

EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith

Winter 2015

Looking Ahead In Seattle

The Kindlings Muse Podcast*

(Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall, UW)
Jan. 5, Feb. 2, Mar. 2: 7-8:30 p.m.

Sammamish Pres. Lecture Series

In Faithful Hands: A New Look at the Book of Revelation
Feb. 6,7,8

Theological Dialogue for Lay Teachers and Pastors

The Cost of Discipleship (Bonhoeffer, 1937)
Jan. 7 and Feb. 4

Essential Connections: Kids, Parents and their Parents

University Presbyterian Church
Feb. 11, 2015. 7-8:30 p.m.

Seminar in Seattle: The Joy of Teaching through Exposition of the Bible

Upper Gwinn, Seattle Pacific University
Feb. 23, 2015 8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Word and Worship

The Highlands Chapel, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Mar. 26, Apr. 23, May 21

Around the Nation

C.S. Lewis - 20th Century Christian
Oklahoma City, OK Apr. 11-12

Merced Presbyterian Conference

The Book of II Timothy
Mt. Herman, CA Apr. 17, 18, 19

New College Lectures

The Book of Philippians
Berkeley, CA May 2

Around the World

Paul Shen Memorial Lectures on Expository Preaching

Mar. 4-Mar. 15 Kaohsiung, Taiwan

*Watch for details at www.earlpalmer.org

*For more information, email
info@earlpalmer.org

I've been thinking... "Thoughts constitute the greatness of man" (Pascal. *The Pensees*.) He explains it this way: "I wish to show you an infinite and indivisible thing. It is a point moving everywhere with an infinite velocity; for it is one in all places, and is all totality in every place. Our minds can consider such possibilities, even apparently impossible ones because we can think."

Genesis 1 tells us "In the beginning...God said let there be light." This means that divine thought and consciousness came before even the event of light. The Gospel of John starts in the same way: "In the beginning was the Logos (word)." The Logos is consciousness and information pure and simple. John is very clear about the importance of God's consciousness/awareness. The Logos is not only prior to everything that is made, but is also personal, "All things come into being through Him." Teilhard de Chardin calls this the "tenacious personalism" of divine awareness at the omega point of everything. This alive and personal word is the first definition of God in John 1. "The Word was with God, and the Word was God...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth." Matthew and Luke join with John and tell with ordinary event narrative how this happened on an actual day in human history; the eternal speech of God was born into a family at Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King.

Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount makes the consciousness of God a major theme. He invites his followers to pray to God in the privacy of their room. The teacher Jesus makes it clear that we need to know two things: God can see us and God can hear us (Matthew 6:5-8). In that quiet room of prayer two kinds of consciousness are put together, God's awareness and our awareness. One of the reasons I believe in God is this reality of consciousness.

There is an argument from analogy here. We are able to think, to remember, and to imagine because God exists. God gives to us our eyes for seeing, ears so that we hear, mouths so that we can speak, and our minds so that we may wonder. The one who created these possibilities is also able to see and hear; he is also able to speak for himself. This happened when the Word became flesh. Pascal writes: "It is incomprehensible that God should exist and it is incomprehensible that he should not exist...all these contradictions; which seem most to keep me from the knowledge of the Christian belief have led me most quickly to the true one."

It is the true one who finds us. This finding happens because God's awareness is not passive but is compassionate. God's consciousness is not stranded as idea or imaginative awareness but is concrete and totally personal in the mixture of who Jesus Christ is and what he does. Jesus is the Redeemer who finds us.

I like the whimsical way that Pascal tells it: "An artisan may speak of wealth, a lawyer may speak of war, or of royalty, etc. But it is a rich man who may rightly speak of wealth, a king may speak indifferently of a great gift he has just made, and God rightly speaks of God."

Consciousness may be the newest frontier in the dialogue between science and faith, even where quantum physics and Logos may occupy the same sentence. Consciousness means that we listen, look, and speak, and because of our awareness we should not be surprised that Ultimate Consciousness is able to listen, hear, and speak too.



