francois I tolerated the movement for a time, out of affinity for humanism and affection for his sister Marguerite, who was attracted by Lutheran ideas. Their interest had encouraged such humanist scholars as Jacques Lefèvre at Saint-Germain-des Prés, the powerful Abbey whose church, now its sole vestige, remains a Parisian landmark.

Years before Luther’s split from Rome, Lefèvre’s work and that of his fellow humanist Erasmus had influenced the German theologian. Lefèvre’s students included Guillaume Farrel, one of the first French humanists to openly embrace Protestantism and later a key figure in Calvin’s life. They both exiled themselves to Switzerland, whence they would eventually send many pastors back to lead churches in France.

In 1534, French Protestants circulated posters in Paris and several provincial cities denouncing the Catholic Mass – and, in an extraordinary breach of royal security, managed to attach one to the bedroom door of King François. This was a turning point in public opinion of what were then known as French Lutherans but would come to be called Huguenots – a derogatory nickname of disputed origin, later proudly adopted by those it was aimed at.

The public reaction against this Affair of the Placards, as it came to be known, was what drove Calvin to join Farrel in Switzerland, some two years after Calvin abandoned his law studies upon undergoing a conversion to Protestantism. There (after an interlude in Strasbourg) he would develop the system of theology

Continued on next page.../...
that still bears his name and would influence, among others, the Scottish minister John Knox. He shares our Reformers window with Calvin, Luther, and Thomas Cranmer, who like Knox shaped the early versions of the Book of Common Prayer still used by Anglican Protestants.

King François died in 1547, having turned enthusiastically to burning Protestants as heretics in his last years. His son Henri II continued the practice, but failed to keep the new faith from mushrooming. Henri's Aunt Marguerite, meanwhile, had wed another Henri II, king of Navarre. Their daughter Jeanne would be the mother of still another Henri, a key figure in the French Wars of Religion at the end of the century and eventually king of France as Henri IV.

That Henri's path to the French throne led through one of the bloodiest religious wars (actually a series of conflicts) in European history, second only to the Thirty Years' War of 1618-48 in Central Europe. The Huguenot Wars, or French Wars of Religion, began on 1 March 1562, three years after the formal founding of the Reformed Church in Paris. One of its most formidable foes, the Duke of Guise, came across a large group of Protestants holding a service in a barn near Wassy in eastern France, and his troops massacred more than 60 of them.

Between then and King Henri IV's Edict of Nantes in 1598, which effectively called a more or less lasting truce, some 3 million people lost their lives, including roughly 3,000 in Paris alone in the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre that began the night of 24/25 August 1572.

More than 1,000 of those victims, their bodies dumped into the Seine, washed up and were buried on the Ile Maquerelle, an island later joined to the Left Bank proper, just about where our church would one day be built. A record of payment to workmen for burying the bodies is one of the only reliable accounts of the loss of life in the massacre, estimates of which range from 5,000 in Ile de France to 70,000 nationwide.

Out of such sorrowful histories rose the Reformed Churches of Europe, whose national seals can be seen in stained glass on the west wall of the sanctuary, down from the Tiffany windows and across from a brass plaque donated by an American Huguenot society.

Commemorative events for the 500th anniversary have been ongoing around the world for the last year, from Wittenberg to Westminster.

From 27-29 October, Strasbourg hosted the third edition of Protestants en fête, with a special focus on the Reformation. In Geneva, celebrations include a special exhibit for the 100th anniversary of its international Monument to the Reformation, known as the "Reformers Wall."

Wittenberg kicked off its Reformation Day festival with a morning service in the city's two main churches, the Castle Church, where Luther is said to have nailed up his 95 Theses and the St. Mary's Town Church, where Luther preached and was married.

Serve the City Mission Project

Are 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.
ACP Christmas market

Saturday, 18 November, 11h-17h

Mark your calendars and plan to experience the fun! On Saturday, 18 November, we’ll have a wide variety of vendors from all over France coming to sell beautiful handmade merchandise: jewelry, cashmere shawls, children’s clothing, books and toys, gingerbread houses and British Christmas cakes, painted silk scarves, cartonage boxes, Paris-themed cards, artwork and much, much more.

