

EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith

Fall 2010

On Earl's Calendar

In Seattle

The Kindlings Muse Podcast

Dec. 6: 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Jan. 3: 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Feb. 14: 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Theological Dialogue

Orthodoxy by G.K. Chesterton

Dec. 7: 9 - 11 a.m.

Jan. 4: 9 - 11 a.m.

Feb. 15: 9 - 11 a.m.

University Presbyterian Church

Jan. 2: 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m.,

5 p.m., & 7 p.m.

Around the Country

First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley

Berkeley, California

Nov. 7: 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:15 a.m. & 5:45 p.m.

Winston-Salem Presbyterian Church

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Morning Worship: 9:30 & 11 a.m.

Nov. 14

Wake Forest University

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Evening Chapel

Nov. 14

First Presbyterian Church

Bellingham, Washington

C.S. Lewis: The Man of Imagination and Faith

Dec. 12: 4 - 6 p.m.

Morning Worship: Advent Series

Dec. 12 & 19: 9:30 & 11 a.m.

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church

Gaithersburg, Maryland

Leadership Conference

Feb. 4 - 6

Orcas Island, Washington

Winterfest 2011

Feb. 11 & 12

Around the World

Manila, Philippines

Union Churches of Asia: Pastors' Conference; Jan. 11 - 14

Union Church of Manila

Morning Worship: Jan. 16

Hong Kong

English Language Teachers' Conference & China Academic Consortium

Jan. 17 - 25

I've been thinking ... As a preacher, teacher, and writer I have made it my goal to be a biblical and theological expositor of the Old and New Testament texts so that people are pointed to the Lord of the text, Jesus Christ. EPM has endorsed this foundational approach in its support of me as a pastor-at-large with its vision that the encouragement of expositional preaching and worship is of strategic and vital importance for pastors and worship leaders in the Christian Church today. Toward this end EPM hopes to expand this vision by offering short-term pastors' events that will focus on expositional preaching and worship. EPM has welcomed the opportunity to partner with others who share this commitment.

Additionally, I lead a monthly theological dialogue for pastors and laity toward the goal of theological inquiry. Another venue is the monthly convergence that happens at The Kindlings Muse, which brings together expositional goals in a way that hopefully models thoughtful biblical and theological exposition of current issues and authors as they relate to our Christian faith. In this setting, we engage the works of various authors, novelists, and theologians. An interactive format allows the use of the same expositional approach to draw out the implications for Christians in today's world. A vision for the future is to extend The Kindlings Muse to one or two different locations and audiences each year. In the 2010-11 year, Shirley and I will also host a quarterly "dinner and dialogue" for pastors and their spouses for the purpose of fellowship and encouragement.

EPM is also committed to the support and mentoring of a study assistant/intern. This internship ministry makes it possible for a college graduate to spend one year with EPM in a learning and working environment that enables the intern to consider his own future of ministry. I have had the privilege to serve with and mentor two brilliant and earnest young interns, Kurt Heineman and Daniel Triller, who are presently in formal theological training for ministry; now the third intern, Roderick Gellner, is on board. For two years since November 2008, I was "on loan" to The National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. as Preaching Pastor-in-Residence. I concluded my time at that exciting post at the end of June 2010. I like to say that the best parts of it all are the ongoing relationships with pastors and laity of all ages. I am very blessed to be a part of this adventure.

—Earl F. Palmer



Zephyr Point, Lake Tahoe. Earl with pastors from three different California Presbyteries. Lectures given on *The Case for Expositional Preaching and Worship*.

Oxford 2010 The gathering in Oxford of the friends of C.S. Lewis, co-sponsored by Seattle Pacific University and Earl Palmer Ministries, took place on September 9–13. President Phil Eaton and Earl Palmer were the principal speakers along with Kim Gilnett and special guest Walter Hooper. Here are a few comments from the 40-plus attendees: “The four days flew by. Each day in historic Oxford, as we walked in C.S. Lewis’s footsteps, was filled with new learning, fellowship, fine meals, reflection and prayer, laughter, grace, earnest conversation, glorious choir music at Evensong, and a rendition of ‘The Weight of Glory’ while staying in the incomparable Randolph Hotel.”—“The trip to Oxford was one of the most enriching experiences of my life. Aside from the learning opportunity, I relished meeting the diverse group of individuals who participated in the journey.”—“The trip to Oxford was a blessing of grace in more ways than we can ever express. We learned from the lectures, we enjoyed the fellowship, we were moved during worship, and we will never forget the sights, smells, and the tastes of Jack’s town.”



