



the spire on the seine

The American Church in Paris



Tel.: 01.40.62.05.00

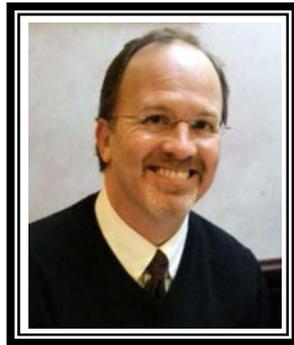
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65, quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris, France

February 2011

*From
Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor*



Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

Over the holidays, I was reminded again of Paul's (or whoever scholars think wrote the) first and second letters to Timothy and the beautiful greeting, "Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord." While last year we used grace as a key theme in worship, I sense God leading us to focus on mercy. Grace is at the heart of the good news of who God is. Jesus came and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Jesus is God's gift (grace) to all. Peace (from the Hebrew sense of shalom; wholeness, healing and completion) is the goal of salvation history for all creation. Mercy flows from God's grace and is the means through which God will accomplish peace in our hearts, our relationships, our community and in our world. The question is: How do we not only receive God's mercy anew in our lives, but share God's mercy with one another and our neighbors?

I'm struck by the French word for thank you, merci. You don't need an etymological dictionary to see that merci and mercy are related words! But this is what The Barnhart Dictionary of Etymology says about mercy; it is "borrowed from Old French merci: reward,

gift, kindness, mercy..."¹ It seems to me that gratitude is at the heart of our response to grace. When we understand that God has shown lavish kindness to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, thanksgiving wells up within us. And from this deep gratitude for God's mercy, we are then not only willing but compelled to show mercy toward those around us. Peter put it this way, "Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy" (1 Peter 2:10). Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy" (Matthew 5:7). We are called to cultivate our community where the ministry of mercy is shared and multiplied. Even in the face of our enemies, we are called to show the mercy of loving kindness. This is the way of Christ.

In the King James Version of the Bible the word mercy is used 262 times (as opposed to 124 times in the New International Version). Apparently, mercy was more commonly used in the early 17th century. I bring this fact up for two reasons. First of all, sometime in 1611, what became known as the King James Version of the Bible was completed by a group of 47 scholars from the Church of England, and in its time "found a critical balance in a world of theological conflict..."² So this year we can celebrate the 400th anniversary of one of the English languages most enduring and influential works. But secondly, I believe

¹ Robert K. Barnhart, Ed. *The Barnhart Dictionary of Etymology* (Bronx, New York: The H. W. Wilson Company, 1988), 653.

² Verlyn Klinkenborg, "The King James Bible at 400" (*The International Herald Tribune*, Tuesday, January 25, 2011), 7.

When we understand that God has shown lavish kindness to us, ... we are then not only willing but compelled to show mercy toward those around us.

that there is a need for a renaissance of mercy in the church. I think we all have been touched by various controversies and schisms around the world in the church at one time or another, perhaps even here at the ACP. God's vision for the church is that the world may see how much we love one another, and I think

simple mercy is a way that love is clearly communicated. Consider simple ways that you might experiment with creative ways of showing mercy to the people in your life: your family, your friends, your co-workers and neighbors, even your enemies.

The Psalmist invites us to worship the One who is our source of gratitude and mercy: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations" (Psalm 100.4-5, KJV).

My prayer for us all in this year is to enter into a deeper relationship with God through worship, praise, and caring service, showing through our lives and life together that indeed God's mercy is everlasting!

