



Connecting Our Churches and Friends around the World

Summer 2015

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The American and Foreign Christian Union (AFCU) is a US-based 501 (c) (3) organization that supports the American Church in Paris, the American Church in Berlin, and the Vienna Community Church. Focusing primarily on alumni and friends of these churches, the AFCU manages endowment funds to support these churches, stimulates donations to grow these funds, and offers consultation and direct support to assist these churches in their operations. Please visit [www.afcubridge.org](http://www.afcubridge.org) for more information.

President's Message

Dear Members, Alumni, and Friends,

The mission of the American and Foreign Christian Union, supporting the work of our Lord Jesus Christ, will never end. That is the realization that my wife Marcia and I came to when we visited Berlin Germany to attend the 2015 AFCU annual meeting. There were approximately 40 volunteer members, associates, consultants, partner church representatives and pastors attending. All were there to report activities, approve budgets for the distribution of monetary gifts received last year and prepare for activities to raise necessary funds for next year.

The American Church in Berlin gave a progress report on the projects supported by the previous fund raising efforts by AFCU and all of you. The new efficient and effective heating system is working and kept us warm during our meeting on Saturday and at worship on Sunday. The new sound system was wonderful and even those with hearing-aids could tune in directly. One new project for the

immediate future includes renovating an organ to bring it up to its potential, once again filling the church with beautiful music. A second project is installing new self-contained rooms within niches of the sanctuary for the purpose of providing energy efficient space for meetings. Planning and designing such spaces are a challenging task when trying to meet the codes protecting historical sites in Germany. The week before our meeting an unusually violent storm in Europe damaged and blew off part of the sanctuary roof. GOD'S WORK NEVER ENDS!

The American Church in Paris reviewed the results of the ACP160 Capital Development Campaign. Although it is continuing, it is clear that its success will provide much needed repair and maintenance to the beautiful historical church facility on the Seine, add a new entrance and lift to access the courtyard and the sanctuary,



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## President's Message, *continued from page 1*

and build the ACP endowment to ensure future sustainable funds to support the Pastor's salary. The recent events in Paris, not only shocked the world, but it brought ACP into renewed dialogue with religious, community and security leaders. GOD'S WORK NEVER ENDS!

The Vienna Community Church embarked on a project to acquire space for committees, choir, council, and membership activities. It is located in District 1 in Vienna near the worship center. The move to purchase and own the property was a huge step of faith by the congregation and it frees the pastor's apartment from doubling as the church office and meeting place. With the support of AFCU, VCC will embark on a Capital Campaign to pay off the loan, remodel and furnish the space as a church meeting place. VCC also announced the resignation of Pastor Troy Morgan and their plan for recruiting a new pastor after an interim period. GOD'S WORK NEVER ENDS!

During our stay in Europe, Marcia and I took a river cruise on the River Elbe. On Easter Sunday, we

visited the city of Wittenberg, Germany. We were able to tour sites connected to the Reformation such as Martin Luther's home museum, the Stadtkirche (City Church) where Luther preached, and the Schlosskirche (Castle Church) where the 95 theses were nailed. All of the sites and the city as a whole are under renovation in preparation for the 500 year anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in 2017. As we walked into the Stadtkirche, we noticed a very familiar thermometer mounted on a glass case. This visual representation revealed up to date progress of donation receipts toward their renovation and preservation goals. GOD'S WORK NEVER ENDS!

Details of the 2015 AFCU Annual Meeting can be found online in the AFCU Bridge. [AFCUBRIDGE.ORG](#) The AFCU Bridge site also gives you access to individual sites for ACP, ACB, and VCC.

May God bless you for your past and future support for the AFCU partner churches in Europe!

