

# EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

*Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith*

I've been thinking... about resilience. Resilience can be defined as the ability to upright yourself when stresses move in all directions. What about resilience when feelings are extreme and the actions of angry people are extreme, too? The first-century believers in Jesus Christ lived in just such a time of confusion and intensity, yet we know from New Testament records that they discovered resources and help from the Lord. Not only did they survive, but they were resilient and even positive; they were known by the love they showed to one another and to strangers, too. Paul describes this help as fruits of the Holy Spirit given to and within ordinary disciples (Gal. 5:19-23). He gives the Christians at Galatia a list of nine: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control. There is a rhythmic "reverberation" within these fruits of the Spirit that begins with what God gives: His love, His faithfulness, His peace, and His kindness. These fruit are then companioned with the fruit of our response in sharing love, joy, patience, faithfulness, teachableness, and endurance.

The last fruit in the list is self-control. Paul makes use of a marvelous combined Greek word for this ninth fruit. He puts together the word *ego*, for myself and my desires, with the word *grasp*. Here, Paul is describing the fruit of self-limitation. We are to decide for ourselves to let this fruit happen - to get a grasp on my desires, my selfhood, and my will. For Paul, it is the good-tasting fruit of a man or woman who trusts in the Lordship of Christ, and His will for our behavior toward those who surround us.

Self-limitation is like the word Paul puts in his final advice to the Philippians: "Let all people know your *moderation*. The Lord is near by." (Phil. 4:5). Later on he will explain this *moderation* as his secret: "I know how to be abased, I know how to abound. In any and all circumstances, I have learned the secret of keeping my sanity; I can take in stride all things because of Christ who strengthens me." (Translation by Earl of Phil. 4:11-13) Paul has a grip because Christ has a grip on him.



~Earl F. Palmer

## Fall 2012

On Earl's Calendar

### In Seattle

#### **The Kindlings Muse Podcast\***

(Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall, UW)

Nov. 5: 7 - 8:30 p.m. - *God Is Easy to Please*

Dec. 3: 7 - 8:30 p.m. - *Defining Joy*

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

#### **Theological Dialogue\***

*Institutes of the Christian Religion*, John Calvin

October - March 2012/13

#### **Word & Worship\***

The Highlands Chapel

Nov. 1 & Dec. 6: 7 - 8 p.m.

Studies in II Timothy

#### **The Christian and Health Reform:**

##### **How Then Shall We Heal?**

University Presbyterian Church

Oct. 27: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

(email Michael at harvestlogos@gmail.com)

#### **As Families Change: Strengthening**

##### **Relationships Across Generations**

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Nov. 18: 5 - 6:30 p.m.

(email Kay at kaytrin@qwestoffice.net)

#### **Centennial Homecoming Celebration**

Wallingford Presbyterian Church

Feb. 10

### Around the Country

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

First Presbyterian Church, Kennewick, WA

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

### Looking Ahead

#### **C. S. Lewis Seminar in Oxford**

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](mailto:info@earlpalmer.org)

OR visit [earlpalmer.org/events](http://earlpalmer.org/events)



### November 5

God Is Easy to Please: George MacDonald, the Storyteller Who Caught Hold of C. S. Lewis

Books: *Phantastes* by George MacDonald

*George MacDonald: An Anthology* by C. S. Lewis

To attend an event, please register at:

[www.thekindlings.com/events](http://www.thekindlings.com/events)

### December 3

Defining Joy

Books: *The Humor of Jesus* by Earl F. Palmer

*The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis

### January 7

The Reverberating Word: Music and Faith

Music from Bach, Handel, Getty, and Townsend

Each event is podcast and made available to download at:

[www.thekindlings.com](http://www.thekindlings.com)

**We meet in Kane Hall  
so we have more space.  
Come join us!**

### The Walker-Ames Room

is located on the 2nd floor of Kane Hall on the campus of the University of Washington. Please visit The Kindlings Muse page at [www.earlpalmer.org](http://www.earlpalmer.org) for detailed directions and instructions on parking, or email [info@earlpalmer.org](mailto:info@earlpalmer.org).

## EPM Welcomes Two New Board Members

*(Interview by Dexter Kearny)*

### Paul Lange M.D.



Paul Lange

*Tell us a little bit about yourself (growing up, career, family).*

I grew up in a Lutheran family. I courted and married my wife, Lucy, while at the National Institutes of Health. I have two children and currently two grandchildren. I have spent a large percentage of my life on my career, but I do have other interests such as reading, tennis, skiing, woodworking, and, until late, backpacking.

*Tell us about the kind of work you do.*

I am a professor of urology at the University of Washington and was the department of urology's chairman for 19 years. I will stop seeing patients in one year, and then my involvement in UW medicine will be research in an undetermined capacity. I hope to become more involved nationally in the science/religion interface movement.

*What is your connection to Earl?*

A friend of mine heard that I was moving to Seattle and sent Earl Palmer \$25 to take me to lunch. Several years after I arrived at UW, I introduced myself to Earl after a UPC service. Earl remembered the payment, and we had lunch. Soon thereafter I joined his prayer group where I have remained for over 18 years.

*When you were invited to the board, what influenced your decision?*

My great admiration for Earl, appreciation for his friendship and for the mission he performs so well. My particular interest is the interface between science and religion (i.e., Christianity), and Earl has been immensely helpful in that regard and serves as a great advocate for that issue.