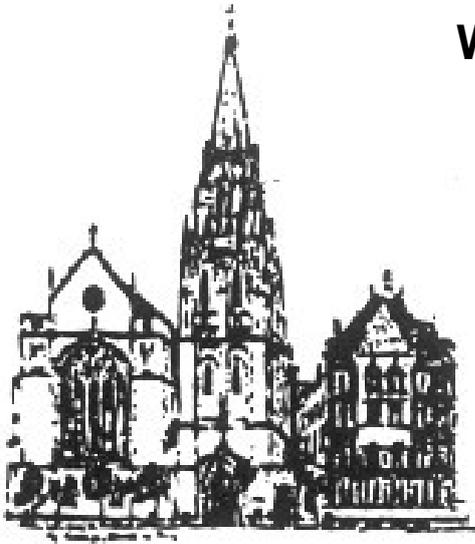
In Christ,
Scott

Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

THANK YOU so much for the Surprise Birthday Party you gave me for my 50th Birthday! I got a little tired trying to blow out all 50 birthday candles 😊, but enjoyed and was touched by the gentle roasting and letters Alison shared, the singing Tom and Danny offered ("I'm no longer ashamed" of my age!), the cakes provided, the many notes of love and encouragement and generous gifts that so many of you gave. I will be enjoying a few days in the mountains for skiing, thanks to you all, and I've been working on Israel "IZ" Ka'ano'i Kamakawiwo'ole's version of "Somewhere Over the

Rainbow" with my new ukulele! I am thankful to God for the privilege of serving in your midst and being a part of this diverse and fun-loving community! Finally, thank you so much for remembering Kim and giving her the beautiful bouquet of flowers. It was a thoughtful way to acknowledge that while I am often the "up front" guy in our family, Kim is a tremendous source of strength and wisdom "behind the scenes" for me and our whole family. Thank you and God bless you for your kindness, love and care.

I am sincerely yours in Christ,
Scott



Weekly Events

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

Music

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

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

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

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

Contact Hmusic@acparis.orgH for more information.

Youth Music

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

Cherub Choir: Wednesday 1 – 2pm

Children's Choir: Wednesday 2 – 3pm

Children's Handbells: Wednesday 3 – 4pm

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

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

Contact Hyouthmusic@acparis.orgH for more information.

Youth & Young Adults

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

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



From Ginger Strickland
Youth & Young Adults Pastor

Deep community, real relationship, is not easy. But it is a vision – a picture of the future that inspires passion.

The young adult ministry team has been talking about vision, which Bill Hybels defines as “a picture of the future that inspires passion.” We’ve been thinking and praying about what picture of the future of the young adult group inspires passion in us. And we found that our pictures varied according to our individual callings, but that these images circled around the vision of a group characterized by three things: deep community, discipleship, and mission.

And as we begin the new year, “deep community” is especially on our minds. How do we make a home, a place of welcome, for the new bunch of young adults who will walk through our doors? How do we get past the superficial level in how we relate to one another? How do we have REAL relationships? How do we make friendships that extend past the boundaries of a once-weekly Bible study or worship service?

Because we are desperate for that real relationship, that deep community. But so much in our modern lives conspires to make real community difficult. We are encouraged to live our lives at a

speed that means we don’t have much time to get to know one another.. We are expected to stay on top of a constant stream of information and communication. And think of the typical French apartment building – at least one code needed to even make it to the interphone. We can’t even drop by to visit one another without an advance phone call.

And it is not only our culture that resists deep community. There is something in us that fears being fully known. We have a sense that if we let people know us as we really are, if we let them get behind the image we construct, they won’t really like us. We also resist the responsibility of knowing others well, the obligation that comes from loving and being loved.

Deep community, real relationship, is not easy. But it is a vision – a picture of the future that inspires passion. The young adult ministry team asks your prayer as we seek this community in our own lives and in the ACP young adult ministry as a whole.



ACP YOUTH - SPRING 2011

SUNDAYS

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

Friends are always welcome at ACP youth events!

Meeting Dates: February 6, 13, 20, 27/March 6, 13, 20, 27/April 3, 10, 17/May 8, 15, 22, 29/June 5, 12, 19, 26

COOL STUFF!!!

***February 4-5 : Lock-In!** Meet in the ACP Catacombs at 7:30pm to spend the night at the Church!

***March 5: ACP Talent Show.** Please join us at 7:30pm in the Thurber Room for dinner and a great show. Sign up if you'd like to perform!

