



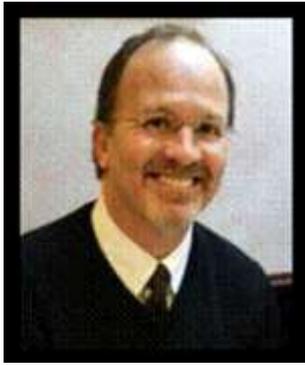
The Spire

The Beacon on the Seine

February 2013

The American Church in Paris

www.acparis.org 65 quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris, France



*Thoughts from
The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor*

February, 2013

Dear Members and Friends,

Lent, the forty days of preparation to celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, begins this year on 13 February, Ash Wednesday. The Ash Wednesday service takes its name from the imposition of ashes in the sign of the cross on the forehead. The ashes which will be used in this service are from the palm leaves used in **last year's Palm Sunday celebrations.** We retrace the 40 days of wilderness testing Jesus endured at the beginning of his ministry but begin with the humble acknowledgment that even our best efforts will not carry us through to follow him all the way. We remember the hubris of the crowds of Palm Sunday whose faith was so fickle and frail that within a week, their loud hosanna affirmations had turned to loud **"Crucify!" condemnations...**

It sounds strange to say this, but I find Ash Wednesday more meaningful and comforting every year. Putting on sackcloth and ashes was a way the ancients used to enter into deep grief and repentance. Such demonstrative public penance was a way of admitting their utter **hopelessness and despair at "turning over a new leaf," or "making amends."** Painting our foreheads with an ashen cross is a more reserved admission of the awkward truth in the first part of one of my favorite summaries of the gospel: **"Cheer up, your situation is far worse than you could have imagined..."**

Ash Wednesday is an opportunity for us to **drop all pretense and posturing.** It's a time to come before God admitting that while we may

be able to put up a pretty good front most of the time, we know that God knows the sobering truth, the sin that eats away at our hearts and minds, whether it be sins of commission or sins of omission. Receiving the smudge of dirt reminds us that we come from **the dust and to dust we shall return.** It's putting the bitter truth of our mortal danger on the table in front of God and anyone else who cares to show up.

But...the Ash Wednesday service also marks the beginning of a journey through Lent, the church's Holy Spring, a time of spiritual renewal and rebirth. It is a time when we not only remember our complete inability to save ourselves, but we remember that there is one **who not only can but has saved us! It's a time to move patiently through the desert wilderness of our own spiritual wasteland (see T. S. Eliot's poem, Ash Wednesday)** where we dare not hope in ourselves, but position ourselves before the one who will not **disappoint.** **"Cheer up, your situation is far worse than you could have imagined. But cheer up, God's love for you is far greater than you could have hoped!"** It is a time to practice spiritual disciplines like prayer and fasting to open space again for God.

I invite you to join us on Ash Wednesday and **the church's journey to new life.**

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Herr".



*Thoughts from
The Rev. Michelle Wahila
Associate Pastor*

Dear Friends,

There is an amazing ministry of service each Friday at lunchtime at ACP. Teams of volunteers come to cook and serve a hot meal to persons in need of food and fellowship. I know that it is a blessing to many (those who receive and those who serve). I am thankful for this ministry, and the ability of ACP to host it. I am sure that if we had the capacity to serve more meals, more people would come.

As you know, it has been cold (and snowy) recently. For someone who rarely leaves this church building, the snow is a beautiful and playful experience. For someone who spends the majority of his or her time outside, the snow and cold can bring particular hardship. Truth be told: I don my furry boots to walk two blocks to the grocery store. I might complain about the **cold, but let's face it** – I am from upstate NY. I am familiar with cold and snow and I have a warm house with warm meals (thank God for these blessings).

I realize many people do not have a warm house or warm meals. When I take my grocery store walk, I pass some of my neighbors who spend the majority of their day (maybe even the **whole day**) outside. **I don't know them; I don't know their stories. I do know: they live within** a block or two of my house, I see them day and night outside, it is currently very cold outside. It occurred to me that my neighbors might not know that down the street a hot meal is offered on Fridays.

I am not naive, I realize that there is a network on the streets and that many are aware of available resources. However, in the midst of this cold snap, it was not about facts, but about **inviting my neighbors "in."** **With the willing hands of two volunteers, an invitation was** extended this week: Mission lunch cards were printed in English and French with instructions about how to register and when/where to come. The cards, along with some hot coffee and baguettes, were given with the invitation to come into the ACP for a warm meal this Friday.

Will they come? I don't know. Was an immediate need fulfilled? Perhaps. Was God's grace somehow extended? I hope so. Perhaps none of this is for me to know. In my practical mind, I pray that an immediate need was met, and balanced by providing a resource for the future.

In my faithful mind, I know that God meets needs and we cannot always know God's ways. We can work toward Kingdom goals wherein the poor are fed, the captive freed, and the widow, orphan and marginalized embraced. The difficulty is, of course, that our perspectives **are never as large as God's; our perspectives do not always see the ways in which God's grace** manifests. Because of our narrow human viewpoints, I believe the concept of intentionally *inviting* someone *in* is crucial to the expansion of the Kingdom. Just as we have been invited by Christ to participate in the **in-breaking of God's Kingdom, so too are we called to invite** others into the abundance of that Kingdom.

