

EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith **Fall 2013**

In Seattle

The Kindlings Muse Podcast*

(Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall, UW)
Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2, Jan. 13. 7 - 8:30 pm.

Theological Dialogue*

The Serenotype Letters—C. S. Lewis
October - March 2013/14

Word & Worship*

Fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22
Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 14: 7-8 pm.

Understanding Faith and Doubt

Sammamish Presbyterian Church
Oct. 11-13
For more information visit sponline.org

Around the Country

C.S. Lewis: Writer and Christian Mentor for Today

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church,
Denton, Texas
Oct. 19-20,

First and Second Thoughts : Matthew 21

First Presbyterian Church
Colorado Springs, Colorado
Nov. 10
For more information visit first-pres.org

Around the World

100th Celebration of Faithfulness

Union Church of Manila
Manila, Philippines
Jan. 19, 2014
For more information visit unionchurch.ph

St. Paul as a Teacher

English Teachers
Bangkok, Thailand
Jan. 28-Feb. 2, 2014

Studies in the Book of Revelation

China Academic Consortium
Hong Kong
Feb. 10-14, 2014

Looking Forward

Gathering of Friends

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

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

I've been thinking... Music is one of those key markers of human uniqueness that everyone has a memory of, usually a desire for, and always an opinion about. Music recalls memory because it reminds us of where we come from and of those we know best. We desire music because it stirs up body and spirit, and even willpower, so that people learn and practice to play an instrument, join a choir, or take up dancing.

While the melody, rhythm, and words of music surround us, we discover we have strong opinions. When we like what we hear we call it our own, and when others join in, too, a special kind of knowing and belonging happens. Music takes on significance as a uniting connection or becomes a fence that separates people. Music is a bond or barrier because of judgment calls and opinions based upon our tastes, memories, and experiences.

From the earliest narratives of our Christian root system, we hear about music. The Psalms themselves tell us of musical instruments, mostly strings, drums, and cymbals that joined with the human voice to praise the Lord and ask for the Lord's blessing. Music moves through the history of Christian worship alongside of the biblical texts explained in sermons and the sacraments shared. Music is a teacher of the texts of the Bible. It also tells the human story. Both the text and our narrative have content; both need to be explained through exposition. When music joins with the spoken word of text, it becomes the "reverberating word." In this way music is the "reverberating word" within worship.

Sometimes when music is the teacher it catches us off guard to learn the text in a new way. Sometimes it is a suddenly opened window into the atmosphere and feeling of the narrative from the Bible. Sometimes music can be the meditative and totally safe resting place for our soul that makes it possible to reflect on the truth of the gospel. Sometimes music cries with the human spirit now wounded so that we can hardly make out any words. Sometimes music is the exuberance of the acceleration of joy when it dawns on us that God's love is real and personal, that Jesus knows our names. Sometimes music is very quietly felt so that words are hummed as much as said.



*Earl's famous 'one wonders' pose, as coined
by friend Jan Janura (left), during a time out at Oxford.*

Today as in past generations of believers, the challenge of those who are entrusted as guides of worship, large or small, is to steward and encourage music as friend of the faith. Music is a major part of the welcoming mandate of the gospel; "welcome one another therefore as Jesus Christ has welcomed you" (Romans 15:7). For these reasons music for Christians must not be a fence that excludes but be an inviting doorway into worship.

Because of this, when people want to worship the Lord in twos and threes or in a large company of people, music should be there.

~ Earl F. Palmer

Earl Palmer Ministries Welcomes Chris, the New Study Assistant, and Leo, the New Technology Assistant



Chris Thurton

A Look Forward

"If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." Isaac Newton's words sum up how I feel about the year ahead. I have truly been blessed with the opportunity to work with and learn from Earl Palmer just as he has learned from those who came before him.

I grew up in Toronto, Canada, moved to Salem, Oregon, when I was 13, and after high school I attended Seattle Pacific University. I got involved with University Presbyterian Church through their college ministry, The Inn. After interning at The Inn, I met Rev. Palmer and eventually found out about the position of study assistant.

I hope to be a pastor some day, and I can't think of a better way to learn and grow in my preparation for this calling. Not only am I excited for what I can learn this year, but I look forward to helping expand Earl Palmer Ministries.

We are located in Seattle's University District, surrounded by college students and young adults. We hope to take advantage of our location and the various ministries around us to reach out to a younger generation. As well as hoping to use social media to help spread the wisdom that Earl has to share.

I am excited to see how the Lord will use Earl Palmer Ministries this year and feel truly blessed to be a part of all that will be going on.

Chris Thurton

Blessed to be a Blessing

Hello. I am Leonardo Lee, a 2013 graduate from the University of Washington, with a double major in philosophy and comparative religion and a minor in music. My focus was Metaphysics and Philosophy of the Mind. My future goals, however, are more aligned with computer science.

My favorite writers include C.S. Lewis, Henri Nouwen, and Immanuel Kant. As a hobby I like creating electronic music and art, board and card games, and reading.

I am going to work with Earl as his technology assistant. My focus will be on managing the website, making Earl's years of ministry accessible to the general public, and help with the development of the newsletter. One of my major goals this year is to create a version of the website that would be intuitive and accessible from mobile devices while increasing the ministry's audience with social media.