***April 14 : ACP Seder.** Join the youth table as we learn about what Jesus was up to on the night before He died.

***May 21 : Worship Night.** Music, fun, and fellowship. Please meet in the Catacombs at 7:00pm.

***June 18 : Study Break.** Join us at 2pm for a break from studying for exams. You'll need it!

FOR MORE INFO

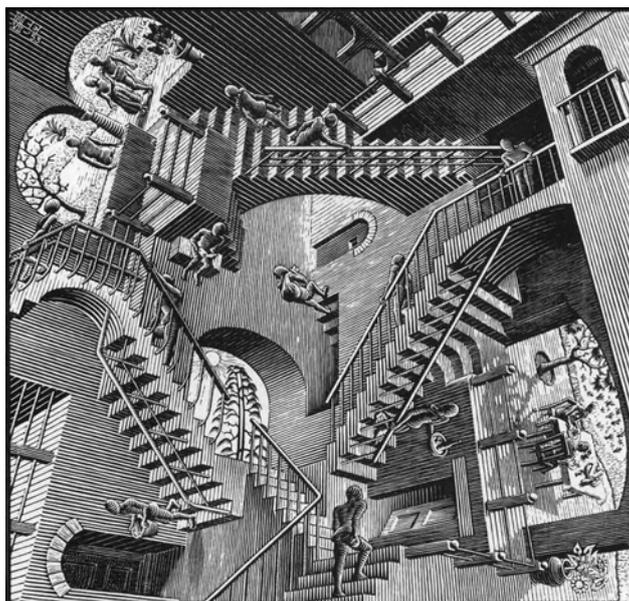
For our email list, details on an event, a chat, a prayer, more about our youth leadership team., please contact...

Ginger Strickland---Office: 01.40.62.05.07---Mobile: 06.78.92.64.34---

[.youthpastor@acparis.org](mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org)

ACP YOUTH ARE AGES 11-18

CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE



ACP YOUNG ADULTS 2011

BIBLE STUDY

Join us every Tuesday night at 7:30pm in the ACP Catacombs, for Bible Study, deep conversation, and fellowship. *1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays of the month.*

Dates: Feb. 8, 22/March 8, 22/April 5/May 3, 17, 31/June 7, 21

PIZZA NIGHT

Come at 6pm to cook or 7:30pm for pizza, prayer, and small group discussion. In the ACP Thurber Room. *2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.*

Dates: Feb. 1, 15 /March 1, 15, 29/April 12, 26/May 10, 24/June 14, 28

SPECIAL EVENTS

Feb. 25-26: Young Adult Service Days. Engage in service projects around Paris, study scriptures on social justice, explore what it means to be a church on a mission. Times TBA.

March 5: ACP Talent Show. Please join us at 7:30pm in the Thurber Room for dinner and a great show. Sign up if you'd like to perform!

April 8-10: Young Adult Retreat. Please join us in Jambville for a weekend of campfires, community, and prayer.

May 28: Deepening Your Spiritual Life – join us for a night of reflection, discussion, and prayer; a chance to focus on the living God in the midst of a busy life. Meet in the Catacombs at 7:30pm

June 11: Pentecost Picnic. Come enjoy friends, food, and prayer. 6:00pm. Location TBA.

FOR MORE INFO (and to be put on our email list...)

Ginger Strickland---Office: 01.40.62.05.07---Mobile: 06.78.92.64.34---

youthpastor@acparis.org

STAND UP!

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

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

STAND UP includes:

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

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

3 FEB: SPECIAL GUEST LECTURE: JIM BELCHER author of *Deep Church* will join us at Thurber Thursdays on Feb. 3. Jim Belcher shows that we don't have to choose between orthodox evangelical doctrine on the one hand and cultural engagement, creativity and commitment to social justice on the other." Check out Jim's website at www.thedeepchurch.com and come join us on Feb. 3. As always, dinner at 6:30 pm and talk at 7:30 pm.

The journey continues

by Monica Bassett-Montoliu



There are times in our lives when we feel called to adventure. This may include living and working as a foreigner in another country. It could also mean embarking on a *soul journey* to better align ourselves with the Holy Spirit and our true life's purpose. Ralph Waldo Emerson said "Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it within us or find it not." After living a 2½ year spiritual and artistic adventure at an art space we created just a block away, there was a feeling of melancholy and transformation as we made the transition of moving our family back into our apartment in January.