At our own Mission Outreach tables you’ll find lots of Christmas items: small gifts, decorations, hot spiced wine, yummy baked goods, ornaments, advent wreaths, homemade jams, and an assortment of other original gifts.

So plan to kick off your Christmas shopping early and you won’t be disappointed. The annual Used-Book Sale will also be awaiting you with hundreds of great selections in both French and English. There will be a photo op with Santa from 11h-14h and festive Carolers singing Christmas Carols at 15h. A delicious international lunch will be served in the Thurber Room by the Filipino Fellowship.

All proceeds from the ACP tables help support our many Mission projects. If you have handmade craft items or used books to donate to our Mission Outreach tables we’d love to hear from you.

Love in a Box

Would you like to share the joy of this holiday season with children who would not otherwise receive a present this Christmas? Please consider participating in this year’s Love in a Box program.

Love in a Box is a Paris-wide school and community charity project that prepares gifts for children for the holiday season. Gifts are made from empty shoeboxes and include a set list of practical and fun items for children of all ages. Each box contains a toy/gift, something to write with (a pen, colored pencils, or markers), a book, a tube of toothpaste, a toothbrush, a bar of soap, something warm (a pair of gloves and a hat or scarf), and candy. The gifts are delivered to children in need through 15 different charities in the Paris region, the Alsace region, and to orphanages in Bulgaria.

Detailed packing lists and instructions are available at the ACP reception desk and boxes can be dropped off on Sundays in November in the Theater after Sunday services.
If you enjoy seeing small art collections, now is the time to head to the Musée Jacquemart-André to see The Secret Garden of the Hansens, also referred to as the Ordrupgaard collection. The exhibit presents a curated selection of over 40 works amassed by Danish businessman and art collector Wilhelm Hansen. Together with his wife, Henny, and in a short two-year period, the couple acquired works by some of the Masters of the impressionist and post-impressionist periods including Renoir, Monet and Matisse.

Hansen began by collecting works by Corot, who is typically known for his landscapes. The paintings here do depict people and are therefore very unusual. Corot was so respected by the artist community that Monet is quoted to have said "Corot is the one master. We are nothing in comparison. Nothing."

But landscapes do have their place in this exhibit. Of particular note is "Effet de neige, Eragny" by Pissaro. Golden sunlight warms a snowy scene, giving a luminous radiance to the tableau.

There are several portraits from the acclaimed women painters Berthe Morisot and Eva Gonzales, and the exhibit ends with a full room devoted to rarely seen pieces from Gauguin.

The Hansens eventually moved to a mansion called Ordrupgaard located north of Copenhagen. Here they created their own art gallery, which was eventually opened to the public. On their death the mansion was left to the state and has been converted into a museum.


Parents: Introduction to Positive Discipline

Sunday 19 November from 15h00-17h00

Denise Dampierre will lead a conversation on positive discipline and it promises to be a great time of learning and insight, all the while helping the parents of our teens connect with one another as well. Come and learn to connect with our teens on a deeper level as we raise the next generation...our future colleagues and leaders!

Denise Dampierre is the mother of 4 boys (16-year-old Victor is in the Youth Program), and will lead the interactive workshop.

What’s Positive Discipline and what will we learn?

Positive Discipline is a principle-based approach to building cooperative, respectful relationships. The tools we will discover and practice together help parents transform moments of tension (curfew, clean rooms, homework, chores, technology use) into opportunities for learning.

Parents come away with ways to discipline that encourage responsibility, empathy, resilience, creative solution-finding, wise decision-making, and more.

Maybe, as a parent, you feel you’re doing it already. That’s great. Maybe you have questions...or want to get to know other parents of teens, and have fun while learning. That’s great! We are also excited to share this approach with you as a means to connect with other ACP parents and to invite friends to come to church.