Earl speaking on "Prayer"
at Word and Worship

-Earl F. Palmer



Earl Palmer Ministries is pleased to present this seminar - **The Joy of Teaching through Exposition of the Bible** - a one day event/series of sessions for pastors and lay teachers to join together with a threefold purpose:

- to hear the case/examine the importance/value of exposition;
- to learn the methods/steps of/for preparation of exposition in the worship/teaching setting;
- to learn ways to communicate and affirm the Gospel through exposition.

What exactly does "Exposition of the Bible" mean?

To understand the Bible we begin by first listening to the Biblical text. Then we move forward by asking simple questions that go from "What is the writer/speaker/narrator in the text saying?" to include "What do the words of the writer/speaker/narrator in the text/context mean?" When the preacher/teacher shares this journey of understanding with the listeners we call this exposition. The goal of exposition is to present the text of the Bible in such a way that the listener- including the teacher/preacher- discovers for himself/herself a personal connection to the message of the text.

The Resource Teacher for this event is Earl Palmer who will present the case for exposition and then teach through example in studies of separate New Testament texts. In addition there will be a designated responder for each presentation who will offer a reflection after each of three sessions. Time will be arranged also for Q and A with the large group.

The seminar will be held on February 23rd from 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. at Upper Gwinn on the Seattle Pacific Campus. To register, please visit earlpalmer.org

Studies in the New Testament Book of Romans: 1-8

Every Sunday for nearly two months, Dan and Janie O'Conner hosted Earl as Bible Teacher at First Presbyterian - Tacoma. Their gracious hospitality even extended to bringing Earl a fresh cup of coffee from Tully's down the street. This couple had a few thoughts to offer on the series this past fall:

...the most impactful aspect of the time spent together is to just be grateful and humbled that Earl's scholarship, discipleship and kind-heartedness all come together to make the Scripture and the truths about God feel intimate and real. There is a lovely amalgamation that happens when he is teaching, so that difficult concepts and the "offense" of the gospel become attractive and compelling. Also, in my personal journey at this time, I have been greatly reassured by the teaching that "we who live now in the present dynamic, turbulent age, work hard not in fear or boredom but in hope. Not because night is coming and daylight is closing down, but because the day is coming..." (Palmer, 1975, Salvation by Surprise, p. 107)

A New Project

In connection with the *Seminar in Seattle* – in which Earl will teach the joy and importance of expositional preaching and teaching of the Bible - we are planning a video recording of the event. We will work with a highly talented videographer. The recording will be edited into courseware, with class-length segments for use at seminaries, churches, and for private study by pastors and lay Bible Teachers.

The Board of Earl Palmer Ministries is excited about this tremendous opportunity to share such valuable material with the widest possible audience and further the use of exposition as an approach for teaching and teaching. You can help make this possible through a designated contribution to Earl Palmer Ministries. If you would like to support this project financially, enter "video" on the memo line of your check. We will keep you updated on the progress and distribution of the finished product.

Richard Greiling, Treasurer, Earl Palmer Ministries

Mark Your Calendars: Word and Worship

Where: The Chapel at the Highlands

Series: The 10 Commandments and New Testament Faith

Titles:

March 26 **A Covenant Law in our Favor**
(Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5)

April 23 **The Stumbling Block**
Commandment is the 4th
(Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5)

May 21 **The Grand Positive**
Commandments 5 to 10
(Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5)

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.