I am reminded also of the ideal of "service given in mutual love," upheld by the author of Hebrews. The call to live in mutual love is a "Kingdom goal" and everyone is invited to

participate in God’s Kingdom. How do we know that all are invited? The author of Hebrews points to the outcast and marginalized and instructs readers to identify with them and love them as a part of their service to God. In our Kingdom service we “remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.” Finally, the writer says: “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

I pray that we all desire to be a part of the Kingdom and to do the hard work of the Kingdom. Even more, I pray that we can give and receive invitations of grace. For such invitations exhibit the hospitality of God’s Kingdom, and we are all invited “in.”

Bénédictions,

Michelle

Come and celebrate Chinese New Year together!
10 February

Right after the 11am and 1:30pm services, stay for coffee (and tea!) fellowship and enjoy a few Chinese treats. You will discover "A Chinese Genesis", a story where the Bible and Chinese characters and tradition resonate in harmony and offer striking correspondence. Bookmarks with Chinese characters will be offered to you on this occasion. We count on your presence!

“ACP Today: Faith Talk From Paris”

Have you tuned into *ACP Today*, the American Church in Paris’ radio show yet? The shows are broadcast the first and third Mondays of each month at 20h45. The 45-minute program is an exciting and inspiring mix of music, interviews, sermon highlights, and discussion on hot topics.

Tune to 100.7 FM on the radio dial, *Radio Fréquence Protestante*, ACP Today, Faith Talk from Paris! And please invite others to listen—friends who may be housebound or who would simply like more devotional time **on a Monday evening. Missed a show? Don’t worry, you can catch up** online at www.acparis.org



If you have any questions or comments, be sure to contact us at acptoday@acparis.org.



*Thoughts from
Rev. Dan Haugh*

*Director of Youth
and Young Adults
Ministries*

Looking Back and Marching Ahead

This month we remember and celebrate the legacy of African Americans during Black History Month. One of our own members, Ellen Kountz, will be making special presentations on Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad for a Thurber Thursday and a Young Adult Pizza Night. I commend these evenings to you all as we reflect on the issue and advancement of human rights and freedom from our history.

In January, the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was recognized by the Church and as a United States National Holiday. Dr. King, an ordained minister, strived to live out the teachings of the **Gospel and pursue Jesus's dream for the world. It is a sad commentary on American society to remember that during the lifetime of Dr. King, racism and segregation was still very much alive. Even sadder is the truth that many churches and denominations promoted and advocated for this form of exclusion. I remember during seminary, while studying the history of religion in America, reading some very troubling transcripts of sermons preached from pulpits across the nation. Using "Scripture" as references and mandates, many Christians advocated for separation and segregation. Others simply remained silent on the issues while allowing the rights and freedoms of God's children to be trampled upon. I often reflected on what my stance would have been back in the 1950's and 60's. I would hope that the transforming and inclusive nature of God's Kingdom would be my barometer, but I fear that I too, like so many, would have sat idly by and my inaction would actually speak volumes.**

I credit the heroic and faith-filled decisions of leaders in the Church and society who willingly forsake their own reputation to live out the scandalous good news of Christ. These leaders looked back in history to people like Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad movement to find courage, strength and inspiration.

I love history because when we understand the past we can learn from it and, hopefully, not make the same mistakes in the future. So, here we are fifty years removed from the Civil Rights movement. As the Christian Church, have we learned from our past? **Are there rights and freedoms of people today that are being ignored? What are today's issues? I contend there are many more stories of injustices and abuse than we are probably aware of. Who are the people who live in the margins of society today, or worse yet, whose basic human rights of life, love, health, freedom or protection are being threatened or abolished?**

Do these marginalized find safety and security in the Church or do they discover the opposite? **These are difficult and convicting questions but are crucial ones for us, as God's people, to address as we seek to advance his Kingdom. As Dr. King said back in 1963, "We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back." May God's Church march ahead towards the advancement of compassion, justice, and peace for all without exception.**

As you may know, Dr. King preached here at ACP on October 24, 1965 - the year after he won the Nobel Peace Prize. I conclude with a prayer, a prayer of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

"O thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us.

We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive, we love our friends and hate our enemies, we go the first mile but dare not travel the second, we forgive but dare not forget.

O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be.

Give us the courage to do thy will. Give us the devotion to love thy will. In the name and spirit of **Jesus we pray. Amen**"

ACP Ash Wednesday Service

13 February at 19h00

Everyone is welcome!





*From Your Council ~ **What's Going On!***



*Thoughts from Your
Moderator and Vice Moderator
Radford Laney and Pamela Bohl*

By the time this February Spire is published, the Council will be in the process of approving the 2013 budget, which will be voted on by the ACP members at the congregational meeting (mark your calendars!) on 17 March. Preparing the ACP budget is one of the most important and long-term exercises that the council completes during the church year.

The process begins in the fall with the stewardship campaign when ACP members make their financial pledges for the following year. Other inflows from unpledged giving, special programs, room rentals, ads and weddings are estimated and added in to arrive at the total budgeted revenue for the next year.

