

EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith

Fall 2014

Looking Ahead

In Seattle

Word & Worship*

3 Reflections: *Lord Teach Us to Pray*
Fall Services at The Highlands Chapel
Sept. 25, Oct. 16, Nov. 20: 7–8 pm.

The Kindlings Muse Podcast*

(Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall, UW)
Oct. 6, Nov. 10, Dec. 1, Jan 5: 7–8:30 pm.

Mornings at First Presbyterian Church of Tacoma*

Saint Paul's Greatest Book: Romans
Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16
Bible Class : 9:15–10:15 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at UPC

C.S. Lewis: Caught Off Guard
Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29: 7–8:30 pm.
(see details inside)

International Dinner at UPC

Acts 11: Where We Were First Called Christians
The Evening of Nov 5

UPC Worship

All Services - Dec. 28, Jan 4

Theological Dialogue for Lay Teachers and Pastors

The Cost of Discipleship (Bonhoeffer, 1937)
Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan. 7, and Feb. 4

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.

*Watch for details at www.earlpalmer.org

*For more information, email
info@earlpalmer.org
OR visit earlpalmer.org/events

I've been thinking ... about the word reconcile, especially the way St. Paul uses it in his letter to the Romans "...if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his son much more now that we are reconciled we will be saved by his life" (Romans 5:10). For Paul the designation "enemy" has been radically changed. We are no longer enemies but beloved, made safe here and now and in the future too. We are reconciled by what happened on two definite days in history, Good Friday and Easter.

The word reconciliation, *katalasso*, used in Romans describes Jesus the Redeemer who changes men and women while He remains unchanged as Son of God. This word translates as *catalyst*, which is used in chemistry to define a substance that precipitates change while it itself stays unchanged. On the cross Jesus disarmed sin and evil even the power of death itself. His victory altered the course of history. Reconciliation is a vital clue to what has happened for and to all human beings on earth.

We know human wrong action brings harm, is real and has its own power. Cruelty can lay hold of men and women with intoxicating temptation. The apparent finality of the power of death becomes a terror weapon of individuals, marauders, mobs, and even nations. But on Good Friday and Easter we witnessed that where harm increased in power the living Grace of God increased more (Romans 5:20). Death itself has been disarmed of its finality. Death could not hold Jesus.

As we trust in this victory we are entrusted with the assurance of reconciliation. Jesus explains the power of this assurance in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5, 6, 7). He tells his disciples to stand in place with cheek exposed to the angry face of hostility; to love those who are considered as enemies, to pray for God's forgiveness of one's trespasses, and then to ask for strength to forgive those who trespass against them. He gives a strategy: "If you are on your way to make an offering at the altar of God and you remember that your brother has something against you, stop what you are doing and first go and be reconciled to your brother..." (Matthew 5:24). Here, Jesus uses a combined Greek word, *dialogos*. Our word dialogue comes from this word. It means to talk through the issue that has put your relationship into jeopardy. While Jesus uses a word for reconciliation different from *katalasso*, the word in this passage depends upon the power of *katalasso*.



Time out at Laity Lodge, TX - Summer 2014

Jesus does not advise avoidance. He points to an immediate strategy - "settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court; find a better thought with him while you are still on the way..." (Matthew 5:25). The word here is literally *eunoio* - good thought. Jesus encourages us to talk through the crisis or offense that is causing harm and to find a better way that would be good for each - a better thought. Jesus treats the two opposing sides as each "on the way." One focuses on an act of faith; another on seeking punishment. A positive outcome of healing for each will be found in the third way.

The best news in the Sermon on the Mount is the teacher who is Lord of the Grace that increased more. Knowing this power of God's goodness is at the source of peacemaking that gives hope for people of goodwill. People whether as individuals or as tribes or as nations who are presently preoccupied with fear or who harbor grudges need to find that better way. The goodness of God's love is that better thought. Reconciliation is that better way.