Ken Rislov, AFCU President

## The AFCU Finance Committee Establishes New Investment Accounts

For some time, the AFCU has had three investment accounts which are currently managed by U.S.Trust. These three funds are identified as follows:

1. The first is the Paris Trust which was set up when the current church building was built in the 1930's. It is very rigidly managed by U.S. Trust according to the restrictions assigned at its inception. Income from this fund is disbursed to the AFCU on a monthly basis to help support the operating of the Paris Church. As some of you know, The AFCU holds title to the ACP property. Financial responsibilities of the AFCU include payment of property taxes, insurance and provision for a Senior Pastor including his or her salary and expenses.
2. A second account is called the Berlin Fund which was established at the end of WW-II for support of the American Church in Berlin. That fund was assigned to the AFCU for management. It has provided support for the church operations as determined by the church's own governing body. It is not an endowment, so there is no restriction on the disbursement of funds from this fund.
3. The third investment account contains funds

owned by the AFCU. This fund contains assets both temporarily and permanently restricted as determined by nature of the donations held in this fund. It has held co-mingled restricted funds in order to avoid excessive management fees associated with several small funds. With this kind of arrangement, it is very difficult to determine a fair allocation of earnings across these various restricted funds.

The AFCU Finance Committee has been working with U.S.Trust and finally arrived at an agreement to allow us to add separate endowment accounts, one for each of the three churches without incurring any penalty associated with the management of these additional investment accounts. The committee has been disappointed with the performance of the Paris Trust account as compared to the performance of the other two accounts where there is more flexibility in directing the investments. They decided to establish an endowment account for each of the churches including a new account for the American Church in Paris which we believe will out-perform the existing Paris Trust. These new accounts were established at the end of 2014 and

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now each of the three churches can monitor the performance of their respective endowments.

Gifts to endowments are very popular for estate contributions such as those associated with our Heritage Society members. Coupled with this arrangement, the AFCU Board has approved an endowment policy document which guides the governance of these accounts designed to provide income in perpetuity. Basically, the policy allows for disbursements up to 5% of the principal each year if elected by the board. If disbursements are not needed or granted, the fund will then grow with the earnings.

The current Market Value of each of these investment accounts is as follows:

Old Paris Trust: . . . . . \$1,631,349.00  
AFCU General Acct: . . . . . 187,854.00

Berlin Account: . . . . . 575,508.00  
New Paris Endowment . . . . . 202,216.00  
Berlin Endowment . . . . . 34,144.00  
Vienna Endowment . . . . . 36,843.00

It should be noted that a portion of the income from the above investment accounts may be used to partially support the needs of the three churches. That being stated, the amounts do not come close to meeting the financial needs of the church operations. These "mission" ministries depend primarily on Stewardship offering plate gifts and contributions from alumni and other "Friends".

This new arrangement allows much improved transparency for all our constituents and hopefully will provide full confidence that the wishes of our donors are fairly and fully met.

Jerry Burns and Russ McNaughton

### Faces of Love

So it was my third time, and I was as enraptured as the first. I was standing in the front of the American Church in Paris at the packed 11 am service, serving communion. At my right was Pastor Scott who had the bread. I joyously held the cup.

It has chilled me, and moved me, each time as I have looked into the eyes of those seeking communion, and I have said: "The blood of Christ shed for you." Simple words, simple ritual, but those eyes have been filled with so many expressions – some seeking hope, some rejoicing, some thankful, some expectant, some wistful. I have moved the cup up and down to accommodate different human statures. I have returned bows, and sometimes said "bless you" when it seemed right to do it.

The experience each time has reinforced my sense of profound understanding of what Christianity and our European churches are all about. We minister

to others, some from far away lands, with amazing stories of life journeys, bolstered by their faith in God and Jesus Christ, who have chosen to worship with us, and to share their love with us. Surrounded by these many different people reassures me of God's abundant love. It also reaffirms how important our work is at these three unique places of worship.

My husband David and I recently pledged to offer special support by joining the Heritage Society. Through this special ministry, we have indicated that, in our wills, we will be celebrating the work of these churches. After serving communion, I understood how important the work is of each of these churches, along with the AFCU, in witnessing love and fellowship through Christ Jesus.