Last September, I wrote about our upcoming Art Exhibition/Open House at this awesome rented space as well as at certain times when one lives in a state of suspense because one is waiting for a question to be answered that could impact life in an important way. For us, it meant a response of being denied an extension for this ephemeral site in which we had invested so much of ourselves, developing it into a wonderfully enriching artistic space. We had been promised the use

of the space until its destruction. Instead, the government changed plans and pulled the "proverbial rug out from under us" by deciding to use the house for office space road planning without any fixed demolition date at all. The "gift" we received after waiting so many weeks during Advent certainly didn't live up to our expectations.

Our first reaction was one of shock. It helped me to replace ruminating by sculpting some of the ceramic crosses I offered to make as a gift to visiting pastors in May, 2011 for the AICEME conference being hosted by the ACP. All those clay crosses together drying on a wooden board reminded me of a cemetery. Coincidentally, we attended a funeral of an elderly friend on the same day as our meeting with the government. I often use creativity as a means of dispelling negative energy and channeling it into an art form.

As we digested the idea that we would start moving our belongings during the holidays, God's grace slowly replaced the lingering

bitterness. We prepared and celebrated Christmas with joy all the while visualizing the logistics and manpower of cramming a factory-size worth of art, a gallery and ephemeral home into a “maison de ville”. Inner peace gave way to courage, humor and energy to move forward. I was inspired to pack, sort, and organize. This move also presented us with the opportunity to dispose of a load of superfluous stuff. Amazingly, new spaces emerged from reorganizing and shifting things to create a different flow. Somehow, accepting, truly accepting that God’s wisdom was at work right along side us brought about a mental shift concerning our circumstances.

Over the past year, I’ve often repeated how I believe in perfect timing—God’s timing weaving it’s way through everything. This has been my opportunity to live it. My prayer was for my faith to grow during this artistic sojourn. What an amazing “gift” indeed. The art space gave us a place to dream, a place to create, a place to invite other artists, a place to share our art with others, a place to try new techniques and inspirations, a place to transform and be transformed. The opportunity to explore new ways of expression was essential for Lionel and me exhibiting a 2-story sculpture and large-scale painting together at Le Grand Palais last November. We are so blessed to have taken the risk to invest in our creativity because we

are filled with the desire to find a new space in which to continue to share and explore our art. I believe that dreams are gifts of the Holy Spirit that are meant to alter us. Our family started the New Year 2011 allowing God to let the path unfold knowing that He has better and more wonderful plans for us than we could ever imagine.

Our parting gesture at the art space was glazing and firing over 70 of the AICEME ceramic crosses in a raku kiln that heats the clay to 1800° F. (Without the space, we will no longer be able to store the kiln, etc.). The Raku process of firing ceramics is an ancient Japanese method said to be a dance with fire, air, and water. The unpredictability of this method makes each piece unique and depending on certain variables (such as glazes, temperature, and timing) some pieces display beautiful crackling effects while others can break or even explode. The crosses are quite symbolic to us for several reasons. Most importantly, they symbolize each of us on our own unique journey and our individual dance with the Lord. Just as the crosses endure a thermal shock to become solid and beautiful pieces of art, God offers us life experiences along with the necessary tools in which to integrate them so that we can become more open, loving, faithful and authentic. Or in other words, to become beautiful pieces of love.

“A CALL TO LIVE” SMALL GROUPS DURING LENT – PLAN NOW! Beginning on **March 6** we will begin an all-church small-group study during Lent. The 6-week study will connect to the sermon series. Our aim is widespread participation, and small groups can be organized for homes throughout the city, different days and times at the church house. This week, please look ahead to a weekly slot between March 6 and April 17 when you can commit to a Lent study that combines Bible study, community and practical action. The study can be previewed at: on the World Vision website: [http://www.worldvision.org/resources.nsf/main/edu-2/\\$file/call-to-live.pdf?open&lpos=day_txt_call-live](http://www.worldvision.org/resources.nsf/main/edu-2/$file/call-to-live.pdf?open&lpos=day_txt_call-live)

