

EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith

Winter 2014

In Seattle

The Kindlings Muse Podcast*

(Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall, UW)
Jan. 13, March 3, April 14: 7–8:30 pm.

Theological Dialogue*

The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis
January–March 2014

Word & Worship*

The Sermon on the Mount
March 13, April 24, May 15: 7–8 pm.

Around the Country

New College Berkeley Teaching Day

First Presbyterian Church
May 29: 9 a.m. – 3 pm.

Theologian in Residence

C.S. Lewis: Writer of Stories and Christian Mentor
Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church
Grosse Ile, Michigan
April 4, 5, 6

Around the World

Union Church of Manila Centennial

Celebration of Faithfulness
Manila, Philippines
Jan. 19, 2014: Worship
For more information, visit unionchurch.ph

English Language Teachers Retreat

St. Paul: Teacher of Teachers
Hua Hin, Thailand
Jan. 28–Feb. 2, 2014

China Academic Consortium

Studies in the Book of Revelation
Hong Kong
Feb. 10–14, 2014

Looking Forward

A New Book Coming!

To Run the Race: Commentary on II Timothy
By Earl F. Palmer to be published by Regent College
Press
Spring 2014

A Gathering of Friends

C.S. Lewis Weekend Event
Oxford, England
Sept. 11–15, 2014

I've been thinking ... how a small Bible study group changed my life! I was a sophomore at UC Berkeley when a friend, Arba Hudgens, who lived in my dorm invited me to his Bible study group. It was in that setting with this group of young men my own age where I first thought seriously about the person of Jesus Christ. It happened naturally, week by week, as we read together from the Bible. The narratives about Jesus in the New Testament, letters by St. Paul, or Psalms ... the Jesus I was meeting through these texts gradually won my respect and then encouraged my faith. I met Jesus in the Old Testament by anticipation and in the New Testament through witness to His life and ministry, death and resurrection. For me the decision to trust in Christ happened in simple steps. What was most helpful was that we just read the Bible as we would read any other book. What happened is that this first-century text pointed in one way or another to its living center, Jesus Christ. He did the rest.



December 29, 2013

University Presbyterian Church Worship

Since then Bible study has been a part of my life: study by myself as well as study with others in small- or large-group settings. The Bible study I am describing is that openness on our part to read a sentence in a biblical text, and to listen to what it is saying in its own terms. The goal is to listen and allow the sentence of a teacher or the description of an event to naturally unfold, then to allow the sentence to make its point.

When I look back on that small group and ask why it was so helpful, I see some reasons: First, the group that took me in was amateur in the best sense. We only needed a readable English translation of the Bible, and then we were able to share together our own reactions, thoughts, and even theological interpretations. The mix of eight in the group in itself afforded a safety net against careless and extremist interpretations.

I learned that the best methods for Bible study among a group of friends are the least complicated ones. To begin, a reader reads aloud a sentence or two. Then the members ask the obvious inductive questions—who, what, why, when, and where—because in Bible study we need to look first at what is happening in the sentence. Next we look for the meaning and implication of what we have just read. Bible study should always be friendly and open to honest questions and the opinions of each person present. This openness includes hearing early conclusions and a full range of questions that require more information. The very best moments can happen at just these intersections.

Most exciting is that moment when the reader is reading a sentence and just a few seconds before anyone says anything there is a breakthrough of discovery. The text becomes clear to me or to one nearby; it is that instant of wonder that dawns: “Yes this is it, I see it for myself!” In matters great and small such a moment can happen when a textual passage or letter from the larger book called the Bible is opened in front of my eyes.

The Bible study groups that I played a part in brought me friends who have enriched my life. It is a very good side effect. C.S. Lewis describes many of the friends he made in similar fashion with the following phrase: “What, you too, I thought I was the only one interested in that.” (C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, pg. 96)

ON THE ROAD WITH EARL

In early October I was fortunate to have the opportunity to meet up with Earl and Shirley in Princeton NJ for the inauguration of Dr. Craig Barnes as Princeton Theological Seminary's new president. We had a great time meeting with students attending the school from the Seattle area as well as attending the different functions that go on during Founder's Day week and an inauguration. The inaugural service itself was a beautiful event held in the Princeton University Chapel. I was also blessed to be given an official tour of the campus along with an interview with the admissions department. I will be applying and seeking the Lord to see if attending Princeton is in my future. ~ *Chris*