Jane Kendall  
Co-Chair Development Committee

### It's a Win-Win

Don & Sharon Krump, long time members of the AFCU Board, are keeping a promise they made a years ago to continue to support the growing missions of our three English-speaking churches in Europe. Many years into their retirement, they found themselves in need to offset additional taxes due to the continued growth in market investments. By giving stock directly to a charity, they found they would avoid capital gains taxes AND claim a

charitable deduction for the stock's or mutual fund's full market value!

If you are interested in contributing to the AFCU in this manner, simply contact the AFCU treasurer at: [afcutreasurer@AFCUbridge.org](mailto:afcutreasurer@AFCUbridge.org). He will provide the information you need to facilitate the transfer. Then you should contact your financial advisor

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or the stockholder to initiate the transfer process. Your final step is to provide us with the name and approximate value of the stock gift after the transfer so we can track and acknowledge your gift accordingly. The entire value of your gift will go to

further our churches' (or the church of your choice) efforts in Europe."

Don Krump  
AFCU Development Co-Chair

We welcome Morgan Elizabeth Smith, born May 31, 2015. Her parents, Dustin and Jody, are members of the AFCU Board.

### Photos from the Development Committee Meeting in Berlin



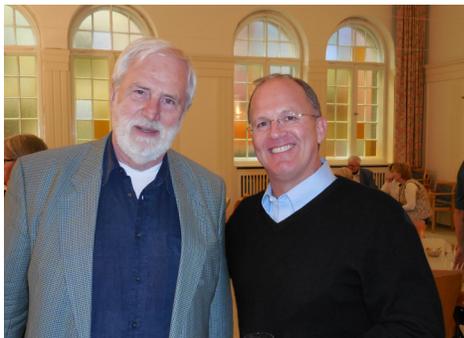
Pastor Ben Coltvet,  
Kumer Vasanth, Russ McNaughton



Carol McNaughton, Pat Burns,  
Margit Coltvet



Megan Foster,  
ACB Pastor Steve Klenberger



Daniel Grout, Pastor Scott Herr



Margit Coltvet, Kristi, Elsa and Anna Kienberger,  
Amanda Halgrimson

## The Berlin Connection



[www.americanchurchberlin.de](http://www.americanchurchberlin.de)

*Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.  
Romans 15:7*

It was our delight and great privilege to host the annual AFCU Board meeting this past April in Berlin. We are profoundly grateful for the gracious spirit that the members of the board bring with them as they work on behalf of the three international ministries that are supported by the AFCU. The Berlin, Paris, and Vienna congregations are blessed beyond measure by the efforts of the

board on our behalf. We can only echo the words of the Apostle Paul: *We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.* (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)

Over the western entrance of our building is a statue of Jesus inviting people to enter into the good news of God's love that is proclaimed by the church. We have made a lot out of the fact

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that the statue is missing Jesus' hands. And we have counterposed the words attributed to Teresa of Avila with this image: "Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ looks out on a hurting world, yours are the feet with which he goes about doing good; yours are the hands with which he is to bless now."



There are also two statues just below this depiction of Jesus to the right and left of his hands, Matthew (Matthäus in German) on the left and John (Johannes in German) on the right: John derived from the Hebrew name Yochanan meaning "YAHWEH is gracious,"

and Matthew a Greek form of the Hebrew name Mattityahu meaning "gift of YAHWEH." These two disciples not only have Gospels that bear their name, but they also represent different kinds of people. John, like the other disciples except for Matthew, was a fisherman. Matthew is the only disciple who is not a fisherman, but a publican



or tax collector. Jesus calls us in whatever position we find ourselves, whether a simple fisherman or an educated government official. And we are sent to be the hands of Jesus to bless the nations, realizing that our faith is a grace-filled gift of God. Everything we are and will be is gifted and graced by God! And it really doesn't matter how you begin, but that you ultimately find yourself in the loving arms of God in Jesus Christ.

