

2011 Paris Journal

March 4, we are now settled into our apartment and pretty much over jet lag.

Barbara has loaned me once again a book on walking through the streets of Paris. It is organized by arrondissement (a municipal division) so I can read specifically about our neighborhood. Each arrondissement has its own city hall (mairie) and mayor and organization. The mairies have events – concerts, lectures, exhibitions and things like meals for senior citizens. We are in the 3rd Arrondissement. The neighborhood (3rd and 4th arrondissements) is called, le Marais.

Le Marais has a fascinating history. It goes back to 1050 and the Templars who were defending Christians against the Moors in the Holy Land. The French Templars were a clerical order that were warriors. They had property in the Marais, which at that time was swampy land. They drained the water and made truck farms out of it and sold the produce. Rich Christians gave them money in gratitude and eventually the Templars became rich and acquired more land and built a Temple. The Temple existed for 200 years and had a colorful history. Rue Montmorency is named after a noble family that lived in the Marais. Our street corner is rue du Temple. There is also another street called Rue Vieille du Temple (old Temple). We are on the first floor (in the U.S. that would be the second floor, in other words one flight up from the ground floor).

I brought a bunch of family photos with me to make me feel at home. The picture of Jasliene with the puff in her hair is on my refrigerator door and she smiles at me every time I open the door. I also posted the Christmas 2010 photo of Mikaela and Alana there. Very sweet.



The apartment, while not elegant, is much larger than our previous accommodations but in a quiet neighborhood. It has a functional kitchen,

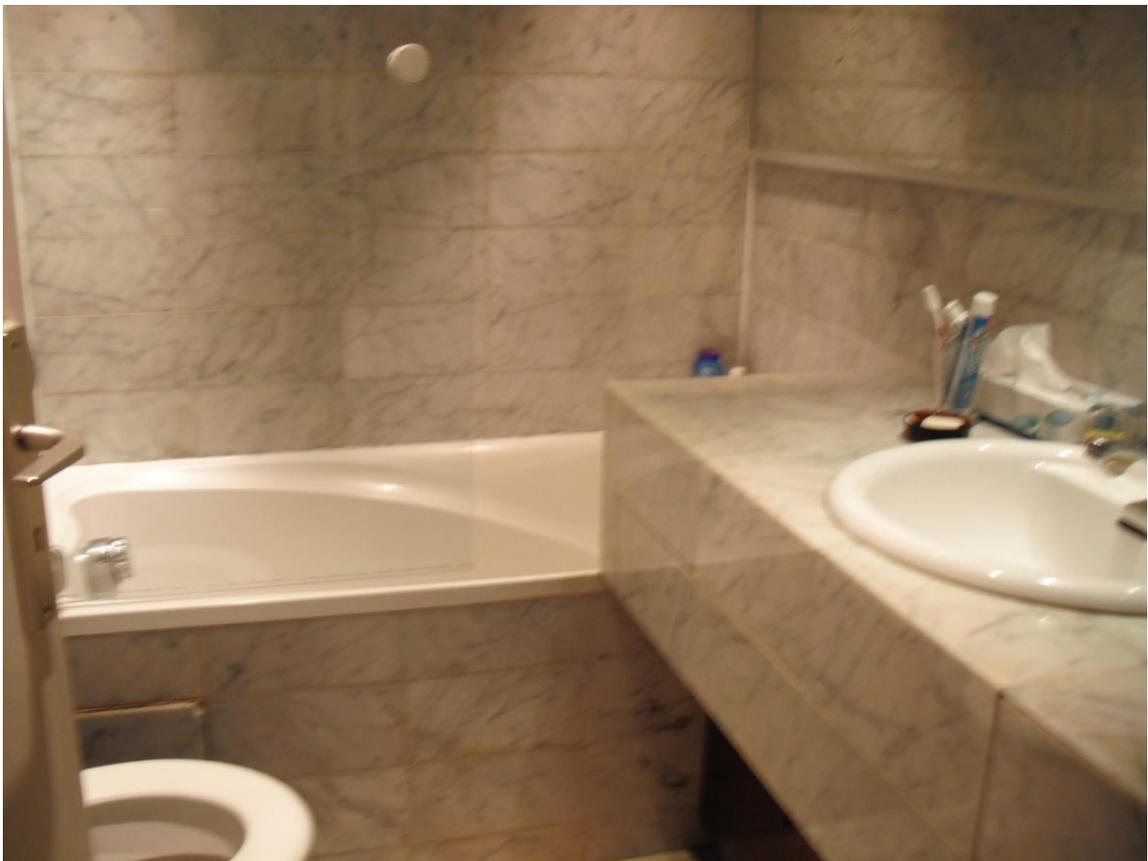
Our second bedroom; Olivia uses it to practice her cello and for her computer, but it is available (and comfortable when we have guests).



And there is plenty of storage space.



The only noise at night is from our neighbors who play the television at odd hours.



The bathroom has bathtub as well as a shower. The white knob is a handle for the glass shower door.



Ernie will stay for 5 months in this apartment. I will return to Nevada City mid-April and then come back mid June for 6 weeks. Ernie and I will return together the first of August. That is the plan.