For more info, contact Jodi Fondell at interimyouthpastor@caparis.org, or Doug Fondell at youthpastor@acparis.org.

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
The Living Truth Foundation Ministries (TLTF) was founded by our missionary Anna Cobbinah and her late husband Francis in Ghana in West Africa, in 2003. The prison ministry is the main element of the ministry, which also serves in the local schools and hospitals.

The prison ministry has grown from serving in one prison from 2003 to 2013, to serving in six prisons in 2017. Members of the team preach weekly and hold year long Disciple Bible study classes at each of the prisons. The ministry continues to expand, with two more prisons now asking TLTF Ministries to come minister to their inmates and staff.

As Lay Leader for this ministry at the American Church in Paris, I have visited Ghana multiple times to support and encourage the TLTF team. I can testify that it is an amazing ministry. It is humbling to visit the prisons, shake hands with the prisoners and officers and hear their stories. Lives are being turned around. Some men have been pardoned and released. Some have become pastors on leaving prison. As one of the prison officers said to me recently, “God is here.” It is an honor to be part of this ministry.

We are praying the Lord will call individuals and churches to join us in supporting this ministry as it grows. The ACP budget covers our missionary, Anna, but the bible study program is now entirely funded by individual gifts, due to its remarkable – and inspiring – growth in recent years.

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Matthew 9:37-38

Would you like to join us in supporting this ministry?

$75 (or 70€) - enables a prisoner to develop his faith by joining the year-long bible study program. In 2017 we have 97 prisoners participating. Might you want to put 1, 2 or more prisoners on this path?

$1,000 (or 900€) – a class of 12 prisoners and a teacher will study together for one year in a prison. These classes have literally changed prisons as the light of God’s truth shines into the darkness there.

Once our goal is reached of launching two new classes this year from our waiting list, all additional donations will go toward other identified needs, such as:

$100 – Provides a gift of a bar of soap to each prisoner at a prison

$400 – Purchases a musical instrument for one of the prisons

$500 – Brings a home-cooked Christmas meal to an entire prison

All gifts to this ministry can be tax-deductible in the United States or in France. For questions or information on how to make a donation, please contact Carolyn Bouazouni, at tltf-ghana@acparis.org
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 6 and 20 November. 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 16 November
Room G2

This month’s movies to see beforehand:
The Square, Au revoir là-haut, Logan Lucky, and Corps et âme.
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
Thurber Lecture Series

Cross vision: Making sense of the Old Testament’s violent portraits of God

Thurber Lecture by Rev. Greg Boyd, 25 October

The Old Testament God of wrath and violence versus the New Testament God of love and peace: How can we as Christians explain and accept the contradiction? Theologian Greg Boyd has been exploring this in his personal journey of faith for years, and flew in from St. Paul, Minnesota, to share his findings at October’s Thurber Lecture.

There are 47 descriptions in the Old Testament describing how God ordered genocide, Pastor Boyd said, plus he caused cities or areas to be annihilated, to “kill everything that breathes.” There are passages where “Yahweh says he will smash parents and children together, and will not let mercy or compassion stop him. In the Old Testament, rape is permitted, and it is acceptable to stone to death disobedient children.”

Boyd said, “Jesus lives out the Old Testament, and supports it. And I can’t correct his theology. But at the same time how can these two teachings be coherent when they seem to be contradictory?”

Finally, he said, he began to see that something else was going on. He illustrated how, by looking at the cross with your natural eye, all you may see is an ugly image of a crucified criminal. But when the believer looks at the cross, Pastor Boyd explained, “we look through it and we see that God, the creator of the universe, stepped into that, the crucifixion, experiencing his own antithesis on the cross. He couldn’t have stooped any lower. So it’s not what our eyes see, but what faith sees, the depth perception of faith.”