This is the message we try to convey to all who enter the ACB community. Our vision is to be "the model community of Christian love that embraces diversity, serves and inspires the people of Berlin." This is a vision, however, that we cannot accomplish alone. We need the prayers and support of other followers of Jesus. The members and friends of the AFCU inspire us to be the eyes, hands and feet of Jesus to be that place of welcome in a hurting world. We give thanks to God for all of you!



Pastor Steve



## ACB Berlin Tours and Men's Day/Night Out

"Peace be with you!" This is one cornerstone of our Sunday services. It is the basis for understanding between people and leads to the creation of friendships. Since 2003, when the Men's Day/Night Out group was established, its activities have brought not only men together, but often events for the entire congregation are planned. In conjunction with other groups and events at ACB this group seeks to foster fellowship and a spirit of community through activities outside the church building.

Here are some examples of the past year's events that have been offered to friends and families of the congregation (1), and then examples of Men's Group activities follow.

1. On May 11, 2014 ACB-families joined in a brunch at the historic Jazz restaurant "Yorckschlößchen" in Berlin-Kreuzberg.

On August 9, 2014 an afternoon at the "Loretta"-Beer Garden near the S-Bahn-Station Berlin-Wannsee was enjoyed by young and old.

On October 11, 2014 a visit to the exhibition "Tempelhof Central Airport - The American Story" in the former "Outpost Theatre", today called "Alliierten Museum" (Allied Museum) in Berlin-Dahlem, was held.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall ACB members were invited

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to meet in front of former Checkpoint Charlie in downtown Berlin. We had front row viewing as we watched illuminated balloons ascending into the darkness - each symbolizing the falling of the wall.

On December 6, 2014 a trip to the traditional Christmas Market in the romantic courtyard of the "Jagdschloß Grunewald" (hunting lodge) in Berlin-Dahlem was organized.

A " New Years Breakfast " was held on January 17, 2015 in a restaurant in Berlin-Schöneberg.

The following activities were specifically held for the men of ACB.

2. On May 14, 2015 (Ascension Day) ACB's men undertook a hike around the Schlachtensee in Berlin- Zehlendorf in commemoration of German "Vatertag" (German Father's Day) in a picturesque

situated beer garden. At the beginning of 2015 a small group of ACB men started a meeting to play golf. The first tee off was held on January 10. Even though it was windy and cold the golfer's group has become a regular activity: meeting twice in February at the Golf Resort Berlin- Pankow, and in April at the Märkischer Golfclub Potsdam .

The next golf match will be held at the Golfclub Potsdam on May 16, 2015.



We publicize our activities and outings in the ACB newsletter, website, and email campaigns. You do not need to be a member of ACB to enjoy these events. If you are traveling through Berlin check out our website or newsletter. You are welcome to join us!

Michael Fritz Chief Organizer



### Fellowship in Berlin



## The Vienna Connection



[www.viennacommunitychurch.com](http://www.viennacommunitychurch.com)

Church. In 2012, I joined the board of the Vienna Community church as Property Manager. From the beginning, the leadership envisioned church growth and they, along with the pastor promoted activities that would help us achieve them. Ultimately, this would require an additional building to be used as an office and meeting space.

While looking at potential locations, I came to realize that VCC's dream was to indeed one day acquire property. However, our circumstances seemed to follow Luke 14:28 "For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?" For VCC, property prices always exceeded available funds and a purchase was never a real option.

In the summer of 2013, VCC suddenly had the great opportunity to rent an office/meeting space under very favorable conditions. (We reported this in the Fall 2013 Bridge edition). This space was a blessing for the church! The close proximity to our church on Dorotheergasse and the central location in the heart of Vienna seemed too good to be true. Quickly, this space was used by different groups for all sorts of church/ and ministry activities – choir rehearsals, prayer meetings, bible study, and board meetings just to name a few.