-Earl F. Palmer

Paul's Greatest Book: Bible Class on Romans

An encounter with the book of Romans seems to have an uncanny tendency to transform the lives of people who will then go on to transform history. St. Augustine, Martin Luther, Charles Wesley, and Karl Barth all experienced a profound life change through an encounter with Christ through the book of Romans. If you are interested in a life transforming Bible study, I hope that you will be able to join Earl as he teaches an eight week series on the book of Romans at First Presbyterian Church in Tacoma this fall. I know that I am excited to get a chance to sit under my favorite Bible teacher as he teaches what I think is one of his very best studies. The class will begin on Sept. 28th at 9:15 a.m. in the South Chapel.

-Eric Jacobsen, Senior Pastor



The Historic First Presbyterian Church, host for the teaching series on Romans is located at 20 Tacoma Ave South, Tacoma, Washington 98402.

Seminar in Seattle: The Joy of Teaching through Exposition

This past week I had the pleasure of sitting down to lunch with Pastor Rick Danner. Pastor Danner originally hails from California but moved to the Seattle area to accept the call as head pastor at New Light Christian Church in Columbia City, WA. After some time catching up, our attention turned to the upcoming *Seminar in Seattle: The Joy of Teaching through Exposition in the Bible*.

Gray - What do you think this seminar brings to the table for a pastor in attendance? Why should someone come?

Rick - This seminar gives a local pastor some special training on how to preach and teach the Bible based on what the text originally said. This gives the pastor or teacher the ability to come up with applications from the Bible that are relative to the original text.

Gray - What sort of people do you hope to see at this seminar?

Rick - I hope to see all sorts of people there, but I think this is a particularly worthwhile opportunity for those who did not attend seminary or theological school to acquire formal Biblical training.

Gray - What would you say to someone on the fence about devoting an entire Saturday to this seminar?

Rick: The money and time spent for this teaching and training cannot compare to what you'll learn and how it will help your ministry for years to come.

-Interview by Gray Segars



Pastors Rick Danner, Earl Palmer, and Al Belton together when the idea for this event was born

Remembering *The Gathering at Friends of C.S. Lewis* in Oxford, England

- Being with Earl in Oxford was like walking with Lucy through the wardrobe and feeling the crunch of snow under our feet! His joy for C.S. Lewis was contagious, his insights in our lecture time were thought provoking and our fellowship together as a group was filled with joy. *Barbara and Rob – Eagle, Colorado*
- One of the most powerful times was when 92 year old Aidan Mackay read the "Learning in Wartime" speech written and given by Lewis in St. Mary the Virgin Church and all of us sang "Amazing Grace." *Andrea and Bob – Redmond, WA*
- The trip was one of the most enriching times I have ever experienced. Our group really came together and I felt a bond with everyone. I think we were all equally engaged and hungry for Earl's words and thoughtful interpretation of C.S. Lewis and his life and writings. *Lee (and Stu) – Seattle, WA*
- The "Gathering of Friends of C.S. Lewis" trip hosted by Earl and Shirley was beyond our expectations. Earl is a gifted storyteller and is able to animate Lewis's life and writings in a way few people can. We enjoyed the personal stories and little known anecdotes told by friends and those familiar with Lewis, as well. *Holly and Joel – Franklin, Tennessee*



Between Friends, Earl and Walter Hooper caught unaware at The Randolph Hotel in Oxford, England. Walter Hooper served as Lewis' secretary and is the principal editor of the literary works of Lewis. What a privilege to have him with us at our events in September, 2014. (Photo by Laurie Denham, Washington D.C.)

Please Mark Your Calendars for Word and Worship

Where: The Chapel at the Highlands

When: Sept. 25, Oct. 16 and Nov. 20

Titles:

Sept 25 - **Lord Teach Us to Pray**

(Luke 11:1-4)

Oct 16 - **Our Prayers for Daily Bread**

(Luke 10:38-42)

Nov 20 - **The Mystery of Prayer**

(Luke 11:5-13)

Directions:

Enter at the corner of 3rd Ave. NW and N 145th St.

DO NOT veer right along the golf course (Boundary Lane). Go to the left, where you will be asked to give your name to the guard. Follow the signs to the chapel.



