

EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith

Fall 2009

On Earl's Calendar

In Seattle

The Kindlings Muse Podcast

November 30: 7-8:30 p.m.

January 4: 7-8:30 p.m.

Theological Dialogue

December 1: 9-11 a.m.

January 5: 9-11 a.m.

Preaching at University

Presbyterian Church - January 3

Sermon Title — *Destined in Love*

In Washington, D.C.

The National Presbyterian Church Sermon Series

Advent: The Only New Thing

November 29 - December 20

Wednesday Vesper Service

Songs We Know by Heart:

Carols of Our Lives

World Vision Chapel — Dec. 16

The Kindlings Muse Podcast

February 23: 7-8:30 p.m.

Around the Country

Laity Lodge Leadership Weekend

San Antonio, Texas — Nov. 13-15

C.S. Lewis Lectures

San Angelo, Texas — Nov. 16-17

Murdock Trust Conference

Portland, Oregon — Dec. 2-3

Clearwater Lodge Retreat

Spokane, Washington — Jan. 8-10

Presbytery Convocation

Dayton, Ohio — Feb. 13

Around the World

First Century Voyages: Antarctica: Expedition to the White

Continent — Jan. 26 - Feb. 8

I've been thinking ... One of the most rewarding parts of this new era of ministry I've been privileged to experience since the founding of Earl Palmer Ministries is our internship program. This apprenticeship model was set up for a university graduate who is selected to spend eleven months as a full-time member of the EPM staff. The work challenges include the coordination of the KM and TD program events as well as the role of editor for the Earl Palmer Ministries newsletter. As my study assistant, he is on board to help me in my writing and preaching assignments. At the same time the intern has his own ministry as leader of a core group Bible study. In addition, he is able to travel to the various ministry events that I am involved in and there has an opportunity to share in the wider outreach experiences. This "mentoring" aspect of EPM is committed to encouraging a young person to grow in servant leadership and to provide a time for discernment for his future.

With that said, I am proud to introduce the 2009-10 Study Assistant, Daniel Triller. He is a graduate of the University of Washington, majoring in psychology and sociology. During college he was involved with The Inn at UPC as part of the student leadership team and traveled on multiple mission trips, including a summer Deputation trip to Ethiopia. Last year Daniel was in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for an internship with The House University Ministries. He has already won our respect for the depth and sincerity of his personal faith, his love for people, and his enthusiastic engagement in our shared ministry. Daniel is also fun to be around! His presence has blessed our whole team at Earl Palmer Ministries.

I believe the internship program will endure as one of the most permanent Kingdom investments we have made together. I am grateful for the EPM friends who have made this position possible by their contributions. I believe this is the investment that will last the longest. Many of you are aware that the 2008-09 Study Assistant, Kurt Heineman, is now a first-year student at Princeton Theological Seminary. He is engaged to Katie Gillette and will be married next June. We pray for the future of these fine people.

—Earl F. Palmer



Greenwich, Connecticut: "C.S. Lewis: The Man, the Christian, and the Writer" October 16-17

A Word from The Kindlings Muse Host, Dick Staub

Earl Palmer is a reader. He reads widely and with keen insight. Each month at The Kindlings Muse @ Earl Palmer Ministries we get a chance to discuss the great books Earl thinks everyone should read — Bonhoeffer, C.S. Lewis, Karl Barth, G.K. Chesterton, and more. Earl was my pastor in 1977 when *Star Wars* was released, and I still remember him doing an interpretive sermon of it the next week! I love the way Earl thinks, and this show lets us get inside his head every month. Best of all, because it is podcast, anyone in the world can get in on this Earl Palmer reading club online or through iTunes. Hope to see you at the next show!



Reflections from a lifelong friend, Ron Stan

Last year during the celebration of Earl Palmer’s 50 years of Christian ministry, I had the opportunity to reflect upon the impact Earl has had on my life. It has been tremendous!

Growing up in Spokane under modest circumstances, I came to the UW in 1955 with excellent academic and social credentials, but very much an infant in spiritual matters. Life at a major university can be very intimidating for a first-year student. So when a fraternity friend invited me to the Calvin Club meeting at UPC, I was most eager to see if I could find encouragement and companionship in a smaller setting. I already was a Christian believer but unsophisticated in understanding what it meant to really believe and act upon your faith.

Earl was a recent seminary graduate and Minister to Students. His speaking skills, stand-up sense of humor, and strong Biblical emphasis were having a dramatic impact on university students in the late 1950s. We filled the John Calvin Lounge with hundreds of students each Tuesday night. Under Earl’s tutelage over the next four years, I really became turned on to strong, Christ-centered faith. And as I matured in faith, I eventually felt God calling me to enter ministry. I applied for and was accepted to Princeton Theological Seminary. In those critically formative years of my Christian faith, Earl impacted my theological foundation by helping me with the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Blaise Pascal, and C.S. Lewis. With Bonhoeffer, I learned about the cost of discipleship and what is really involved in following Jesus Christ. With Pascal, I learned to think critically about why Christian faith is reasonable, and how only Christ is big enough to fill a God-sized vacuum in our hearts. And with C.S. Lewis, I learned to appreciate the universal logic of the Gospel: that belief in Christ is not an odd stance in this world but should be central and at the core of our being. This faith and the Gospel bring the *only* precise and overwhelming answer to the questions and puzzles of our lives. In later years both as a Minister to Students, a Senior Pastor in Presbyterian churches, and a Christian businessman, I applied the theological principles Earl had taught me to my own ministry and my work in the business world. Among other things these principles included:

1. “Spiritual rootage” – placing the weight of my life squarely upon Jesus Christ
2. “Stretching of the mind” – embracing God’s creation without fear or hesitation
3. “Biblical centrality” – going beyond the obvious to let the Bible speak to me from its depths

In conclusion, I feel extremely privileged to live in the same era as Earl, to participate in and be the recipient of his tremendous teachings and spiritual guidance. This has been a wonderful gift from a great mentor!