Dan and Jane O'Conner in front of Tacoma Presbyterian Church

Conference in Taiwan Features Expository Preaching

Through the years, Dr. Paul Shen (1917-2011) has been a legend among pastors. He may be best remembered for his unwavering and devoted commitment to expository preaching. Shen had one driving mission in his last 4 decades: to pass on his love for expository preaching to the next generation of Chinese Ministers. For that mission, he wrote the book -'Dr. Paul Shen Shares His 65 Years of Expository Preaching Ministry'- and its sequel, together with a number of books on expositions from NT texts; for that mission, he initiated a series of Expository Preaching Conferences on the east and west coast of the United States as well as in cities across Asia. He also taught the subject in several seminaries; and the love of that mission continued to the final days of his life. To honor the legacy of Dr. Shen, the first Paul Shen Lectureship has been designed to perpetuate the mission of God's Servant to pass on his mission of expository preaching and will be held on March 9-13, 2015 at Holy Light Seminary in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Earl Palmer has been invited to be the plenary speaker for this conference, and EPM has made it possible for me to attend with him. I look forward to this experience as a great opportunity to grow from the inspiration of Dr. Shen and learn about the intricacies of expositional preaching while gaining a deeper understanding of the Chinese culture and Christianity. It is an honor for Earl and me to be present at this exceptional gathering of pastors whose work in Christian ministry extends across the world. We look forward to being a part of this fellowship.

-Gray Segars, Study Assistant



Poster Announcing the Paul Shen Memorial Lectures

Life on the Road with Earl Palmer Ministries

Every year Earl's study assistant gets the opportunity to join Earl on his trip to the Princeton Theological Seminary Board of Trustees meeting. As a prospective seminary student next year, this trip couldn't have served a more practical and informative purpose for me. However, the value of my visit to Princeton Theological Seminary ran far deeper than a campus tour and a meeting with the Admissions team.

A couple of memories stick out: First, I tasted the impressive true flavor of the seminary when attending chapel and hearing the engrossing message from President Craig Barnes. Second, Earl and I met together in the Yankee Doodle Tap Room to share dinner and talk about life, history, and theology. It's moments like these I feel I'm collecting my most valuable paycheck.

Life on the road with Earl Palmer is always exciting and an adventure, but regardless of the locale, it's his company that makes the road worth traveling.

- Gray Segars, Study Assistant



At Princeton, Earl and Gray enjoyed dessert with current students from the Pacific Northwest



Come join us in Kane Hall
The Walker-Ames Room

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

1/5/15 **The Outer Limits of Faith and Prayer**

J.B.

By Archibald MacLeish

2/2/15 **Work as a Virtue**

The Boys in the Boat

By Daniel James Brown

3/2/15 **Two Kinds of Reconciliation**

From Under the Rubble

By Alexander Solzhenitsyn

To attend an event, please register at:
www.thekindlings.com/events

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.

Dates and Time
7 - 8:30 pm.

Save the Date: C.S. Lewis Study Week in Oxford, England in 2015

What: A weeklong seminar on C.S. Lewis presented by the C.S. Lewis Foundation

When: July 11-17 (Session 1)

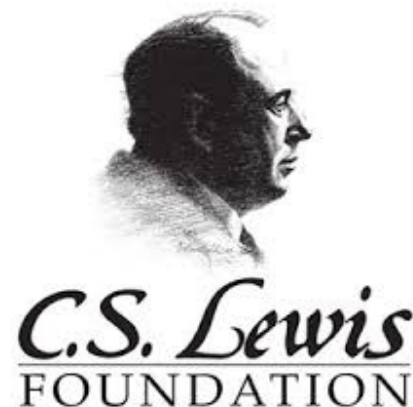
July 19-25 (Session 2) Note that this second week is a repeat of Session 1

Where: The Kilns, Home of C.S. Lewis – Oxford, England

Who will be speaking? Earl F. Palmer has been invited to be *Scholar in Residence* and he will teach on the topics: The Life Journey of C.S. Lewis; Lewis' Discovery of Faith in Jesus Christ; Lewis' Friends; and Lewis' Writings that make the Case for Christian Faith. Kim Gilnett from Seattle Pacific University will team with Earl as principle on-site resource.

How to find out more? Link for online registration will be available soon; check www.cslewis.org for details. Or watch for postings on www.earlpalmer.org.

The number of participants will be limited due to the setting for this event/venue.



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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 Gray at gray@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 a case for expositional worship.

Your support makes this ministry happen. As we continue in this seventh 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