Kim Gilnett, Earl, & Walter Hooper At C.S. Lewis’s home in Oxford.

From The Board

June 27, 2010 was an inflection point and a time of dramatic change for Earl Palmer Ministries when Earl concluded his time as Preaching Pastor-in-Residence of The National Presbyterian Church. Now back in Seattle, Earl is devoting all of his time to EPM. This juncture gives us a perfect chance to renew our mission and reenergize our board with new ideas, wisdom, and vitality. We are delighted to announce the expansion of EPM’s board with four new members, which brings us to 10 total members. All are committed, dedicated Christians who love the Lord and love Earl. These new members include:

George Nethercutt. George is best known as a congressman who served five terms in the US House of Representatives. George founded the Nethercutt Foundation, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering civic involvement. Centered in Spokane, Washington, this foundation draws college students who aspire to be Nethercutt Fellows with the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. and see the inner workings of our government. The purpose is to develop in young adults an understanding of government, business, public policy issues, and civics, and to foster leadership qualities that will add value to their communities and create a new generation of principled leadership across America.

Next is our resident rocket scientist, **Jackson Chao**, who brings more than 25 years of world-class operations, engineering, and risk management expertise to lead the strategic direction of NxEdge. Prior to founding NxEdge, Jackson held engineering positions at KLA-Tencor, followed by a nine-year tenure with the Boeing 777 program as vice president of Commercial Aviation Services. In 2000, he joined DCM, a leading venture capital firm in Silicon Valley, as entrepreneur-in-residence. Jackson received his BSEE from UC Berkeley, MSEE from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and his MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management. Jackson is a member of Earl’s prayer group of men who meet regularly.

Sue Nixon is well known to the University Presbyterian Church community as a vocal artist and expert witness for God’s saving grace. She suffered a sudden cardiac arrest while driving her car only to be saved through CPR by a Good Samaritan nurse who was driving behind Sue’s car and came to the rescue. As a former CEO of Fitch in Seattle, Sue co-founded Ardent Sage studio, a creative agency that helps clients communicate with their audiences and cultivates creativity within individuals and client organizations. Ardent Sage builds brands, coaches executives, and conducts workshops focused on bringing creativity to market. She holds a BA in communications from Pacific Lutheran University and an MBA from Seattle University.

The fourth new member is **Dan Wilson**, former all-star catcher of the Seattle Mariners. In a recent interview when asked about his interests, he said, “My wife and I are on the advisory board at First Place School, which serves homeless families and their kids, to provide an educational day at school and social services for the family. We also work with Vision Youth, which helps at-risk kids in the inner city to stay off the streets and provides mentoring.” When asked about his walk with the Lord, Dan answered, “I wouldn’t be here without Him. My family and I have been blessed tremendously through baseball. I think with a lot of success comes a lot of responsibility. That’s what He tells us. That’s really the motivation behind it all.”

I want to formally thank this new group of board members as well as Dick Greiling, Frank Haas, Scott Hardman, Susan Hutchison, and Gordon Stephenson who have served EPM since its inception. We are all doing our best to help Earl refine and enlarge EPM’s ministries. We look with eager anticipation for where we will be led to serve the Lord with teaching, preaching, and encouraging others in their walk with Christ.

—Tony Whatley, EPM Chair



University of Washington
Burke Museum Café

December 6

Christians as Peacemakers

Letters from a Birmingham Jail, Martin Luther King Jr.
Second Inaugural Address, Abraham Lincoln
Good News About Injustice, Gary A. Haugen

January 3, 2011

C.S. Lewis on The Meaning of Love

The Four Loves, C.S. Lewis

February 14

JWR Stott Makes the Case for Christianity

Basic Christianity, JWR Stott

To attend a live event, register at:
www.thekindlings.com/events

Each event is podcast and made available to download at:
www.earlpalmer.org
Under “Resources”

Roderick on the Road with Earl ...