What I hope to get out of the year is a detailed look at ministry and what happens in the background to support pastors and the people who spread the word. I was always told that we are blessed to be a blessing, and with my talents and gifts I believe that helping this ministry with my knowledge of computers is one way I can fulfill that calling.

Leo Lee



Leonardo Lee

A Week at Mt. Hermon in August

Dear Earl,

I want to thank you on behalf of all of us involved with the "Creating a Legacy" conference, for your vital part as our main speaker. What a blessing! The evaluations came back with such positive remarks.

This is a conference we pray will continue to grow in the years to come. Your messages were so helpful and encouraging.

Thank you my friend!

Dave Burns, Director of Adult Ministries



It was my privilege to teach two one-week seminars for C.S. Lewis Foundation at The Kilns (Lewis' home) in Oxford, England. We explored the Christian witness and legacy of C.S. Lewis. Pictured here with me are Trey Coyle, a University of Washington graduate, and Reverend Rob Hagen from Kennewick, Washington.

Watch for What's Coming Up!

A Gathering of Friends

- ◆ Randolph Hotel—Oxford, England
- ◆ Sept. 11-15, 2014
- ◆ Resource Leader: Earl Palmer
- ◆ Program: Kim Gilnett and Shirley Palmer
- ◆ Registration limited to 42 persons. Details forthcoming.
- ◆ C.S. Lewis Weekend event offered by Earl Palmer Ministries
- ◆ For more information please contact us at earlpalmer.org



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**Come join us
in Kane Hall!**

The Walker-Ames Room

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

October 7

Water from a Deep Well: The Importance of Tradition for Today

Water from a Deep Well by Jerry Sittser
St. Francis of Assisi by G. K. Chesterton

November 4

Journey of a Pessimist to Faith in God
The Complete Poems and Plays of T. S. Eliot

December 2

Jesus of Nazareth: Who of His Interpreters Do We Trust?

The Gospel of John: A Commentary by F. Dale Bruner
Faith Seeking Understanding by David Marshall

January 13

Agape and Eros: Rightly Understanding Love
Dens Caritas Est (God Is Love) by Benedict XVI
The Four Loves by C.S. Lewis

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.

The Joy of a Musician

When we first started Word & Worship (under Sue Nixon's inspired leadership), I think I wasn't the only one on our little team who was jumping at the chance to continue being taught by Earl. For a believing musician, what can be better than serving alongside a pastor who deeply loves and understands music, how it mysteriously can help distracted, complicated hearts to tune in to the Lord's presence?

For the content of these simple services, we immediately landed on word, prayer, and music. Word and Worship. For his messages that make up each three-part series, Earl comes up with a simple and memorable Biblical theme. Rev. Kay Browleit prepares an eloquent, timely, and personal pastoral prayer for each service. And we musicians—Brian Coon, Tomo Morita, Sue Nixon, Dale Roth, Heather Whitney, and I—get to hang out, rehearse, and pray together at Sue's houseboat earlier in the week, before coming to the Highlands Chapel. (One time, we even had a kayaker paddle right up to the door and ask, "Are you guys singin' about JESUS?")

Each message from Earl convinces me again of the historical Jesus's currentness and relevance in my life today. Kay's prayer always brings home to me how much the Lord truly cares about every detail of my life, of everyone's life. Finally, for me as a musician, playing in this ensemble with these extraordinary artists is as deep and worshipful as it gets.

That's what Word & Worship means to me.



Walt will be at the piano for Word & Worship

Walt Wagner

Mark Your Calendar for Word and Worship

What: A new three-part series titled *Fruit of the Spirit*

Where: The Chapel at the Highlands

When: 7-8 p.m.

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.

Sept. 19 - Love, Joy, Peace

Oct 17. - Patience, Kindness, Generosity

Nov 14. - Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self Control

At Laity Lodge in Texas



Sandy Shubert, Dexter Kearny, Eric Jacobsen, Earl Palmer, and Liz Jacobsen

Laity Lodge is at the bottom of a valley overlooking a flowing river. From the breathtaking views and the wandering turtles and deer to the nooks and crannies designed for reading and silent time, Laity Lodge is designed to create a sense of spiritual and physical rest.

Earl spoke on II Timothy focusing on the relationship between Paul and Timothy and how that can affect our relationships today. Eric Jacobsen, Earl's son-in-law, spoke on his doctoral dissertation, which involved the creation and re-creation of the city to enhance community. My recent trip to Laity Lodge for the adult retreat in June was a time of rest, relaxation, and inspiration.

Sandy Shubert

(Fun Fact: Sandy was in Earl's junior high group at First Presbyterian Church in Berkeley when he was an intern.)

Starkville, Mississippi

What a blessing it was to host Earl Palmer at First Presbyterian Church in Starkville in early June. Earl's time with us—his preaching and teaching on II Timothy, his meetings with our officers, and his conversations with our church staff—marked a season of refreshing for our congregation as we draw to the close of our interim period without a senior pastor. Moreover, the content of his lectures on Paul's letters to Timothy and his modeling of the content in his own ministry were an encouragement to me as I prepare for PhD studies in theology at the University of St Andrews in the fall. Thanks, Earl, for your visit to Mississippi and your ministry to us!

Joey Sharrard



Joey Sharrard and Earl

FYI: Earl looks forward to preaching at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle

Dec. 29, 2013 and Jan. 5, 2014

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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. EPM's wider ministry focuses primarily on encouraging pastors and giving a case for expository 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.