Then, during November and December the Finance Committee works diligently with each of **the church committees to arrive at their requested share of the next year's budget, which is based on each committee's ongoing programs and new opportunities to serve in the following year.**

In January, the tough part begins. This is when the total budgeted inflows have to be **allocated among all the committees' requests. It's a little bit like cutting the church's *Galette des Rois*. There is only one galette that has to be divided among the requests from all committees at the table and, as legend has it, to cut "an extra slice for the first poor person passing by."** As we continue in our efforts to *Bless the city of Paris* we pray that we have cut the ACP galette in a manner that permits our existing church programs and missions to **grow and flourish and that we have also cut a healthy "slice for the poor" that will allow ACP to bless the city of Paris in meaningful ways.**

Nominating Committee

Ursula Perrier and Jonathan Wheeler

Are you interested in serving at ACP in some capacity,
but aren't sure who to contact, or how to find the right fit?

Do you have a special skill or talent that you would like to share?

Throughout the year the Nominating Committee connects people to serve on one of the ACP Committees, or participate in the various ACP projects and activities.

Get Connected! Let us help!

Contact us at nominating@acparis.org



Communications

John Newman and Alison Benney

WANTED: Design Team for Spire Makeover!

We are planning to update the design of the Spire and we need your help! We are putting together a team to help us come up with a new look for our Church magazine. So, if you have a gift for graphics, design, publishing, art or communications in general and you feel called to serve in this way, then we would love to hear from you.

For more information please contact John Newman and Alison Benney at communications@acparis.org or the Spire editor at spire@acparis.org

Community Life

Camilla Macfarlane and Nathaniel Akujuobi

Welcoming and Greeting

Please consider being one of ACP's greatest assets!

Be a Meeter Greeter!! This is ministry that EVERY ONE of us can do!!

“And do not forget kindness to strangers, for by this, some who, while they were unaware, were worthy to receive Angels.” ~ Hebrews 13:2

Let us encourage one another to put on a smile and not be afraid to introduce ourselves to someone who would love to be noticed, acknowledged, and greeted kindly during one of our coffee hours.

Sign up at the Welcome Table!! We will even make you a name tag!

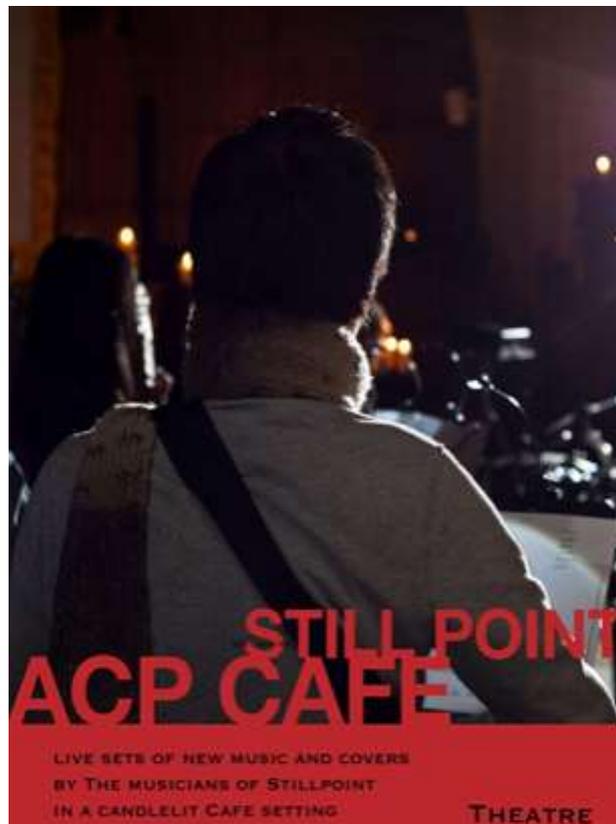
Worship and Music
Anna Zweede and Chad DuBose

The Weekly Atelier Concert Series

17h00, free admission (with free-will offering)

3 February	Le Duo Lichtspiel Swetlana Meermann (piano) and Claire-Marie Pessey (violin)
10 February	Cello Recital Jonathan Bloom (cello) and Adam Laloum (piano)
16 February	Le Jeune Choeur Sotto Voce Directed by Scott Alan Prouty, Fanny Le Nestor (piano)
17 February	Alto Recital Caroline M. Johnston (alto) and Theresa Kim (piano)
24 February	Vocal Recital Wendy Gerbier (mezzo soprano) and Debra Takakjian (piano)

For more information on the concert programmes, please visit our website



Join the ACP Band on 8 February from 20h00 in the ACP Theatre. Why not invite your friends, family and colleagues to a relaxing evening of great live music!

Christian Education

Anne Speicher and Lori Kolodziejczak

A Call to Live—Small Group Studies

To further the aim of widespread participation in Christian education, small groups are being organized throughout the city, on different days and times at individual homes or at the church. The groups combine Bible study, community, and everyday application. To join a group, please contact the leaders directly.

Wednesday Evening Supper Club, led by Camilla Macfarlane, meets at an Indian Vegetarian Restaurant near UNESCO with book discussion over dinner. communitylife@acparis.org

Wednesday Evening Home Study (in the 15th) led by Kimberley Hunt.

Couples Study, meets twice a month in Versailles with Angela and Dominique Grelet.

Saturday Morning Brunch Circle led by Felicia Henderson.

Sunday Afternoon Tea Study, twice a month, led by Pamela and Jim Leavy.