Ron Stan is a frequent attendee of The Kindlings Muse.



University of Washington
Burke Museum Café
Mondays @ 7 p.m.

November 30

Fanny Crosby: America’s songwriter,
the story of her life and her songs.
Her Heart Can See by Edith L. Blumhofer

January 4

Mark Twain: Did he believe more than
he let on?
The Singular Mark Twain by Fred Kaplan
Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
February 23 *In Washington, D.C.*
George Washington: Not enamored
by power.
His Excellency by Joseph J. Ellis

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

Each event is podcast and made
available to download at:
www.earlpalmer.org
or
www.thekindlings.com
(search: Earl Palmer Ministries)

From the Pulpit | September 20, 2009 | The National Presbyterian Church

God grants you and me a genuine and real freedom. But this brings up more questions. How does He gather us together? How does He find us if we can go adrift in every direction, which we can? In Ephesians 1:3-14, St. Paul tells us that God destined us in love. And then toward the end of that text Paul says that it is “part of God’s eternal plan to gather all things to Himself, to the glory of Jesus Christ.” All things. Well, how does God do that? I was sharing once at a Bible study that God is so sure of Himself that He doesn’t fence in His people. It is like a rancher with so much land expanse that his cattle cannot really stray beyond the boundary. Since the Lord provides real freedom for us human beings, I said, “Well then, how does He gather the people?” A friend of mine had just come back from Australia, and he said, “You know, I’ve been in the Outback of Australia and there are ranches there that are so large that they are not fenced.” And he said that he found out how the Australian cattlemen bring their sheep and cattle together. They do it with wells, with water and salt licks, and a place where food is; the cattle gather by the water. I thought to myself, that’s exactly how the Gospel will draw us together. Jesus Christ will win us with His love, His water; “I am the living water. I am the bread of life. Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden.” God doesn’t need a constricting fence to force us together. He draws us together with the Gospel that points to the person of Jesus Christ.



The National Presbyterian Church 2009 Advent Sermon Series: The Only New Thing

Never be ashamed of Jesus Christ, or of his Gospel ... it is the only new thing in the world. All else is as old as the hills, even the latest vaccine or the latest bomb. Only the eternal, only that which is the same yesterday, today, and forever is really new. Aim, therefore, always at that which is at once eternal, universal, personal, concrete.

—Ambassador Charles Habib Malik
June 7, 1955

Interested in catching one of Earl’s NPC sermons?
Download and listen at
www.earlpalmer.org or www.natpresch.org

Can anyone pray or only those who have faith?
This question was asked of Earl at a recent Wednesday Evening Series at The National Presbyterian Church on the theme, Lord Teach Us to Pray: Prayer in the Lives of Ordinary People.

Yes, anyone may pray because the God who made the eye can see, and the God who made the ear can hear. It is this awareness of the Lord who created us that makes our prayers possible in the first place. “What is man that Thou art mindful of Him?” (Psalm 8). In the New Testament there are prayers by those who are not yet believers, and the Lord hears them. A Roman soldier, Cornelius, prays for the truth, and the Lord sends Peter to speak hope to him. One man prayed, “I believe, help my unbelief.” We should invite those who do not yet know enough to believe, nevertheless, to pray and ask for God’s help. The Lord hears us and that, after all, is the biggest part of the prayer equation.

Daniel on the Road with Earl ... October was an eventful month! In three weeks of traveling with Earl, we visited Princeton Seminary on two occasions; the first allowed me to experience campus life and attend classes while Earl attended the trustees’ meetings. Two weeks later, we returned for the alumni reunion, where Earl gave four lectures on Philippians. In between, we traveled to Greenwich, Connecticut, for a series of talks on C.S. Lewis and back for a week at NPC in Washington, D.C. During my travels, at least 20 people have approached me and said, “You are so lucky,” and I couldn’t agree more. I am blessed to walk with someone so knowledgeable and deeply committed to Biblical teachings and so wise about life. Yet what I appreciate most about traveling with Earl is the chance to see him in action. There’s space to ask him big life questions and thoughts on scripture, but I also see the little moments as well. For example, when people ask for a prayer, he’ll stop right there and pray with them in that very room. Or how he introduces himself with such warmth that I’m sure he’s met them before ... maybe that’s why it seems he knows everyone. In Greenwich, I was asked what makes Earl such an effective communicator of the Gospel. Listen for a minute and you see how much Earl loves learning, his relentless energy that inspires those 40 years younger, his authenticity and joyful nature, which draw people in, and how he never hesitates to get caught up in a good story. Above all, when Earl speaks about Jesus, you leave wanting to know Him better yourself. I’m not sure if we can give our pastors a higher compliment than that.



Earl and Daniel at Miller Chapel,
Princeton Theological Seminary

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Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith

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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. Presently, EPM's wider ministry focuses primarily on Earl's post as Preaching Pastor with The National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C.

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 Daniel at daniel@earlpalmer.org.

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

