

EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith

Fall/Winter 2015

I've been thinking...

Looking Ahead

In Seattle

Word and Worship

The Highlands Chapel

Sept. 10*, Oct. 15, Nov. 19

7:30-8:30 p.m.

*Note Change of Date

Earl Palmer Interprets St. Paul

Four Studies in Romans - Part II

First Presbyterian Church of Tacoma

Sept. 27, Oct. 4, Oct. 11, Oct. 18

9:15-10:15 a.m.

The Kindlings Muse Podcast*

(Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall, UW)

See Titles Inside

Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7

7-8:30 p.m.

Evening Lecture

How to Study the Bible

Northminster Presbyterian Church

Seattle, WA

Oct. 7, Evening

Weekend with Sammamish

Presbyterian Church

Lord Teach Us to Pray: The Meaning of Prayer for Today

Jan. 29-31

See Titles Inside

Sunday Worship at UPC

Dec. 27 and Jan. 3

Around the Nation

Conference: Diocese of Florida

C.S. Lewis: Caught Off Guard

Jacksonville, FL

Sept. 18-20

Seminar in Princeton

The Joy of Expository Preaching

Princeton Theological Seminary

Princeton, NJ

Nov. 4, 5, 6

Watch for details at www.earlpalmer.org

For more information,

Email info@earlpalmer.org

The man we know as St. Paul was a teacher, missionary, and traveler. He was imprisoned often because of his teaching. More than any other follower of Jesus, Paul wrote letters that put into place the most complete theological overview of what became the creedal understanding of faith in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. But there is one more quality about the man that is an endearing ingredient of his legacy. Paul was a man with friends. He was able to make friends and to keep them; he was loyal to people in his life, and they were loyal to him. We meet Paul and his friends directly and also between the lines in the New Testament documents. He liked and he loved people across wide tribal and cultural divides. His friendships reached beyond the fractured faith and non-faith zones of his own complicated century.

Paul kept track of friends: "Trophimus I left ill at Miletus" (II Timothy 4); in one of his imprisonments Paul met the runaway slave, Onesimus, and urged his friend, Philemon, a Roman citizen, to win the release of Onesimus from bondage (Philemon). And Paul's friends watched out for him. In Ephesus they held him back from his reckless attempt to speak in the arena where the crowd of 26,000 had turned wild and enraged (Acts 19:28). At Lystra a band of young believers saved Paul's life from a stoning incident by physically surrounding him (Acts 14). As a prisoner Paul was befriended by some of his guards just as another prisoner was in the twentieth century, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Paul writes, "Those in the Pretorian Guard send you greetings" (Philippians 1&4). In another instance, when the ship broke apart at sea near Malta, the Roman Centurion, Julius, gave the order not to kill the prisoners and let them swim to shore. He gave this order to save his friend Paul's life (Acts 27:43).

How does this gift of friendship happen? For Paul it was first the generous and faithful love that he experienced on the road to Damascus when Jesus met him at noontime (Acts 9). Then a day later he experienced assurance and healing from the band of Christians at Damascus (Acts 9). He is shaped by both of these events to become a man in Christ and a man of the church. C.S. Lewis helps us to understand: "Friendship...[is] about the truths held in common. In friendships like this, Lewis says there is the "what you too! I thought I was the only one" factor—the recognition of a shared vision (*The Four Loves*, p. 96). Friends stand side by side and together look in the same direction toward a shared goal and discovery. In that side by side solidarity, a soul mate companionship happens and with it a love that each share from the One who found them – before they were looking. It still happens today.



Friends from Berkeley show up at chapel for *Word and Worship* in Seattle

Earl F. Palmer



The library at Princeton Theological Seminary

It's On Our Calendar - Put It On Yours....

What: Seminar in Princeton: The Joy of Preaching Through Exposition of the Bible

Where: Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey

When: November 4-6, 2015

Who: Earl Palmer will be the principal presenter joined by colleagues, Michael Denham, Minister of Worship, The National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., who will lecture on "Reverberating Word" (Exposition Through Music) and Craig Barnes, president of PTS who will offer a response along with others from PTS faculty.

How: Sign up online at coned@ptsem.edu or call (609) 497-7990.