The groups are using Mark Labberton's book *The Dangerous Act of Worship*.

ACP Filipino Fellowship Bible study on Sundays at 14h00 in the Thurber Room. Contact Virginia Jacinto for more details.

ACP Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study will be starting a new video series, *40 Days of Purpose* by Rick Warren. The study runs from 10h30-12h30 every Tuesday morning, except during school holidays, in the catacombs of the church building. Childcare is available for a minimal fee. For more information please contact Jennifer Jurlait.

Would you consider being a Group Leader?

If you would like to be a group leader, please contact Anne at christianeducation@acparis.org or Pastor Wahila at associatepastor@acparis.org

All group leaders will be given a short training by Pastor Wahila.

February Thurber Thursday Lectures

Thurber Thursdays is an adult community gathering and growth time that is open to all.

We share a meal at 18h30 and the evening program begins at 19h30.

We will continue with the series exploring issues of human rights from a Christian perspective and Bonnie Smith will be the speaker on 7 February. James Bultema will be our guest scholar for the final two sessions of this month. He will be speaking about religious freedom in Turkey, starting with the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey on 21 February and focusing on the period from 1961 to the present day on 28 February

Please note, there is no meeting on 14 February.

ACP Men's Group

Come for coffee, conversation, prayer, and fellowship. Any men interested in further information, address, and door codes, or in being added to our e-mail list, should contact Ed Hyslip.

Annual Spring Retreat For Adults: 7-9 June

ACP's annual Spring Retreat for adults will take place the weekend of 7-9 June 2013. We will be returning to the Abbaye-Fleury, an historic Benedictine monastery on the banks of the Loire about two hours from Paris. The theme of the meeting will be "Centering Prayer at the **Wellspring**" to be led by **Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault**. **Rev. Bourgeault is a contemplative herself, an Episcopalian priest, a former student and colleague of Father Thomas Keating, and an internationally known author and retreat leader.** As further preparation it is recommended to read "**Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening**" by **Rev. Bourgeault**.

Our program will begin with supper Friday evening, and end after lunch on Sunday. It will include discussion, meditation and prayer time, perhaps a question period with a monk, and some free time to relax. A very special opportunity we have is the option for each of us to attend any or all of the six daily offices with the monks. This is an environment conducive to a silent retreat for any who wish. The cost will be 100 € per person (exclusive of transportation), with an early registration fee of 85€ if payment is received prior to 15 April.

PLACES ARE LIMITED TO 24. If you wish to go on this retreat, please let Sue Orsoni know as soon as possible to make a formal reservation. If there is sufficient demand, it is possible that a bus may be chartered. If you have any questions, please contact Sue, as above.

Young Professionals

Are you between 25 and 39 years old? Experiencing the corporate world in Paris and surrounding areas? Then come share your experiences with us on Wednesdays in the Catacombs from 19h30 to 21h30.

On 6 February we will be discussing relationships in the workplace and from 20 February we will be following Mark Labberton's book *The Dangerous Act of Worship*.

Please note: there is no meeting on Ash Wednesday (13 February).

For more information, please go to the ACP website www.acparis.org/yp or join our Facebook group ACP Young Professionals.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to Elodie.



Keeping up with Patti! At Rafiki Village in Uganda

In September 2011, Patti Lafage flew to Uganda to join the Rafiki Village. Rafiki, built in 2003, is home and school to orphans and local children. On these pages, Patti shares stories of “how God has been working to help (her) contribute to His transforming love in Africa.”

Seeing our children grow, learn, and use their talents is one of the many satisfactions that serving God at Rafiki brings.

As part of the Rafiki Christian Classical Language Arts curriculum, the 2012 Fifth Grade class studied the five canons of rhetoric (invention, arrangement, style, memory and **delivery**). During regular Friday “**delivery**” of their memorized “**Quotable Quotes,**” some students began to show a real flair for performing before an audience, be it only their peers. The idea of producing a Fifth Grade Play was born.

A few months later, the class was enchanted by a fairy tale from India called *Bopoluchi*, also part of our curriculum. We decided to transform *Bopoluchi* into an African drama; one of our students wrote the script. No turning back now!

How to make the production truly African? “**Seek and ye shall find...**” God sent us Daniel, a young Ugandan Performing Arts major at Makerere University, who agreed to donate his **time and talents as Director.** He “**Africanized**” our script and added a spectacular ending. We went to work.



An entire week of Christmas holidays was dedicated to the project. Providentially, two young “**mini missionaries**” were on hand to assist with costumes, make-up and even scenery painting.

There was a noticeable buzz in the air. Village staff and the other children tolerated the extra comings and goings, as well as the secrets for a “**surprise effect**”, with good grace.

As rehearsals progressed during the week, the play took on a life of its own. The story? In classic fairy tale style, the young maiden Bopoluchi resists being tricked into marriage with an ugly old robber, chooses the most eligible suitor at a traditional ceremony instead, and they live happily ever after.



Each of the children found a role: actors, extras, dancers, scenery painters, stage hands, narrator or props manager. Mamas lent bits and pieces for costumes. Cardboard packaging from new equipment became scenery. Cast and crew worked hard and had great fun. Several children revealed considerable dramatic talent. As we had hoped, some children shone as they had not previously done through academics.