It felt that the vision for an expanding ministry started to come true. As the members of the congregation took notice of how often this space

## Our VCC Meeting Space

was used (and how advantageous it was to have an office/meeting space in addition to the Manse) the enthusiasm for something bigger set in. The congregation remembered their dream of one day purchasing property and started to beat the drums for a property acquisition.

The board thought that this might be the right time to officially add this on the agenda for the next congregational meeting. Laying out the pros and cons, the congregation realized that renting is only the second best option. After lengthy presentations and discussions the congregation voted for termination of the current rent-contract giving the board the mandate to move forward in the acquisition process.

A group of volunteers devoted a sincere amount of time to look at properties, analyzing advantages and disadvantages in regards to accessibility by public transportation, size, location, etc. In fall 2014, we came across a property that would fit our needs. Anyone who has ever purchased property knows how stressful such a time can be. VCC was not the only interested party, but at the time when people in other parts of the world were punished for their beliefs and faith, the seller was enthused that a church was looking into purchasing property. Throughout the process, the seller kept VCC as the #1 choice – even if our offer would not turn out to be the highest one among all interested parties.

Anyone who has ever purchased property knows, there is barely a day without hick-ups until a contract is signed. But the acquisition team managed to stay on top at all times. In the last mile, a few members stepped up by contributing funds as a loan so that the close was nearer and nearer. Finally, we were able to close the deal at the end of February and now VCC has a new home for ministry in Vienna's 2nd district! The space is easily accessible by public transportation, has 3 large meeting rooms and close to 1,000 sq.ft. Several members have already started to donate furniture as well as kitchenware.

As the property manager I am proud of the team that worked to acquire this space and even more thankful for our former pastor who guided us along the way. Like Matthew says in 12:30 "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does

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not gather with me scatters.” All of VCC’s activity groups are able to gather at this new property and continue to pray, sing, and discuss at a location

where God will always be amongst them.

Ewald Kirschner Property Chair

## The Power of Hope and Faith

The Vienna Community Church is entering a new phase in its fifty eight year old history! It has purchased a 98 square meter (1054 sq. feet) meeting space that is centrally located and is only 10-15 minutes away from the Church via public transportation or bicycle. This purchase fulfilled a long-held desire by the congregation that VCC have a space to call its own. As a self-supporting international church with a steady stream of members and friends coming and leaving, we have been challenged to build a cohesive congregation in the midst of fluctuating membership. The acquisition of a meeting space will allow the congregation to flourish and provide our members with the opportunity to organize and hold meetings, fellowship activities, children’s fun days, concerts, lecture series, Bible Study, Prayer groups, and much more. A huge change from holding Board meetings in a popular ice cream parlour in the center of Vienna!

The motion to acquire the meeting space was passed almost unanimously. The congregation, and friends and family of VCC members, AFCU former members and friends have responded generously to our call to furnish our meeting space. At last count, we have had close to 50 giving units! We still do not have a name for our meeting place because we are conducting a poll on the name throughout the congregation and amongst the readers of The VCC Voice. At the time of preparing this article, the name Riverplace, with the tagline of Connecting People is the most popular. However, until the polling is completed, the final name is still to be decided and will be revealed to the congregation by the end of June.

Gifts for the new meeting space have included among other things: the kitchen, crockery, chairs, conference table, LED projector, glasses, vacuum cleaner, bathroom shelves, cutlery, mirror, beautiful green plants, professionally installed picture tracks, bookcase, mixer, blender, coffee makers, pots & pans, mixing bowls, cleaning supplies, blinds, and anonymous monetary donations.



We are grateful for each and every one of these contributions and donations and to those who made them.

On May 31st, VCC held an Open House/Grand Opening. Newly elected Christian Education



*The Feast*

Chair, Ruby John and her fabulous team, organized a fine feast for our “full house”. Our Choir with VCC Choir Master, Prentiss Dunn, and soloists, including our Music Director, Sandra Nel, operatic tenor *extraordinaire*, Johan Botha, and our outgoing



*VCC member, Tony Wrixon*

pastor, the Rev. Troy Morgan, contributed to the musical festivities.