Pastor Boyd made the point that the violence of God belongs in that first superficial and ugly vision. The violence we see in the Old Testament is that of the culture of the people living in that time and place, he explained. Boyd made the point that it is never God actually taking the horrific actions, but the people themselves, interpreting in their own way God’s Word. When God was simply mirroring the sin of the people back to them.

“So God allows the violence. And he accommodates it, plays that role, even though it makes him look ugly. This is how these passages actually point to the cross, they anticipate the horrific-ness of the cross. And the beauty behind them points to the beauty of the cross. Because God is not a power god. So God isn’t going to compel people, lobotomize them, but rather tries to influence them.”

Pastor Boyd said, “When I began reading scripture this way, I was surprised by how much I found that supported that view of the Bible. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. If we think that God is capable of genocide, that’s the kind of god we’ll have. If we believe in a peaceful loving god, that’s what we’ll get. Jesus does make all things new. The scripture gave the Old Testament a whole new meaning.”

The talk by Greg Boyd was stimulating, thought-provoking, and eye-opening, and this review doesn’t do it justice. Fortunately the Thurber lectures are recorded, and you can watch it at your leisure via the ACP website, at acparis.org, under “Prayer & Learning/Thurber-lectures.” He has also written a series of books on the topic, including Cross Vision, and Crucifixion of the Warrior God.

Reviewed by Alison Benney

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.
## ACP Spire Diary – November 2017
### events, meetings and concerts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>School Holidays / Vacances Scolaire - Toussaint</strong></td>
<td>Until Sunday 5 Nov</td>
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| **Toussaint**  
Church house and office closed for public holiday. | Wednesday 1 Nov |
| **Adult Fellowship**  
Singles and pairs, join us for fellowship every first Friday of the month in a lounge café setting, sharing testimonies, talking about the highs and lows of your life with brothers and sisters in Christ. | Friday 3 Nov  
From 20h email contact for location  
Daphne 30plusfellowship@acparis.org |
| **Atelier Concert**  
Free admission, with free-will offering  
Mayuko ISHIBASHI - piano | Sunday 5 Nov  
17h Sanctuary  
Fred Gramann music@acparis.org |
| **ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show**  
Tune in for inspiring music and interviews. | Monday 6 Nov  
20h45-21h30  
100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante |
| **Alpha Course**  
Explore the meaning of life, ask questions and learn more about the basics of the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and friendly environment. This 10 week course is free and open to everyone. | Thursday 9 Nov  
19h meal; 19h45 program  
Thurber Room  
alpha@acparis.org |
| **Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)**  
Every Friday a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. ACP is responsible for the meal on the second Friday of each month, but we are grateful for help with cooking, serving, and cleaning up every Friday. | Friday 10 Nov  
10h-14h  
The American Cathedral  
If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel fridaymissionlunch@acparis.org |
| **ACP MOPS (mothers of children ages newborn-18)**  
Free childcare available. | Friday 10 Nov  
10h-12h  
mops@acparis.org |
| **Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner**  
Fellowship and discussion on topics such as raising bilingual/bicultural children and cultural differences. Bring a dish to share. | Friday 10 Nov  
20h  
Thurber Room  
Monica Bassett & Anja Wyss multicultural@acparis.org |
| **Armistice Day**  
Church house closed for public holiday. | Saturday 11 Nov |
| **Writers’ Group**  
| Saturday 11 Nov  
14h30 - 16h30  
Room G2  
Tendayi Chirawu writers@acparis.org |
| **Special Congregational Meeting**  
The purpose of this meeting is to receive the final report of the Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adult Ministries Search Committee and to vote on their recommendation. | Sunday 12 Nov  
Following the 11h service (~12h15) |
| **Atelier Concert**  
Free admission, with free-will offering  
A Night at the Opera  
with Laurana MITCHELMORE pianist and friends | Sunday 12 Nov  
17h Sanctuary  
Fred Gramann music@acparis.org |
| **Alpha Course**  
Explore the meaning of life, ask questions and learn more about the basics of the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and friendly environment. This 10 week course is free and open to everyone. | Tuesday 14 Nov  
19h meal; 19h45 program  
Thurber Room  
alpha@acparis.org |
**ACP Spire Diary – November 2017**

## Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts (cont.)