Their pre-colonial ancestors, however, were known to have used drama as a primary means of passing down life's lessons through generations. After Uganda's independence in 1962, creation and production of drama became the preferred outlet for talented writers. Still later and continuing today, traveling "theatre for development" troupes tour the country with productions designed to bring issues such as healthcare and disease prevention, civic responsibility and family values to isolated rural populations.

The Story of Bopoluchi was presented to a full house on 31 December, just before our traditional "fireworks". The audience loved it. None of our children had ever really seen a play performed before, nor had they had the opportunity to go to a real theatre.

Rafiki children have learned about the excitement and the extra dimension that drama brings to literature. This year's new fifth graders are already requesting their turn to do a play, and will hopefully take their five "canons of rhetoric" seriously in order to prepare.





Following our Destiny

by Destiny E. Ryales
www.excellencectc.org

Happy Day to Everyone at ACP!

The New Year has started off with a bang and we are surely blessed. The children welcomed me with open arms when I returned to Afrangua this mid-January. They were very excited about returning to our computer classes at Excellence Computer Technology Center. My teacher, Abraham, did not travel during the break so the children were asking him every day when I would return and when the classes would restart.

Many of the students retained the typing skills Abraham taught them last semester, however, there were quite a few that had completely forgotten. So the first part of the class was a summary of the previous lessons. The students listened intently and I believe they are going to jump right back up to speed very fast. Practice makes perfect so we are going to make sure that if the student stops by the center then he or she will be allowed to jump on a PC for at least an hour.

The 1st Graders joined us for the first time this month and they were perfect little students. This is the age when everything is new, interesting and the brain soaks up the knowledge quickly. I believe I was more excited about them joining us than they might have been. Their class is taught in the local dialect, Fanti, so they can fully understand. All twenty students do not speak English but I can tell they are open to learning it. Hopefully, we will be able to migrate the students from Fanti to English in the next school year. Welcome 1st Graders!!!!

Six used desktops were delivered to the center on 17 January! The student computer desk and chairs shall arrive the following Monday afternoon. The classroom will be re-arranged to efficiently hold our 18 PCs. To God be all the glory! The maximum number that could properly fit into the classroom should be around 21 desktops, which I shall reach by the next school year. I am very thankful for the timing of the additional computers because each grade has received 1 or 2 new students since the winter vacation. So this past week it was necessary to double up the students, however, next week will be completed different! Thank you ACP!



2013 Women's Retreat
Lubricating Life: Smooth Living in the Spirit
with Renata Bultema

Saturday 23 February, 9h30 to 15h30
Thurber Room in the American Church in Paris

Do you need a spiritual “oil change”? We'll be looking at Paul's instructions from **1 Thessalonians 5: 11–23** on how to have smooth relationships within the body of Christ and outside that body. Time will be provided for us to interact with the topic and with one another. Our leader in this spiritual oil change is going to be Renata Bultema.