MEN’S RETREAT MARCH 4 – 6. The men of the ACP are planning to join the men at the International Community Church in Surrey, England for a retreat March 4-6 at Farnham Castle. The topic is the **parable of the Prodigal Son** and the talk sessions will be led by Drew Waller. The parable of the prodigal son is one of Jesus’ best-known parables, but is also his least understood. Over the weekend we will explore the heart of the wayward son, the love of the father, and the sacrifice of the older brother. Our prayer is that this weekend will help us explore what it means to discover grace in the midst of duty. Join us as we reconnect with our Heavenly Father and explore how God is calling us to live in grace with the family of God. For more info, please contact Ed Hyslip at gtmmsinc@gmail.com.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

THURBER THURSDAYS continues every Thursday – dinner at 6:30 pm; class at 7:30 pm. The series considers our time and experiences alongside 2 remaining stages of Israel's history: the land-owners who mismanaged their inheritance – and the exiles who lived without homeland. We begin with a light dinner and continue the fellowship during the teaching. Everyone is welcome to attend.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

EVERY FRIDAY, THE MISSION LUNCH PROGRAM provides a free, cooked lunch at the host church (American Cathedral, 23 avenue George V, Paris 8e) to those in need. ACP organizes the lunch on the second Friday of each month, but volunteers are needed every week for cooking, serving and cleaning-up. Contact: Kristie.

KNIT ONE, PEARL TWO: The **Knitting Group** meets on Mondays at 5 pm in Pastor Laurie's office. The Knitting Group will be meeting regularly again on Mondays starting January 10, 2011, from 5 to 6:40 pm in Pastor Laurie's study. We welcome newcomers, whether they be rank beginners, experts or somewhere in between. We even welcome quilters, crocheters, tatters and people who just want the fellowship! We knit for church missions as well as for our families and ourselves. We can guide you toward Paris knit shops, patterns, online resources and more. Drop in; bring a friend; check it out. Contacts: Antoinette Wolfe or Elizabeth Rand.

ACP PRAYER CARE TEAM. Members of the Prayer Care Team invite you to join them after the 11 am service if you would like to pray together for your special concerns. Look for the team on the left side aisle under the chandelier.

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

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

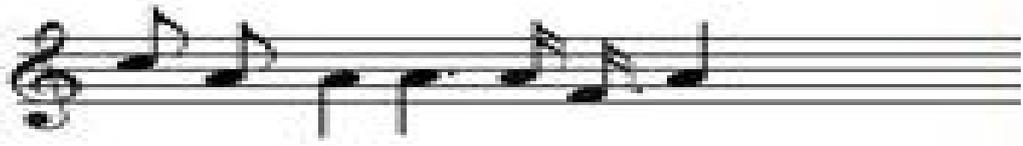
ALTAR FLOWERS. Offering altar flowers is a beautiful way to honor God, or people dear to you, to celebrate special occasions in your lives, or to remember your loved ones. If you would like to donate flowers, please contact the church secretary at secretary@acparis.org.

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

SOSHELP VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT. SOSHelp serves as an English language crisis line operating 365 days a year from 3 to 11PM. We provide anonymous, non-judgemental support by telephone to anglophones who are depressed, stressed or otherwise in need of help. We are holding a recruitment session at ACP on Feb. 10. If you are interested in being either a Listener (a commitment of roughly one 4 hour shift per week) or a Supporter (part of the fundraising and publicity staff), please come to this session to learn more about who we are and what we do, and for an initial interview. Please also visit our website at SOSHelpline.org for additional information. SOSHelp is also a mission of the ACP. ACP contact: Elizabeth Rand.

ACP Men's group Saturday morning bike ride to Bois de Boulogne: Please join us Saturday **February 5** for a bike ride at 8 am for fellowship and a jaunt to the bois for breakfast. Meet in front of the church, English and French spoken, so don't be shy. Rain or snow, no problem - we are going. No bike: no problem – *vellib* rental right around the corner. Bring some cash for coffee and croissants!

