

EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith

Winter 2013

On Earl's Calendar

In Seattle

The Kindlings Muse Podcast*

(Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall, UW)

Jan. 7: 7-8:30 p.m. – *The Reverberating Word*

Feb. 4: 7-8:30 p.m. – *Truth and Justice*

Mar. 4: 7-8:30 p.m. – *The Meaning of Holy Week*

Theological Dialogue*

Institutes of the Christian Religion, John Calvin

October - March 2012/13

Word & Worship*

The Highlands Chapel

Mar. 21: 7-8 p.m.

Apr. 25: 7-8 p.m.

May 23: 7-8 p.m.

A Dynamic Peace: 1 Corinthians 7

First Presbyterian Church of Tacoma

Jan. 20

I Know A House

Wallingford Presbyterian Church Centennial

Feb. 10

Around the Country

Sheer Encouragement: St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians

First Presbyterian Church, Kennewick, WA

Feb. 22-24 (email firstpres@kfpcc.org)

Touchstone of Reality: C.S. Lewis as Friend and Mentor for Today

New College Berkeley

May 18

Looking Ahead

The Marks of Character

Starkville, Mississippi

June 9-12

Paul in Corinth

Laity Lodge, Texas

June 13-16

Legacy Conference

Mt. Hermon Lodge and Conference Center

Aug. 19-23

C. S. Lewis Seminar in Oxford, England

First session: July 6-12, 2013

Second session: July 14-20, 2013

For more info call the C. S. Lewis Foundation at

1-888-CSLEWIS (1-888-275-3947)

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

I've been thinking... about a New Testament book I am presently at work on: the last letter of St. Paul written from prison to a young man, Timothy. The apostle is blunt in his descriptions of the harsh atmosphere in the Roman world in which both men live. He brings his list of the sins of the Roman Empire to a close with one fascinating word. It is the word, deceive, used twice by Paul. "Deceive" in our English text of II Timothy 3 is translated from the Greek word *plano*. The word, in first century usage, connotes both adriftness and deception. It is the word "planet" used by ancient Greek astronomers to describe Venus, Mars, and Saturn...which even before Copernicus, these early scientists knew moved regularly across the night sky as if they were adrift. They were wanderers in the sky and deceivers too because though they looked at first like stars; they did not twinkle like the permanently placed stars. They were planets. The evening "star" Venus is not the same as the North Star; therefore don't depend on Venus for directions while at sea.

For Paul, the reality is that those caught up in corrupt moral acts are themselves deceived and are deceiving others. With this word, *plano*, ringing in our ears we hear Paul's counsel to Timothy. What Paul does not say is that Timothy should shrink away from his time and place in the dangerous Roman world of 60 A.D. "God has not given you, Timothy, disorienting fear but love and power and a healthy mind..." (II Tim. 1:7)

No, Paul's advice to Timothy is to actively stay in the complicated mix but to stay equipped with the best antidote for adriftness and deception. That antidote is the truth found in the law and prophets and songs of sacred scripture (OT) together with the fulfillment of those hopes in the savior and king who is Jesus Christ. Paul's counsel to Timothy is simple: stay in faithful presence, grow deep yourself in truth, patiently teach the good news of Jesus Christ, and then take the long view knowing that the story in every man and woman's life is a story underway and not over yet.



Earl in Jerusalem

This advice is true even when adriftness and moral confusion may be a damaging part our stories. Timothy has on his side the durable truth of the living Lord who is not adrift. The good news about the Lord of truth and grace wears well with the afternoon when wanderers begin to look for what will last. At just such a moment many wanderers will then listen to the Teacher who makes all the difference. These words from Paul in his century are also words of encouragement for the Timothys in our century too.

~Earl F. Palmer



Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

Under the aqueduct arch built by Herod the Great near Caesarea on the Mediterranean. Paul was imprisoned at Caesarea for two years by Roman Governors Felix and Festus.