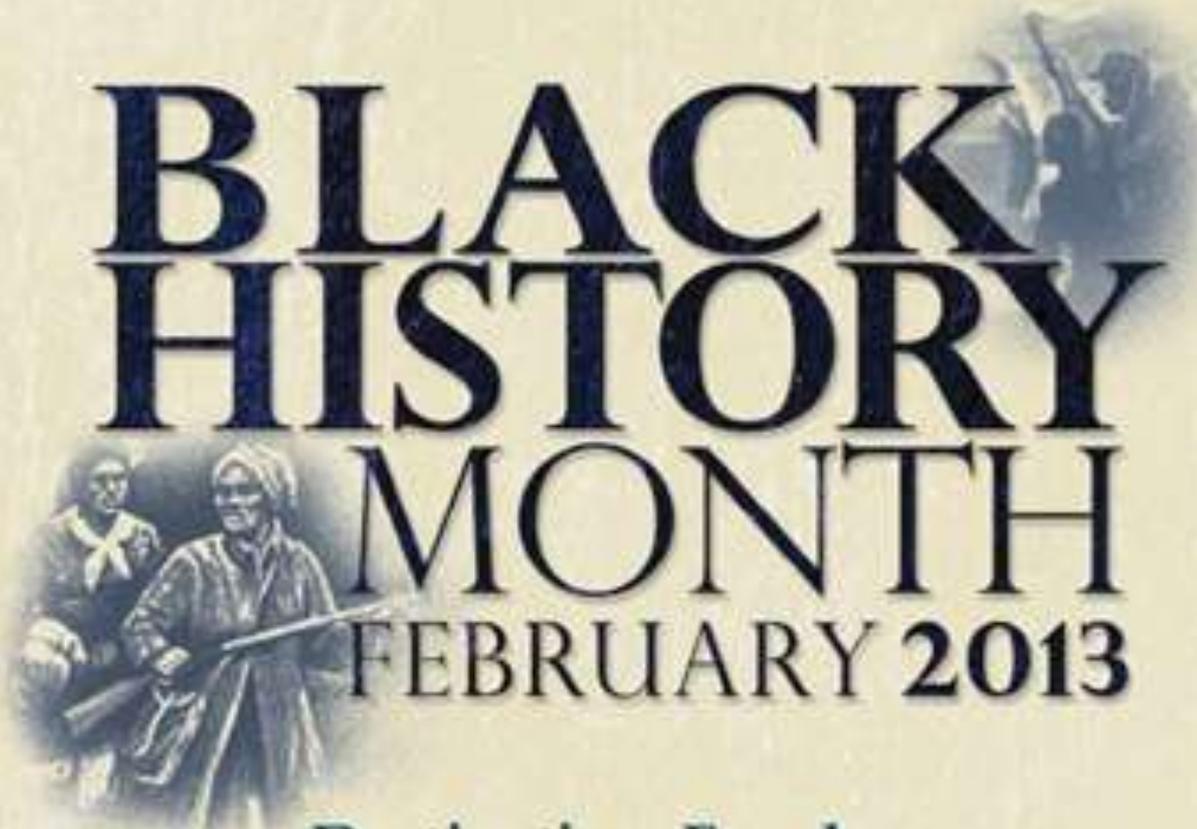


Renata is the product of a cross-cultural marriage and upbringing. She has her BA in Education from Wheaton College and an MA in Christian Education from Denver Seminary. She has lived in Turkey since 1990 and has raised three children there. Currently her newly-married son is in graduate school in the United States; her daughter, who attends Westmont College, is doing a semester abroad in Paris; and her youngest, Talya, attends Black Forest Academy in Germany. Renata has worked with her husband to start Olive Grove, a summer camp for third-culture kids (TCKs), and she still serves as its director. She also helped start the St. Paul Union Church and the St. Paul Cultural Center in Antalya, Turkey.

We'll have a light breakfast and time of fellowship beginning at 9h30. We're thrilled to have Joan Grayson-Minor back to lead us in some spiritual music, as we lift up our praises to God. Renata will lead a morning and afternoon session on our topic. At noon the ACPs Men's Ministry will serve us a delicious catered lunch. We'll wrap up the retreat at 15h00, so you'll still have an opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends.

Registration is now being accepted in the Welcome Room after Sunday worship services and is limited to 80 women. The event is 15 €. Childcare will be provided at 5€ per family. Please bring lunch for your child. Scholarships will be available. We apologize in advance, but we'll be unable to accept walk-ins on the day of the event. Space is limited to 80 places, so please register early. If you have any questions, contact the Women's Retreat Planning Committee at woac_president@yahoo.com.

≈ Commemorating ≈
The Sesquicentennial of Emancipation ≈



BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEBRUARY 2013

**Destination: Freedom
Harriet Tubman
and the Underground Railroad**

The life and times of the celebrated
emancipator and abolitionist,
narrated by **Ellen Kountz**

African Fellowship: 3 February 13h00—17h00 *Thurber Room*

Young Adult Pizza Night: 26 February 19h30—21h00 *Thurber Room*

Children's Ministry

February Fellowship

Attention all families! Mark your calendars for 17 February at 12h30pm for an afternoon of fellowship and fun with the Children's Worship team. There will be games, arts and crafts, and of course food will be provided. The event will be held in G7, G5 and the gym. Don't miss out on getting to know other families involved with Children's Worship and celebrating Valentine's Day. Hope to see you all there!

Children's Worship Stories for February

These are the bible stories for children 3-8 years old. We wanted to make sure that all families are well informed on what is happening with Children's Worship and hope that these scriptures can be discussed further with your families.

3 February – Jonah, the Backward Prophet

Scripture Jonah 1-4

10 February – The Boy Jesus at the temple

Scripture Luke 2:41-52

17 February – Jesus and the Children

Scripture Mathew 19:13-15, Mark 10:13-16, Luke 18:15-17

24 February – Jesus and Zaccheus

Scripture Luke 19:1-10

Rooted Stories for February

Curriculum for 9-10 years old

3 February – **Jesus Tells Martha What's Most Important**

Scripture Luke 10:38-42

10 February – **Jesus Teaches About God's Blessings**

Scripture Mathew 5:1-12

17 February – Jesus Calls His Followers Salt and Light

Scripture Mathew 5:13-16

24 February – Jesus is Crucified

Scripture Luke 23:33-43, Mathew 27:33-44, Mark 15:22-32, John 19: 17-24

Vacancy: Church Secretary

The ACP seeks a Bilingual Church Secretary (CDI contract) to work weekdays 9h00—17h00. Applications will be received until 28 February.

For more information, please visit the ACP website www.acparis.org/secretaryjob

From our Prayer Chain Team

*Do you have a prayer request for our Prayer Team?
If so, please forward your prayer by e-mail to prayerrequests@acparis.org.*

*Your prayer request will remain strictly private and confidential.
Prayer is powerful. We are here for you.*



James 5:13-16 (NIV)

*“¹³Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. **The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**”*

If you would like someone to pray WITH you after services, there will be a prayer team member available. Meet under the chandelier in the sanctuary.

The ACP Lay Caregiver Ministry Team

LCG'ers are dedicated to demonstrating the love of Christ to the ACP community by making hospital visits, rejoicing with those who are celebrating, and calling or visiting those who are going through a loss or transition or in need of a listening ear or a prayerful presence.

We are also working to set up a prayer time following each of the worship services to pray with people in the congregation.

We follow training to be equipped to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. We are always looking for more members and are happy to receive requests for visits or calls.