Watch a video of the event on:

<http://viennacommunitychurch.com/grand-opening-of-the-new-vcc-meeting-place/>

Even with all of the work associated with purchasing and furnishing the new meeting space,

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the VCC has not been idle. On May 29th 2015, the VCC Choir lead by our Choir Master, Prentiss Dunn, and soloists Johan Botha, Diana Finta, Sandra Nel, and Thomas Pietak captivated at least 100 guests in a 45 minute concert as part of the **Long Night of the Churches** that takes place in Vienna every Spring.

To recognize outstanding contributions to the musical life of the VCC, Anne Peshek, a member for almost 40 years, and herself a talented musician, awarded our very gifted organist and occasional soloist, Thomasz Pietak, the Rothgeb



Memorial Grant during VCC's June 7th Sunday service. This Grant was established by Anne in 1987

as part of the 30th Anniversary celebration of the founding of The Vienna Community Church, and enables its recipient to use the grant for a study project. When looking at his biography below, you will understand why Thomasz was so deserving of this award:

- Graduated from the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw in organ in 2005, and in singing in 2006
- Received a scholarship from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Poland for postgraduate Vocal studies at the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna
- St. Anna University Church, Warsaw, Poland – organist and music director from 2005- 2009
- Warsaw Chamber Opera, soloist from 2006-2009
- Placed 2nd place at the First International Song Contest in Sofia, Bulgaria and Winner of the 5th Otto Edelmann Society Audience Award, sponsored by the Josefstadt District of Vienna in 2011



- Neue Oper Wien, soloist, “Woyzeck 2.0 – Dream Trap”, “Biedermann and the Arsonists” in 2012 & 2013

Our young adults group which varies between 10-20 people has been very active this year under the reins of Alice Wanner. Alice took over from our former Moderator and Young Adult Chair, Alison Koczanski, who is still missed by many. Alice organized many enjoyable activities, including lunches and dinners at a famous Viennese Heuriger, trendy eateries and Gourmet Festivals, bowling, and a day trip to Bratislava and hiking through the Vienna Woods (Alice pictured below 2nd from the left). They will be holding their end of semester event in the new meeting space.



Last, but not least, our new website has finally been launched with new capabilities, such as being able to volunteer

for Sunday Services until the end of the year, a calendar listing all events, and a Webshop in which visitors to the website are able to buy VCC branded goods, or goods and/or services offered by VCC members or friends, in which all proceeds partially or completely go to benefit the VCC or one of its designated charities. The VCC Webshop can be found at: <http://viennacommunitychurch.com/about-the-webshop/>



We look forward to hosting the 2016 AFCU Meeting in Vienna! On behalf of our congregation, the

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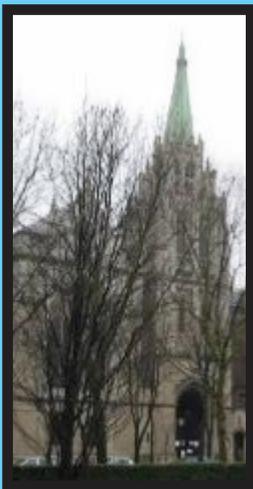
VCC wishes to thank all of you who support the VCC with your generous gifts of time and financial contributions, and also for those who plan to make contributions to the VCC and AFCU upcoming Capital Funding Campaigns.

Mickela Moore  
Property Chair &  
Acting Publicity Chair



Photo and video credits go to: Wolfgang Geissler, Rainer Zimmerman, and Mickela Moore

## The Paris Connection



[www.acparis.org](http://www.acparis.org)

June 2015

Dear Members  
and Friends of  
the AFCU,

Warm  
greetings  
to you from  
the banks of  
the Seine.