At this time of Epiphany following the Christmas season, my wife Mary and I have brought a new perspective for not only the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, but also the history of the Holy Land, which preceded His physical presence on Earth. We joined Earl and seven other couples on a one-week journey that took us to such important places in the New Testament as the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River, the Mount of Olives, the old towns of Jerusalem and Caesarea. Our able guide, a Christian Israeli Arab, Tony Mubarak, was very knowledgeable and was a source of interesting perspective as a Christian living in Jerusalem. Seeing holy sites was moving for all of us, but what really tied our experience to a better relationship with our Lord was the hour each evening when Earl led our group in a study of the life of Jesus focusing on His birth, the Sermon on the Mount, His miracles, His parables, His crucifixion, and His resurrection. Earl's expositional style of teaching brought new understanding of what the Bible tells us of Jesus' life. He teaches as he brings the Bible alive in a way that speaks personally to each one of us. His discussion of the Prodigal Son was not only about the son who is forgiven but also of the hope we have for those in our lives who are still searching. As Earl said, "The story is not over yet" so we must keep faith that our Lord will provide answers in His time. We all left Jerusalem and Israel with a much greater understanding of history and its context in the life of Jesus. Thank you Earl!!!

—John Snyder, fellow traveler

March 21
The Source of Love
 John 15:12-17

April 25
Durability of Love
 1 Corinthians 13

May 23
Wholeness of Love
 2 Corinthians 5:11-15

Mark Your Calendar

The Word & Worship team joyfully invites you to three more Thursday evening worship times this spring. These times are in response to the strong encouragement from those who have joined us. Many thanks from our worship team: Sue Nixon, Walt Wagner, Heather Whitney, Dale Roth, Brian Coon, Toma Morita, Kay Broweleit, and Earl Palmer. Earl Palmer will present New Testament reflections on *The Ways Of Love*.

The Chapel at The Highlands

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.

Word & Worship 7-8 p.m.



**We meet in Kane Hall,
 come join us!**

The Walker-Ames Room

is located on the 2nd floor of Kane Hall on the University of Washington. Please visit The Kindlings Muse page at www.earlpalmer.org for detailed directions and instructions on parking, or email info@earlpalmer.org.

February 4
 Truth and Justice in Fyodor Dostoyevsky's
 Greatest Novel: *Crime and Punishment*

March 4
 The Meaning of Holy Week: Two Poets as Our
 Guides: George Herbert and Isaac Watts

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

Each event is podcast and made
 available to download at:
www.thekindlings.com

The Exceptional Encourager - Susan Hutchison

Earl Palmer sat down recently with retiring EPM board member Susan Hutchison to discuss her board service and her future. Susan is the executive director of the Charles and Lisa Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences and provided the office space for Earl's study assistant.

Earl: Susan, you are one of the team of friends who created Earl Palmer Ministries. It was in our home when you and the others shared the vision of EPM with Shirley and me. You have been a sheer encourager from the beginning not only for EPM but also for me from the time I first arrived at UPC in 1991. I am most grateful for you and for your gracious smile. Now as you step aside from your official role on the board, I join our chair, Tony Whatley, and each of the board members to say a heartfelt thank you.

Susan: Thank you Earl. It has been a real honor to serve with you in God's work... and fun to have your study assistant right across the hall from me.

Earl: How did you get involved with Earl Palmer Ministries?

Susan: That first night at your house was when we grabbed the vision. You were soon to retire as Senior Pastor at University Presbyterian. So we wanted to set up an organizational structure where you could land in order to continue doing what you do so well. I had already launched a 501(c)3 with the Simonyi Fund several years earlier and was familiar with all the legal and administrative tasks before us. That first board (and your wife Shirley) made it happen.

Earl: A lot has changed in five years.

Susan: Yes, more great board members joined us, and your study assistants, arriving every summer with their youthful tech savvy got EPM into the world of the Internet. The web presence is incredibly powerful. Your teaching can now be accessed anywhere in the world. With earlpalmer.org we can even listen to your sermons from Berkeley Pres. Next, you can start tweeting!