Start the New Year with the Weekend at Sammamish Presbyterian Church with a lecture series featuring Earl Palmer.

Lord Teach Us to Pray: The Meaning of Prayer for Today

Friday evening, January 29, 2016

The Language of Prayer in the Old Testament;

Saturday morning, January 30, 2016

Session 1: *The Language of Prayer in the New Testament;*

Session 2: *Prayer Is for Amateurs;*

Sunday Worship, January 31

The Prayer Jesus Taught (Luke: 11:1-13).

Sammamish Presbyterian Church

22522 NE Inglewood Hill Rd, Sammamish, WA 98074

(425) 868-5186



Earl with George Toles at "His Deal," a group that helps men deal with their careers, relationships, and spiritual lives through discovering the practical wisdom of what Jesus Christ taught. The men enjoyed Earl's ability to connect real-life stories with the characters and personalities of the Bible.

Romans Series: Session II

This fall Earl will continue his series on Romans in Tacoma at The First Presbyterian Church. Come to hear how St. Paul encouraged first-century believers with the powerful strategy of contagious love and truth.

Session II will continue with Chapters 12-16 and will meet Sunday mornings 9:15-10:15 a.m. The classes will be held on Sept. 27, Oct. 4, Oct. 11, Oct. 18. Parking is available on the corner at 20 Tacoma Avenue South, WA

Fall Word and Worship

Series: The Seasons of Our Lives

Sept. 10: **Gospel for the Jewish Period (Acts 2)**

Oct. 15: **Gospel for Greek Period (Acts 17)**

Nov. 19: **Gospel for the Roman Period (Acts 16)**

The Chapel in the Highlands

Directions:

Enter at the corner of 3rd Ave. NW and N 145th St. Keep left, where you will be asked to give your name to the guard. Follow the signs to the chapel.

Welcome EPM's New Study Assistant, Stephen Michel

Ever since I was 11 years old, I have felt God calling me to be a missionary, more specifically an international one. He has given me a strong passion to travel the world and meet people from all different cultures and backgrounds. Through the past 11 years, since I heard the call, I believe the Lord has been refining that call and preparing me to live that kind of life. I think it has been a steady progression of teaching and preparation all the way from middle school through my time at the University of Washington.

Now that I have graduated from UW, I have been searching for what the next step will be in that progression. After talking with Earl and other members of Earl Palmer Ministries, I decided that pursuing this position should be a part of the next step. I am excited for this opportunity because I believe one of the best ways to learn is to be mentored by someone who is wiser and more experienced than I. There is a lot I still need to learn about being involved in ministry full time and living out my faith on a day-to-day basis. I truly believe that through this opportunity I will grow in those areas and take another step toward becoming a full-time missionary or missions pastor.

-Stephen Michel, 2015-2016 Study Assistant



Stephen joins EPM in September.



Magdalene College, Cambridge, where Lewis taught. Gary Barckert, Earl, Gary Stueckle, and Jeff Lincicome, attendees at Lewis Seminar.

C.S. Lewis Study Coming to Florida This Fall

Earl is looking forward to the opportunity to join with the Episcopal Diocese of Florida as they launch a new training event for clergy. As I am often intrigued by the vast variety of invitations that Earl receives, I asked Rev. Dr. Douglas Dupree, Program Assistant to Bishop Howard, a few questions:

How did the Bishop's Institute for Ministry and Leadership in the Diocese come about?

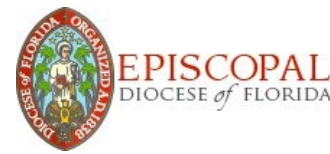
Bishop John Howard has nourished the idea since he first came to the Diocese of Florida some ten years ago. He believes that effective theological education should take place "incarnationally" as one of the core activities of the Diocese's life and mission. Further, the bishop is convinced that a Diocese blessed with clergy who are well trained preachers and teachers and laity who are also involved in deepening their faith by continuing to grow theologically makes for a Diocese all the more strongly equipped to serve the church and the wider community.

How has the purpose of the Bishop's Institute evolved? Over the years the Bishop has nourished the idea and saw it merge with the goal of the Diocese's Foundation to encourage growth and development for the ministry. The mission has been further clarified "to offer quality education at the local level for the training of priests, deacons, and lay leaders, and to provide continuing education for both clergy and laity."