All of our requests are confidential. If you know of anyone who could use a visit or call from us, or would like to become a member of our team,

please contact Pastor Michelle or Yoshiko Okubo

laycaregivers@acparis.org

Getting to Know...

Monica Bassett-Montoliu

By Camilla MacFarlane

Monica was born in Chicago, Illinois, the sixth of a family of four brothers and a sister, and they all grew up in LaGrange, Illinois, a western suburb of Chicago. When it was time for college she went to Northern Illinois University (NIU) where she studied Marketing and Art and Design.

Being raised in the Catholic Church, she went to church weekly with her family, so she has always considered herself a Christian. However, she attended a Protestant Church in her late twenties which she felt was more open and friendly than the church she had attended since birth, and so it was at that church that she and Lionel decided to wed in 1994.

Back in 1990 however, Monica came to France to study French at the Alliance Française and to experience that "semester abroad" that she didn't take advantage of when she was at the university. She stayed for nine months and started coming to the ACP Sunday service quite regularly, as well as the young adult pizza night for fellowship. On the very last gathering before summer, she met her husband to be, Lionel Montoliu. Romance and love blossomed and after their wedding, she moved back to France and the two of them became ACP members in 1998, when Lionel made the decision to be baptized at the same time as their son, Keenan. Their daughter, Nina was born in 2000.

For those of you who know Monica, you know that she is a very gifted artist. You have undoubtedly seen her work in and around ACP! When asked about her artwork and her **creativity she said, "I feel extremely fortunate to be able to be an artist because my work is my play and I have the feeling that I weave Christ's energy into everything I create. To be truly creative is to be in touch with my own divinity. If each stroke of my brush/palette knife is like a prayer then I consider that as my painting unfolds in all its movement, color and texture, I am infusing my *corner of the world* with prayers of love, joy, peace, simplicity, compassion, etc. on a very subtle level."**

"I get the impression that if I am open to the Holy Spirit working through me and I allow the process of painting *to flow*, the end result is an amazing piece of art that I could have never done without help from this greater force. It is definitely a gift of grace as well as an utter mystery. And it is this grace that continues to delight me, awe me and calls me back into the studio to paint time and time again. Although my husband, Lionel, and I created the cross painting that presently hangs in the ACP sanctuary, I feel that whether or not Christian symbols appear in my artwork, the spirit of Christ is ever present because His spirit is **present in my heart, mind and soul."**

As you can easily see, her art is her language of expression and she says that her favorite moments occur when people relate with her work. When her art becomes a bridge where she can connect with others, she says she feels as though she is truly authentic and that she is living a life of purpose. She puts it best by **saying, "When I share my gifts, I have the feeling that I am sharing my light and love with others. This keeps me focused, balanced and happy, and I don't think it gets any better than that!"**





Young Adult Activities in February



Young Adult Events (18-30yrs)

Tuesday 5	19h30-21h00	Bible Study	<i>Catacombs</i>
Tuesday 12	18h00-21h00	Pizza Night*	<i>Thurber Room</i>
Monday 18	19h30-21h30	Pub Theology	<i>TBC</i>
Tuesday 19	19h30-21h00	Bible Study	<i>Catacombs</i>
Tuesday 26	18h00-21h00	Pizza night	<i>Thurber Room</i>
Friday 22	20h00-22h00	Faith in Film: movie screening & discussion	<i>Catacombs</i>

*For **Pizza Night** come at 18h00 to help cook and from 19h30 for dinner and fellowship

You can also join us on Thursdays for Thurber Thursday with a meal (suggested donation 5€) at 18h30 and a presentation from 19h30 in the Thurber Room.

Check Christian Education for speaker list and come early to help cook or set up!

Volunteers are greatly appreciated!

For more information about who we are and what we do at **ACP Young Adults**, please visit our group page on the church website:

<http://www.acparis.org/acp-groups/young-adult-ministry>

We invite you to connect with us online for community and updates on all young adult activities and gatherings:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/ACPyoungadults/>

You can also follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/danhaugh)

Youth Activities in February

Youth Events (13-18yrs)

Please feel free to bring friends along – they are always welcome at ACP events!

Sunday 3	15h00-17h30 15h00-17h30	Youth Group “Lycée” Youth Group “Collège”	<i>Catacombs Gym & G2</i>
Friday 8	TBC	Collège movie night	<i>Catacombs</i>
Sunday 10	11h00	Youth Sunday at the 11h00 & 13h30 worship services	
	15h00-17h30 15h00-17h30	Youth Group “Lycée” Youth Group “Collège”	<i>Catacombs Gym & G2</i>
Sunday 17		Parent meet & greet after the 11h00 service in the <i>Youth Pastor’s Office</i> and after the 13h30 service in the <i>Chapel</i> in the <i>Sanctuary</i>	
	15h00-17h30	Youth Group “Lycée”	<i>Catacombs</i>
	15h00-17h30	Youth Group “Collège”	<i>Gym & G2</i>
Friday 22	TBC	Laser Tag	
Sunday 24	15h00-17h30	Youth Group “Lycée”	<i>Catacombs</i>
	15h00-17h30	Youth Group “Collège”	<i>Gym & G2</i>

For more information about who we are and what we do at **ACP Youth**, please visit our group page on the church website: <http://www.acparis.org/acp-groups/youth-ministry>, or contact Rev. Dan Haugh at youthpastor@acparis.org.