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<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Lecture - Dr. Anne Marie Reijnen speaks on “Astrobiology”</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dr. Reijnen, a Protestant theologian, was in residence at the Centre for Theological Inquiry in Princeton (New Jersey) in 2015-2016 to participate in the &quot;Inquiry on the Societal Implications of Astrobiology &quot; funded by NASA. She currently holds the Kairos Chair for Ecumenical theology at the**</td>
<td>Thursday 16 Nov</td>
<td>19h meal; 19h45 program</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Tim Vance associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
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<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong>&lt;br&gt;Movie selection: <em>The Square, Au revoir là-haut, Logan Lucky, Corps et âme</em>. See any or all at your leisure; join the group for discussion.</td>
<td>Thursday 16 Nov</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite <a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Marché de Noël</strong>&lt;br&gt;Christmas Market, organized by the ACP Mission Outreach Committee. All proceeds from ACP tables support ACP mission ministries.</td>
<td>Saturday 18 Nov</td>
<td>11h-17h</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kristie Worrell marchedenoel @acparis.org</td>
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<td><strong>Women’s Fellowship</strong>&lt;br&gt;ACP member <em>Jurie Ane Feleo</em> will speak about her faith journey and how it led her to serve the homeless and needy of Paris. All women are welcome at our monthly fellowship. Free childcare is provided.</td>
<td>Sunday 19 Nov</td>
<td>12h15-13h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Teri Lee Valluy <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong>&lt;br&gt;Free admission, with free-will offering&lt;br&gt;<em>Blandine WALDMANN – piano</em></td>
<td>Sunday 19 Nov</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
<td>Monday 20 Nov</td>
<td>20h45-21h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<td><strong>Community Thanksgiving Service</strong>&lt;br&gt;All are welcome. Please join us in giving thanks.</td>
<td>Thursday 23 Nov</td>
<td>12h15</td>
<td>ACP Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>Alpha Course</strong>&lt;br&gt;Explore the meaning of life, ask questions and learn more about the basics of the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and friendly environment. This 10 week course is free and</td>
<td>Thursday 23 Nov</td>
<td>19h meal; 19h45 program</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alpha@acparis.org">alpha@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP International Thanksgiving Dinner</strong>&lt;br&gt;Registration and payment by cash or check at the Welcome Table after Sunday services through 19 Nov.</td>
<td>Saturday 25 Nov</td>
<td>17h30</td>
<td>Theatre and Thurber Room</td>
<td><a href="mailto:communitylife@acparis.org">communitylife@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong>&lt;br&gt;Free admission, with free-will offering&lt;br&gt;<em>Ensemble Vocal Philippe Caillard</em></td>
<td>Sunday 26 Nov</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alpha Course</strong>&lt;br&gt;Explore the meaning of life, ask questions and learn more about the basics of the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and friendly environment. This 10 week course is free and</td>
<td>Thursday 30 Nov</td>
<td>19h meal; 19h45 program</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alpha@acparis.org">alpha@acparis.org</a></td>
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The 2017 Candlelight Christmas Concerts

Presented by

The American Church Choir
The ACP Bronze Ringers
Fred Gramann, director

Ensemble Lumina
Caroline Drury, director

Le Choeur d’Enfants Sotto Voce
Scott Alan Prouty, director

Saturday, December 9, 2017
At 17h and 20h

Seasonal music, carol arrangements, and all joining to sing carols in English and French

The American Church in Paris
65, Quai d’Orsay - 75007 Paris

Metro: Alma-Marceau, Invalides
Bus: 42, 63, 80, 92

Tickets: 25 euros (reserved seating for adults, students and children)
15 euros (adults, all other seating)
10 euros (children & students, all other seating)

To order tickets from November 5 to 25: www.acparis.org