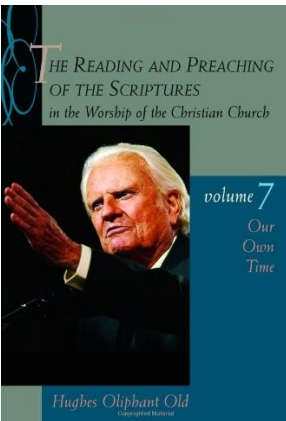
Listening to Earl preach at University Presbyterian Church while I was getting my undergraduate degree from the University of Washington, it was easy to take good, biblical preaching for granted. It was easy to take Earl's warm, teaching, pastoral presence for granted. But as I have traveled and spent time with the man away from the pulpit, I grow increasingly aware of the unique blessing I have in being his study assistant this year. This became most evident for me on our recent trip to Zephyr Point, Lake Tahoe, for a pastors' conference. I got to know outstanding pastors from small and large churches and observe Earl presenting *The Case for Expository Preaching & Worship* in which Earl urged these pastors to teach in a way that allows the Old and New Testament texts to make their own point, and then spell out their significance. Hearing some of these pastors share with Earl their challenges and observing his delicately empathetic demeanor has taught me more than what it means to be a pastor, it has taught me what it means to be a Christian.

As a prospective seminarian and pastor, I became acutely aware of all I have to learn from this man and the rare privilege I have. Following our trip to Tahoe we traveled to Greenwich, Connecticut, where Earl taught about C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. Already aware of the wealth of knowledge Earl provides on these two icons, I was more struck by the depth of the relationships he maintains across the United States and the world. In an age where we are taught that if we miss an e-mail the world will end, I saw first hand a man who, by pen and paper, handshake and smile, has created close, life-long friends around the world. I am proud to be a part of this ministry. I am proud to support something so important, so global, so reverently founded in Christ. I am proud to answer the phone: "Earl Palmer Ministries. Roderick speaking." And I am most proud that this whole ministry is based on one brilliant, loving, and inviting man ... Jesus Christ.



Roderick Gellner and Earl Palmer at Earl's home.

Just Off the Press: Review by Stephen French



In his recently published work, *The Reading and Preaching of the Scriptures Vol. 7*, Hughes Oliphant Old states, "When Palmer goes over a passage of Scripture, he finds so much power, so much faith, so much hope that his enthusiasm for it rubs off on us and we find ourselves rejoicing in the truth with him." (108) As one who has had the privilege of listening to Earl preach for over 40 years, I think Old has summed it up well. This is the gift of God in Earl.

What some preachers make obscure with erudition and others reduce to tediousness, Earl brings alive with joy.

In the preface, Old recognizes Earl as being at the very forefront of the movement of "lectio continua" or systematic expository preaching. Old considers this more than what we traditionally think of as preaching. He defines it as "preaching as worship."

Later, Old devotes a full 17 pages to an analysis of Earl's preaching style. He has put into writing what many of us experience on a weekly basis. Perhaps first and foremost, Earl lets the text bring us to Christ, and then allows God to speak for himself in the person of Jesus. Earl has modeled himself here after one of his heroes, St. Paul, who cannot talk about anything without talking about how it relates to the Center. I have often heard Earl make this very point by quoting another of his heroes, Karl Barth: "Tell me how it stands with your Christology, and I'll tell you who you are."

Old also observes that Earl constantly teaches us both history and Greek (or Hebrew) as a means of allowing the text to bring us

to Christ. Earl's "word studies" are legendary and open up rich shades of meaning that often are not as evident in English translation. What first looks like dense Pauline prose to us becomes puns and poetry. If we listen to Earl long enough, we start mumbling words like "upomemo" and "sulumbano" to ourselves when no one is watching

Finally, Old brings us back to Earl's "enthusiasm" for the truth. This enthusiasm, according to Old, spans a wide range of expression—from the creative illustrations that smack of John Donne (probably the first time Earl's been compared to one of the most eloquent poets of the English language) to the "stand-up comedy" of our everyday lives. It is these illustrations taken from our supermarkets, our kite-flying, our musicals, our books, our politics, and our human foibles that open the text to the common man/woman.

— Stephen French, Los Angeles, California



Princeton: Earl with Hughes Oliphant Old and his wife

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If you have questions regarding Earl Palmer Ministries and its events, or to schedule an event, visit us at www.earlpalmer.org or e-mail 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, e-mail Roderick at roderick@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 third 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. On behalf of the EPM team, I thank you.