Earl: What is next for you?

Susan: I'm heading into my own transition. The Simonyi Fund is "sunsetting," and I've just published a book about the 10-year impact of the foundation.

My work has been varied and wide reaching, from aviation to opera to telescopes to zoos, and I have loved it. People ask me what I want to do next, and my answer: I'd like to help lead an organization with a strategic vision.

I've recently been meditating on Psalm 27:13-14: "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!" I've been thinking, what is the "land of the living"? Earl Palmer Ministries certainly is. Your teaching of God's Word is absolutely life giving!



Susan Hutchison in her office



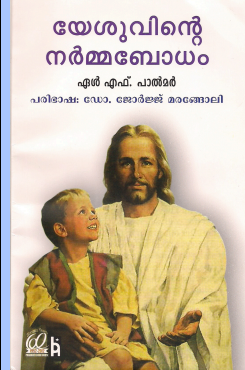
Dale Whitney (center) is making it happen!

Thank You UPC

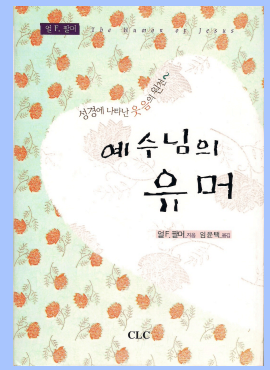
This January marks EPM's move to an ideal office space in Shasta House on the University Presbyterian Church campus at the corner of 47th and 16th street.

Representing UPC, Tim Snow remarked, "We are excited to support EPM with this new space on the church campus. Earl's ministry is one we deeply love and appreciate. We welcome Earl's study assistant. Having Dexter close to our University Ministry staff and Earl a more frequent visitor to campus is a great opportunity to grow and enjoy our mutual ministry of sharing hope in Jesus Christ."

Our special thanks to Tim Snow, Executive Pastor, Dale Whitney, Director of Facilities and Hospitality and Senior Pastor George Hinman for this hospitality.



Malayalam



Korean

If You Can't Read This...
That's okay! This is probably not your first language. Earl's book, *The Humor of Jesus*, has recently been published in languages such as Malayalam (India) and Korean! The English version can be found on amazon.com!

Then and Now: Two Study Assistants

I have been strongly considering full time ministry as God's call for my life. These last few months with Earl have confirmed this call. As further encouragement Earl Palmer Ministries has come alongside and covered tuition for my enrollment in Intro to the New Testament – Gospels and Acts at Fuller Theological Seminary – Northwest. This is an exciting opportunity to learn more about my faith and prepare for vocational ministry.

Recently I met with Kurt Heineman, Earl's first study assistant (2008-09). Returning to Seattle, after his graduation from Princeton Theological Seminary, 2012, Kurt has accepted the position as Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries at Southminster Presbyterian Church in nearby Des Moines. This post works well also for his wife, Katie, who is in graduate work at the University of Washington in occupational therapy.

Kurt shared with me the value of his time with Earl. "Earl has a strong work ethic and dedication to his preaching and study of the word. I want to be able to internalize what I learn and be able to preach from the heart with as much gusto as Earl Palmer." Kurt helped put in perspective the things I am learning with how they will help in ministry. Earl's strong work ethic and dedication to the word have helped me become a better small group leader. Kurt also gave me the inside scoop about his time at Princeton where the academic rigor and the professors challenged him to think seriously about his faith. What really helped Kurt was being in a small group of guys that met weekly for three years. "The group supported me and prayed for me throughout all the academic challenges," he said. Hearing from Kurt about his experience with seminary and how the lessons learned with Earl have helped him, I am now moving forward with my application to Princeton Theological Seminary, as is my wife, with the encouragement of Earl, Kurt, and all our friends and family. We will continue to follow where God calls us.

—Dexter Kearny, study assistant



Kurt Heineman and Dexter Kearny, 1st and 5th study assistants

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Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith

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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 Dexter at dexter@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 expositional worship.

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