Come join us in Kane Hall
The Walker-Ames Room
 is located on the 2nd floor of Kane

- 10/6/14 **Marks of Integrity and Sanity**
Not I: Memoirs of a German Childhood
 By Joachim Fest
- 11/10/14 **J.R.R. Tolkien, A Story of Survival and Friendship in the Battle of Somme in WWI**
J.R.R. Tolkien, A Biography
 By Humphrey Carpenter
- 12/1/14 **Looking into the Words of the Greatest Christmas Oratorio**
The Messiah by George F. Handel

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

Oct 6, Nov. 10, Dec 1: 7-8:30 pm.

C.S. Lewis: Caught Off Guard at UPC in October

Calendar these dates:

October 1:

The Man and his Journey

October 8:

The Writer

October 15:

The Case for the Christian Faith

October 22:

The BBC Broadcasts (WWII)

October 29:

Narnia Revisited (families invited)

Having invited Earl to speak at UPC, Andi Saccoccio, Community Team Lead, recently shared with me her ideas regarding the upcoming series *C.S. Lewis: Caught Off Guard*.

Gray - What led you to bring in Earl for this series?

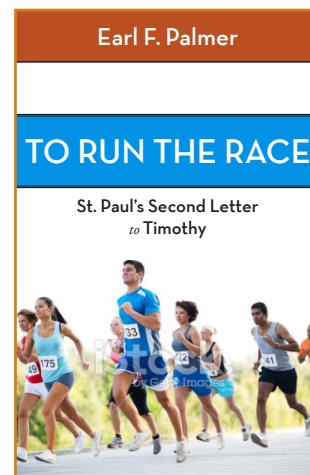
Andi - Earl is a premier Lewis scholar and brings a level of expertise that is second to none. Throughout his life and career, Earl has shown a commitment to engage people with the richness of the Gospel. He invites people to take a delightful but rigorous investigation of faith.

Gray - Is there a night or topic that you're most looking forward to?

Andi - I know all of us at UPC are looking forward to Oct 29 when Earl will read from and speak on the Chronicles of Narnia. Children are specifically invited to come with their parents on this night. Lewis was a model of deep faith and a bright mind, and he turned that into a story for all ages.

-Interview by Gray Segars

Book Release



To Run the Race

Available Late October

MEET EARL PALMER MINISTRIES' NEW STUDY ASSISTANT



I was lost, driving around Laurelhurst at quarter 'til nine, already late and desperately scrambling to find Reverend Palmer's house for some sort of C. S. Lewis discussion group. I had heard legends of his teaching from those at UPC, but had never met the man myself. Within the first fifteen minutes of his theological dialogue on Lewis' *Screwtape Letters*, I was convinced that I needed to be the next in line as study assistant. Earl's intellectual eloquence in discourse coupled with his humble and genuine pursuit of Jesus was quite honestly the manifestation of the faith I was striving for.

I'm incredibly thankful that I have been given the opportunity to work and learn under Earl. After graduating from Clemson University in 2012, I traveled west to Seattle. I spent last year working as an intern with University Ministries in Seattle and hope that this year can be another critical step in the discernment process for my next steps, whatever those may be.

While serving as study assistant, I will continue to lead a small group of men from the University of Washington. The collegiate experience can be both a challenging and galvanizing time in students' faith, so I ask your support in prayer of these men as well as all students at the University of Washington. I look forward to the challenges and celebrations of the year and am so very thankful to all those who support and follow Earl Palmer Ministries.

-Gray Segars, Study Assistant 2014-2015

From the EPM Board: Almost 10 years ago I gathered in Earl's living room with a group of like-minded people who were interested in helping launch 'Earl Palmer Ministries' -- a vehicle to help support Earl as he contemplated 'life after UPC.' As anyone who follows Earl knows -- there is no retirement -- Just 'redeployment,' as my fellow board member Frank Haas likes to say. So that night we talked about how Earl might be redeployed so that he could continue serving the Lord with his unique way of teaching. As a board, we are here for a singular purpose -- to help Earl and to enable his ministry to continue in the direction(s) that he feels led to serve. There is some prayer, discussion, fundraising...but mainly we get to hang out a few times a year with Earl and to witness the amazing teaching he does through EPM. Ten years have passed...and not only is there no signs of slowing down, but we're all having to run a little harder to keep up with Earl as he responds to continuing calls for his ministry.



Gordon Stephenson

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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

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