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



SUNDAY ATELIER CONCERTS

free admission

5 PM

February 6



Jonathan BLOOM, cello

Madline BLOOM, piano

Pohadka/Conte pour violoncelle et piano
Sonate pour violoncelle et piano, op. 6
Sonate opus 99
Sonate

JANACEK
BARBER
BRAHMS
DEBUSSY

February 13

Kimberly HAWKINS, soprano

Scott REDNOUR, piano

Martin ACKERMAN, guitare

**Oeuvres de Mozart, Puccini, Massenet, R. Strauss, Falla, Gershwin, Porter,
Sondheim, et Negro Spirituals**

February 20

John MURATORE, guitar

Music by F. Sor, N. Koshkin, F. Poulenc, Moreno-Torroba, A. Lauro, Villa-Lobos, W.
Walton, E. Pujol.

2011

February

2011

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday		
				1	Young Adults Bible Study, 7:30 pm Gaudeamus rehearsal, 7:30 pm	2	Youth choir rehearsals, 1-6:30 pm Adult Choir rehearsal, 7:30 pm SOSHelp volunteer recruitment session	3	Men's Morning Coffee, 7:30* Beginner handbells, 3 pm Thurber Thursday resumes, 6:30 pm/Special lecturer Jim Belcher Bronze bells, 7:30 pm	4	NOOMA Studies, 8:30 pm* ACP Youth Lock-in (until Saturday, February 5)		5	
Worship services, 9 & 11, and 1:30 pm Adult Bible class, 10 am Docent Tours, after 11 am Youth meeting, 3-5 pm Atelier concert, 5 pm	6	Knitting Group, 5 pm Celebration Ringers rehearsal, 6:45 pm	7	8	Young Adults Pizza Night, 7:30 pm Gaudeamus rehearsal, 7:30 pm	9	Youth choir rehearsals, 1-6:30 pm Adult Choir rehearsal, 7:30 pm	10	Men's Morning Coffee, 7:30* Beginner handbells, 3 pm Thurber Thursday, 6:30 pm SOSHelp volunteer recruitment session Bronze bells rehearsal, 7:30 pm	11	Friday Mission Lunch, 10:30, American Cathedral Multicultural Couples, 8 pm NOOMA Studies, 8:30 pm*		12	A special concert: Brian Parks: Organ concert of mathematical music, 3 pm
Worship services, 9 & 11, and 1:30 pm Adult Bible class, 10 am Docent Tours, after 11 am Youth meeting, 3-5 pm Atelier concert, 5 pm	13	Knitting Group, 5 pm Celebration Ringers rehearsal, 6:45 pm	14	15	Young Adults Bible Study, 7:30 pm Gaudeamus rehearsal, 7:30 pm	16	Youth choir rehearsals, 1-6:30 pm Adult Choir rehearsal, 7:30 pm	17	Men's Morning Coffee, 7:30* Beginner handbells, 3 pm Bronze bells rehearsal, 7:30 pm Movie Discussion Group, 7:30 pm	18	NOOMA Studies, 8:30 pm*		19	
Worship services, 9 & 11, and 1:30 pm Adult Bible class, 10 am Docent Tours, after 11 am Youth meeting, 3-5 pm Atelier concert, 5 pm	20	Knitting Group, 5 pm Celebration Ringers rehearsal, 6:45 pm	21	22	Young Adults Pizza Night, 7:30 pm Gaudeamus rehearsal, 7:30 pm	23	Youth choir rehearsals, 1-6:30 pm Adult Choir rehearsal, 7:30 pm	24	Men's Morning Coffee, 7:30* Beginner handbells, 3 pm Bronze bells rehearsal, 7:30 pm	25	NOOMA Studies, 8:30 pm* Young Adult Service Days		26	Young Adult Service Days
Worship services, 9 & 11, and 1:30 pm Adult Bible class, 10 am Docent Tours, after 11 am Youth meeting, 3-5 pm Atelier concert, 5 pm	27	Knitting Group, 5 pm Celebration Ringers rehearsal, 6:45 pm	28											

* Activity not held at ACP. Check with organizers for venue.