For students to stay connected with our online community please join our Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/acpyouthgroup/>

Opportunities to Serve the Community

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Children's Worship Needs You!

Volunteers are asked to commit to serving approximately two Sundays every 6-8 weeks. For more information, please contact Jeanette at childrensworship@acparis.org.

GREETING AND USHERING: We are seeking new members for this group. If you are interested in participating during the services, please contact Anna Zweede at worshipandmusic@acparis.org.

THURSDAY THURSDAY: Like to cook? Bake? We need people for making cakes/cookies and delicious desserts in advance of our dinners on Thursday evenings, as well as helping with dinner preparations on Thursdays. Our cooking crew starts at 16h00 and set up crew sets the tables starting at 17h30. Please contact Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org if you would like to become part of this fun team! Clean up crew eats for free and earns special blessings!



FRIDAY MISSION LUNCH at the American Church in Paris. Each Friday from 10h00 – 14h00, a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. Volunteers are needed each week for cooking, serving, and cleaning up. If you are interested and available, please contact Kristie Worrel at kristieworrel@hotmail.com

WELCOME TABLE ATTENDANTS and COFFEE HOUR GREETERS:

Be a MEETER GREETER! We are looking for happy, cheerful people to help at the Welcome Table after every service, as well as roaming coffee hour greeters. This is a ministry that we can ALL share in, and if you can share 20 minutes of your time, once a month to participate in welcoming guests, you are sure to find more joy than you can give. A smile and a handshake is all that is needed! Teams are being formed so that each team serves one Sunday per month at each service. Please contact Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org if you can be counted on to spread some joy and welcome a newcomer!

SANDWICH MINISTRY will take place once a month throughout 2013. Come make sandwiches to hand out to the hungry and homeless. Contact Jurie Ane or Dan Haugh at youthpastor@acparis.org if you would like to get involved.

For other volunteering opportunities, check with Mission Outreach at missionoutreach@acparis.org, Community Life at communitylife@acparis.org, or Dan Haugh with Youth and Young Adult Ministries at youthpastor@acparis.org

ACP Groups and Additional Activities

ACP WRITER'S GROUP meets the second Saturday of the month at 14h00 – 17h00 in room G2. Contact Laura Kerber.

MULTICULTURAL COUPLES GROUP meets in the Thurber Room on Friday, 8 February at 20h00 . You are warmly invited to bring a dish to share and join the fun. There is always great fellowship and fascinating cross-cultural discussion. For more information contact Monica Bassett or Anja Wyss.

THE KNITTING GROUP meets on Monday from 16h00-18h30 in room G2 adjacent to Pastor Dan's office. It's a nice, bright space and opens to the courtyard when the weather permits. We welcome all hand crafters or those who just want to sit and talk. We are a very diverse and fun group. Some come to learn how to knit and purl; others generously share their expert skills; everyone comes for the fellowship. This month in addition to working on our own projects I thought we could make some baby hats for charity. I will provide the yarn and patterns for those interested in this project. Please contact Nancy VerWest for more information.

THE QUILTING GROUP **meets on Tuesday afternoon at members' houses and welcomes** quilters of all levels. This month we will learn how to make a stained glass quilt using one of the windows in church. For more information please contact.

MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP: The movie group's Oscar-month choices are: *Zero Dark Thirty* by Kathryn Bigelow, *Seven Psychopaths* by Martin McDonagh, *Silver Linings Playbook* by David O. Russell (playing here as *Happiness Therapy*) and *Lincoln* by Steven Spielberg. See any or all in the cinema at your convenience, then join the group for discussion on Thursday, 21 February in basement room G2.

Independent Christian Prayer Groups and Bible Study Activities

MOMS IN PRAYER INTERNATIONAL has come to Paris! Are you concerned about your kids? Would you like to join with other moms as we lift up our cares and concerns for our children and their schools to our loving Father? Experience the joy of replacing anxiety with peace and hope when we pray together. Contact Caroline at MomsInPrayerParis@gmail.com for information and join us Tuesday mornings at 9h30 in G2. See also MomsInPrayer.org.

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP (BSF INTERNATIONAL): What a great way to discover **the gift of God's Word through BSF's interdenominational and international Bible studies!** This Paris class brings together 50 or so women for in-depth Bible study every Monday evening from 19h00 to 20h50. Contact Thelma Fuchs at thelmafuchs@yahoo.fr.

MINDFUL MEDITATION: This group, being offered on Saturdays from 12h00 to 13h15 in G2, is for those who already have a meditation practice, as well as for those who are interested in beginning a practice. Mindfulness meditation is a way of learning to pay attention to our life as it unfolds moment by moment. It is open to church members as well as to the larger community. Norma Jean Deak, a clinical social worker, has taught Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction for 14 years. Contact Norma Jean with any questions.



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Associate Pastor	Michelle Wahila	associatepastor@acparis.org
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Youth Music Director	Bonnie Woolley	youthmusic@acparis.org
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Worship & Music Vice-Chair	Chad DuBose	worshipandmusic@acparis.org

The American Church in Paris is a member congregation of the Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East. If you are traveling and looking for a place to worship, please consult the AICEME website for our sister congregations: <http://aiceme.net/>.