*What are you looking forward to as you serve on the board?*

Helping to maintain and embellish Earl's unique teaching and witness mission. He continues to be a great facilitator to the faith journey of countless people.

### Ken Pyle Ph.D.

*Tell us a little bit about yourself (growing up, career, family).*

Anne and I grew up in the same town in Pennsylvania and have been married for 52 years. After we married we studied in Japan for three years; I worked on my doctorate, and Anne studied under a famous Christian printmaker.

*Tell us about the kind of work you do.*

I am a professor of History and Asian Studies at the University of Washington and was the director of the Jackson School of International Studies for ten years.

*What is your connection to Earl?*

In the early 1990s my best friend invited us to come to UPC and hear an evening series that Earl was doing on Bonhoeffer. That evening Bob introduced us to Earl. We were so taken by Earl's teaching that we changed our church membership to UPC and for the next 15 years had our faith deeply enriched by Earl's preaching.

*When you were invited to the board, what influenced your decision?*

My wife and I felt that through Earl's expository preaching, the Lord was teaching us, taking us deeper in our faith and understanding. Since Earl's retirement from UPC, we have been attending The Kindlings Muse and Word and Worship programs.

*What are you looking forward to as you serve on the board?*

In joining the board, I look forward to the opportunity to help ensure that the special gifts that Earl has as a teacher continue to reach as many people as possible. I am aware of the wide influence John Stott had after "retirement" through John Stott Ministries, and I want to see the same happen with Earl Palmer Ministries.



Ken Pyle

**WE THANK THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO EARL PALMER MINISTRIES**



Michael Denham and Earl Palmer on Whidbey Island

## Reflections on The Reverberating Word of God

*A personal note from Earl: "One of the joys for me during my two years, 2008-10, as Preaching Pastor in Residence at The National Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C., was to serve alongside the Minister of Worship, Michael Denham. Here are excerpts from his brilliant recent paper on worship."*

In worship, it is not just any story that we tell, nor is it primarily our story. What we tell again and again is God's story. But however God's story is best told in any given context, it must be allowed to invite us into *its* story, helping us to see how our own stories run parallel or perpendicular to it. Our security and worth are grounded in God's gracious initiative: *In Christ we have redemption*. This means that the content and contour of our worship, and our way of witnessing in the world around us is tethered to the text, to staying in its story. The reverberation of this truth in discipleship, worship, and

witness shapes and strengthens us as resilient saints. To "resilient"\* I add "reverberant." Music teaches us that tone and beautiful sound can emanate from vibrations of something stretched or set in motion. Like the production of beautiful sound through vibrations from a positive tension, producing resilient Christians requires the Word of God reverberating through worship, discipleship, and witness. Staying with its story and its tensions tethers us day to day to that strengthening power of God for our endurance, patience, and joy.

*~Michael Denham: Minister of Worship, National Presbyterian Church, Washington D.C.*

*\*Michael thanks his professor at Beeson Divinity School, Dr. Douglas Webster, for this insight on resilience.*

**CAUGHT TAKING TIME OUT...** to adjust his oldest grandson's tie aboard ship in the Aegean Sea. Earl had the joy of traveling *The Journeys of St. Paul* with his three grandsons: Drew (age 12, pictured below), Peter (age 12), and Tommy (age 10) in July 2012.



Photo by Jim Henderson, fellow traveler



"Having Earl speak at our church on C. S. Lewis was both exciting and faith building. In Earl's winsome yet scholarly way, he made Lewis come alive and used his journey of faith with Jesus Christ as a lens through which we could view our own. I've even pulled out my old Lewis books for a reread! It was an incredible weekend."

Jeff Lincicome, senior pastor

On the weekend of Sept. 28-30, Earl enjoyed being with the people at Sammamish Presbyterian Church. His title for the series was *Mere Christian: A New Look at C. S. Lewis, the Man, the Storyteller, the Teacher*. You guessed it! One of Earl's favorite topics.

## Come and See: A Weekend with Murdock, a Year with Earl

Hello. I am Earl Palmer's new study assistant. I started about a month ago and have been learning much. I am quite excited for this upcoming year. One of the reasons that I get this opportunity is because of a grant from the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust. These funds are added to donations from supporters like you to give me this year to come alongside Earl in his ministry of "encouraging and building up the Christian faith." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

One of the requirements of the grant is that the interns attend a retreat where they can spend time reflecting on their passions and call. On the weekend of October 5, 6, and 7, I learned about Melvin Jack Murdock, who had a dream of making the Pacific Northwest a better place by growing leaders.

The theme this year was "come and see." In John 1 the disciples of John start following Jesus and wonder where he is staying, and Jesus says, "Come and see." Later in the chapter Philip invites Nathanael to "come and see" Jesus. This is an invitation to "come and see" about Jesus and his ministry.

This is exactly what I get to do this year as I follow and work with Earl. I get to "come and see" as I discern my own future and call for ministry. As I look forward, I get excited about all the opportunities I have to learn from Earl and to practice ministry. During this internship, I will be listening to God and discerning where my future leads as I serve with Earl Palmer Ministries.



Dexter Kearny with Terry Stokesbary (Senior Program Director of the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust)

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PO Box 85117  
Seattle, WA 98145

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## Board of Directors

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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](http://www.earlpalmer.org) or email us at [info@earlpalmer.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 at [www.earlpalmer.org](http://www.earlpalmer.org).

On behalf of the EPM team,  
I thank you.