"I love Paris  
in the spring  
time!" And  
it has been  
a beautiful  
springtime  
in Paris this  
year and

an inspiring season of ministry at the American Church in Paris! For the season of Pentecost we have welcomed powerful and prophetic voices to the pulpit and the **Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley**, Senior Pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia gave a lecture and preached on Pentecost Sunday. Dr. Wesley spoke on "BlackLivesMatter - The Continual Quest for the Kingdom in America." Unfortunately, this was a very timely lecture and I would encourage you to listen to it on our website at: [www.acparis.org/prayer-learning/thurber-thursdays/archives](http://www.acparis.org/prayer-learning/thurber-thursdays/archives).



We were also privileged to welcome **Dr. Ravi Zacharias**, world- renowned Christian Apologist to the pulpit in June. Dr. Zacharias gave a sermon entitled "Who are you, God?" and you can listen to his sermon at [www.acparis.org/sermon/3371125](http://www.acparis.org/sermon/3371125).



We are very excited to begin a new ministry called "Serve the City" which will allow us to help connect volunteers and volunteer groups with ministries and projects needing volunteers throughout Paris. This is a ministry that might grow exponentially, as many students need volunteer hours, so please pray for this new initiative. "Seek the peace of the city..."



We are honored to be welcoming Dr. George Hunsinger and Dr. Deborah van Deusen Hunsinger as our guests for a few weeks. George is one of the world's leading Karl Barth scholars, and Deborah is also a leader in Pastoral Theology. They both teach at Princeton Theological Seminary, and we are glad to strengthen the ties with the seminary.

Did you know that the founding pastor of the ACP, Dr. Edward Norris Kirk, studied at Princeton Theological Seminary under Dr. Archibald Alexander, the founding President of the Seminary? We have sent two of our interns, currently studying for the M.Div. degree, to PTS, and we currently have a PTS student, Anastassia Sharpe, serving as an intern, and are planning to welcome another PTS intern, **Alyssa McKnight** to begin a year-long internship in August. We will also be welcoming to the ACP our new Director of



Youth and Young Adult Ministry, **Billy Roberts, Jr.**, currently serving at Forrest Hills Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids Michigan, in August.

We will be welcoming David and Laura Moore for a plaque dedication ceremony to honor their generous gifts to support the renovation of the Beckerath organ, and are so thankful for the continuing support of our members and

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alumni/ae with the ACP-160 campaign. We have raised approximately \$1.3 million to help with needed upgrades and improvements to the building, but more is needed with recent fire and safety regulation changes. Your continuing support allows us to continue into the future a vibrant and engaging gospel ministry and mission in this great city that touches the lives of so many people.

Let me also take this opportunity to say thank you for your prayers and advice, as the AFCU Board and the ACP congregation voted to extend my call until 2020. I hope to continue to grow and learn

with the congregation so that I might serve with energy, intelligence, imagination and love and so become the leader this amazing congregation so richly deserves. Finally, we hope to welcome you when you are next traveling through, and in the meantime, on behalf of the entire congregation, **thank you** for your continuing prayers and financial support. Grace and peace to you!

In Christ,

Scott



### Serve the City

Serve the City: Paris – 6-11 July

**Serve the City: Youth – a week long service project for teens aged 11-18**



The American Church in Paris recently helped to launch **Serve the City: Paris**, an international vehicle new to Paris, which helps to connect local volunteer organizations with a supply of volunteers. While Serve the City partners with

churches, it is a non-discriminatory organization that seeks first and foremost to partner with any and all who serve their city.

ACP is hosting a **Serve the City: Youth** mission here in Paris as a week long service project for teens aged 11-18. Our goal is to offer an opportunity for any and all to join in our mission to serve our city. Youth will help one or two organizations each day.

(From the June Spire newsletter)

### Photos from the Annual Meeting



Hard at work in the ACB sanctuary



The ACB sanctuary

VCC Pastor Troy Morgan



A lighter moment



## American and Foreign Christian Union

[www.afcubridge.org](http://www.afcubridge.org)

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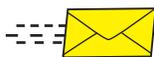
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Unsolicited articles and pictures are welcomed. Next deadline: OCT 15, 2015

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