How did it happen that you asked Earl to be a part of this event? Bishop Howard has been a huge fan of Earl Palmer's books and sermons for many years. After more than a month of "brainstorming," the bishop came into work one morning and said, "I suddenly thought of something I think will please everyone: How about a weekend dedicated to the life and work of C.S. Lewis led by the distinguished Presbyterian minister, Earl Palmer?" We both knew that was a great idea and are so pleased it is going to happen." -Gray Segars, Study Assistant 2014-2015



The Rev. Dr. Douglas Dupree



Come join us in Kane Hall

The Walker-Ames Room

is located on the 2nd floor of Kane Hall at the University of Washington.

10/5/15 **After Ten Years: A Reckoning (1943)** To attend an event, please register at: www.thekindlings.com/events
by **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Letters and Papers from Prison

Edited By Eberhard Bethge

11/2/15 **The People Who Make a Difference**

The Road to Character

By David Brooks

12/7/15 **Artist and Interpreter of the Bible, Rembrandt van Rijn**

The Return of the Prodigal Son

By Henri Nouwen

Each event is podcast and made available to download at:

www.thekindlings.com

Please visit The Kindlings Muse page at www.earlpalmer.org for detailed

directions and instructions on parking, or email

info@earlpalmer.org.

Times

7 - 8:30 pm.

On the Road with EPM: A Joyous End and New Beginning

As I look back on the past year as Earl's study assistant, there are a few times and moments that I know now I will never forget.

First, the night after the first Fall 2014 Kindlings Muse on the memoir *Not I*. I assisted Earl with the setup, and following the event I returned to his house and was surprised with an invitation to come inside and eat pumpkin pie. Earl made some whipped cream, and he and I sat together eating pie, discussing the book, and talking about life. This night was the first time that I truly felt like friends with Earl, not merely his employee. Little did I know at the time that this was just the beginning of a very meaningful and valuable friendship.

The second memory I know I will never forget was my trip with Earl to Oxford for the C.S. Lewis Summer Seminar where he was Scholar in Residence at The Kilns (home of Lewis). Going into the trip I'd been a fan of Lewis, but this event just turned it up to a higher level. I gained an appreciation for Lewis as a man, which made my respect for his work grow even deeper. My time in Oxford was intellectually and relationally stirring, but more than anything it was a time where I genuinely feel I grew closer to God in mind and spirit.

Lastly, theological dialogues. Not only did I appreciate and greatly enjoy these morning meetings, I plan to model aspects of my own ministry after them. The Socratic nature and authentic interest of those in attendance created a very healthy atmosphere of thoughtful discussion.

I will certainly miss Earl, Shirley, and the EPM Board as I move on to Princeton Theological Seminary this year, and I will also miss all of those who are active in and support Earl's ministry. It was a pleasure to be with you all throughout this year.

-Gray Segars, Study Assistant 2014-2015



In Oxford together: Gray with Tristan Borland, a pastor from Pine River, MN, who attended the Lewis Study.

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If you have any questions regarding Earl Palmer Ministries and its events, or to schedule an event, visit us at www.earlpalmer.org or email us at info@earlpalmer.org.

If you know of others who would like to receive this newsletter, or if you would prefer not to receive this mailing, email Stephen at stephen@earlpalmer.org.

Mission Statement

EPM's mission statement comes from 1 Thessalonians 5:11: "Serving to encourage and build up in Christian faith." These words from the Apostle Paul inspire our ministry of teaching, writing, and mentoring. First, we seek to mentor young theologians through our internship program and monthly theological dialogues. Live podcasts through The Kindlings Muse offer regular teaching and conversation for all ages to consider major Christian themes. Word and Worship provides a setting for expositional teaching of the Bible and inspirational music. EPM's wider ministry focuses primarily on encouraging pastors and giving the case for expositional worship.

Your support makes this ministry happen. As we continue in this eighth year of ministry, we invite you to share in this outreach again with your prayers and your financial investment. To make a tax deductible contribution, please send a check made out to Earl Palmer Ministries, PO Box 85117, Seattle, WA 98145, or electronically via PayPal or credit card at www.earlpalmer.org.

On behalf of the EPM team, I thank you.

Earl F. Palmer