Rev. Earl Palmer

Chris Thurton,
2013/2014 Study
Assistant

Dexter Kearny,
2012/2013 Study
Assistant, first-year
PTS

Kari Olson, third-
year PTS

Outside Princeton University Chapel in October

First Presbyterian of Colorado Springs Welcomes Earl

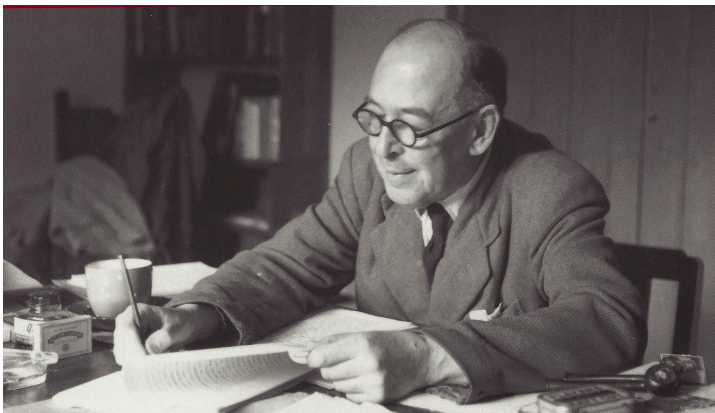
First Presbyterian Church of Colorado Springs was blessed to hear from Earl Palmer during its morning worship on Sunday, November 10. Earl delivered a great message on the Parable of the Vineyard that spoke to the diverse, inter-generational crowd at a quartet of morning services. The church was honored to have Palmer offer a Sunday message, which was received warmly by the congregation and staff. While in Colorado Springs, Earl was able to catch up with many old friends, including Eunice McGarrahan, who served with Earl on staff at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. ~ Rose Lyda, Member FPCC



In November Earl enjoyed time with Eunice and her husband, Dick.

A GATHERING OF FRIENDS OF C.S. LEWIS

Oxford, England on Sept. 11-15, 2014



Go to earlpalmer.org and select the *Lewis/Gathering* image for information; there select the button "click here to register online".



Earl has been invited to preach on Jan. 19, 2014 at three worship services, and Shirley has been asked to give the prayer at the Union Church of Manila to begin the 100-year celebration of Union Church of Manila. This celebration will open the UCM Centennial Flagship Project, which has recently refocused its work to partner with Operation Blessing and World Vision to focus on long-term rehabilitation of those afflicted by the typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda), especially in communities that were equally devastated but have not been receiving as much aid and attention as other areas. Areas identified are in Coron and Busuanga in Palawan and Panay Island. For information on how to make a donation to the Centennial Flagship Project, check unionchurch.ph for details.

When:

Dec. 7, 2013

Who:

Young Life Student
Staff Leaders

What:

Leadership Training

Subject:

Christ Centered
Ministry



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.

January 13

Agape and Eros: Rightly Understanding Love

Dens Caritas Est (God Is Love) by Benedict XVI

The Four Loves by C.S. Lewis

March 3

How to Study the Bible

Experiment in Criticism by C.S. Lewis

April 14

The Book of Revelation Revisited

Commentary on 1, 2, 3 John Revelation by Earl Palmer



Come join us in Kane Hall

The Walker-Ames Room

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

A Reminder of the Power of the Gospel for Me and for Campers



In October I was grabbing lunch with some friends in Portland and found out that there was a need for a speaker at Sunset Young Life's Fall Camp happening the very next weekend. After working out the details, within a couple of days I was scheduled to be that camp speaker! The story of Jesus is such a big story, and the burden of that made my planning and even the talks themselves very complex. However, with much study and prayer, I thought I was prepared to share that story.

Night one of camp was full of energy, and I began to lay out the path for the weekend and share the message that had been prepared. The following morning, in the middle of my second talk, I was hit with an overwhelming sense that I needed to step back from my complex plan and just simply share the truth of the Good News of Jesus. Stopping right in the middle of my talk, I prayed. From that point on I opened myself up completely to the Holy Spirit's presence at camp and shared the Gospel in as simple and honest a way as I could. We were all struck by the power of the Gospel; even with all of my study and preparation, it is the life of Jesus Christ that grabs our attention and the Holy Spirit that leads us to know Him. I was blessed not only to have the opportunity to share this truth but also to be reminded of the impact of Jesus's life over my own. ~ Chris Thurton

“Let the Bible Speak for Itself” by Dick Greiling

“Let the Bible speak for itself.” I have heard Earl say this many times in the years I have known him. Earl lets the Bible speak through expository preaching, working through a passage verse by verse, stopping along the way to define and explain a particular Greek or Hebrew word. In that way, we learn both what the passage meant to its original audience and how it relates to our time in history. As always, the passage points to its living center, Jesus Christ.

Expository preaching explains what the Bible means by what it says. An essential feature is to relate other Bible passages that confirm, illuminate, or expand upon the passage under consideration. This requirement serves to overcome the possibility of taking a passage out of context or using the passage to serve some private motive. By examining together the ageless lessons God has for us, we learn the principles we can apply and actions we can take as servants of God.

I have known and worked with Earl for more than 20 years. Through his expository preaching and teaching, Earl has taught me that I should serve God as an expression of gratitude. And more importantly, he has taught me how to hear God's voice more clearly and take direction from it.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. II Timothy 3:16-17



Mark Your Calendar for Word and Worship

What: A new three-part series titled Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)

Where: The Chapel at the Highlands

When: 7-8 p.m. March 13, April 24 and May 15

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.

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PO Box 85117

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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 Chris at chris@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 sixth 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.

