

EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith

Fall/Winter 2016

In Seattle/Western Washington

The Kindlings Muse Podcast*

(Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall, UW)

Sep. 12, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5: 7–8:30 pm.

Theological Dialogue for Lay Teachers and Pastors

Pilgrims Progress (Bunyan, 1678)

Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 6, Dec. 13

Bible Class: *The Book of Romans*

Chapters 9, 10 and 11

First Presbyterian Church of Tacoma

Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13

A Morning with Dietrich Bonhoeffer

University Presbyterian Church

Jan. 14 (2017), 8:30 - Noon

Morning Worship

University Presbyterian Church

January 1, January 8 (2017)

Word and Worship:

John, the Beloved Book

The Highlands Chapel

March 23, April 27, May 25 (2017)

Around the Country

ERRC 30th Anniversary Dinner:

4 Words of Encouragement

Berkeley, CA Sep. 18

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley

The Good Destiny

Berkeley, CA Sep. 18

9 & 11:30 am

Diocese of Florida/Bishop's Institute:

Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Teacher, and 20th Century Hero

Jacksonville, FL

Sept. 23, 24, 25

Community Church Rio Verde, AZ

C.S. Lewis, Storyteller

Jan. 16 (2017)

New College of Berkeley - *The Psalms*

Berkeley, CA

April 22 (2017)

Princeton Seminar: *The Joy of Expository*

Preaching Part II

Princeton, NJ

May 3, 4, 5 Wed. - Friday (2017)

*Watch for details at www.earlpalmer.org

*Please email info@earlpalmer.org for registration details

I've been thinking ...What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus? And what character marks might we find in a follower of Jesus? In a letter written to new believers St. Paul helps us to answer that question with four words he gives as signpost markers. Here is how he puts it: "We thank God for you...your work of **faith**, and labor of **love** and steadfastness of **hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ...with **joy** inspired by the Holy Spirit" (I Thessalonians 1:2-6).

Let us think about this text. Paul first mentions **faith**. Faith is a freedom word in the Bible. It is up to us to decide who and what to trust and ultimately who deserves our following. Paul connects work with faith because it was Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount who describes his followers as those who hear him and act on what he teaches (Matthew 7). While believing has a contemplative and wondering part to it, faith calls for concrete acts on what our Lord teaches. Faith always goes with faithfulness.

His next word is **love**. A "labor of love" takes effort, and again is an action event. Just as we first received grace from Jesus Christ who acted in our behalf through his sacrifice, it is Jesus who helps us understand what it takes to love beyond ourselves in his telling of the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10). Because of compassion, the Samaritan helps a wounded man, the victim of marauders, and offers roadside aid, and then takes on the task of moving the injured man to safety. This is love that is hard work. We can spot the sweat marks on the Samaritan's t-shirt and torn holes in his Levis as he struggled against rocks to get the man out of the ditch. In today's world we can purchase at Abercrombie and Fitch pre-torn Levis and sweat marked t-shirts as a fashion statement of imaginary strenuous work whether at the gym or from a climb on rocky cliffs. What a difference when the labor of love is real!

Then Paul tells of **hope**. Here again Paul adds to the word hope a companion word (*upomemo*). This means "to stay under", which translates to steadfastness and endurance in the New Testament. Hope causes the believer to stay the course with faithful presence and to wager on the fact that sooner or later truth wins out. What helps in the staying is remembering that Jesus is alongside the whole way.

But there is one more marker. Paul writes, "in spite of affliction you received the word with **joy**" (I Thessalonians 1:6). There is a sudden turn when the surprise of joy shows up. In the Greek language joy is the word *surprise*. C. S. Lewis describes the energy and excitement of joy as a "meaningful acceleration in the rhythm of our relationship with God." (Interpretation by E.F. Palmer from *Screwtape Letters* Chapter 11).

These four markers **faith**, **hope**, **love**, and **joy** have never worn out. These realities are as needed today as they were in the first century. One man, King Agrippa listened to Paul tell of faith, hope, love and joy and said afterward, "almost thou persuadeth me" (Acts 26). I see "almost" as a two-thirds of the way discovery. Fortunately for us, that is a mid-story sigh that is searching for the whole story. Jesus is that one who is able to complete the story.



Joy in Learning at the Diocese of Florida Retreat

-Earl F. Palmer

Put on Your Calendar for the 2016-2017 Season!



Come join us in Kane Hall,
The Walker-Ames Room, 7pm,
is located on the 2nd floor of Kane
Hall at the University of Washington.

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.

- 10/3/16 **He Got It Right**
George Herbert: The Complete English Poems
Penguin Classics Version
- 11/7/16 **The Story of Amazing Grace**
John Newton
by Jonathan Aiken
- 12/5/16 **The Deception of Power**
That Hideous Strength
by C.S. Lewis

News Flash— An Event Planned For You!

Due to limited accommodation for the ongoing Theological Dialogue, Earl Palmer Ministries is adding a new venue and invites you to register for this upcoming half-day event of **Theological Dialogue II**. The focus will be Dietrich Bonhoeffer as mentor to all who seek theological understanding of Christian fellowship and how best to share faith in Jesus Christ with today's generation.

WHAT?

A Reflection on *Life Together*,
Written by Bonhoeffer in Germany in 1938
And *Letters and Papers from Prison*
Written by Bonhoeffer from prison (1943-45)

WHAT ELSE?

Coffee and pastries served at 10:15 a.m.

WHEN?

Saturday, January 14, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

WHERE?

University Presbyterian Church, 4540 15th Avenue N.E.
Seattle - Calvin Lounge

WHO?

Earl Palmer looks forward to being the teacher

HOW?

Registration is required.
RSVP to landon@earlpalmer.org

COST?

There is no cost; however, donations to cover expenses will be welcome at the event.

Introducing Earl Palmer Ministries' New Study Assistant, Landon Bennett 2016-2017

I was initially approached about working in this capacity last spring. I didn't know much about the role, but everything I had heard about Earl made it obvious that spending a year working with and learning from him was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. I couldn't be more excited to step into this role and help more people hear the wise words that Earl is filled with.

I grew up in Redmond, Washington, and am finishing up my degree at the University of Washington this fall. I have been privileged to be a WyldLife (Middle School YoungLife) leader at Eckstein Middle School in Seattle for the past three years, and will continue in that ministry this year. The students I lead will be freshmen at Roosevelt High School this school year.

In addition to leading locally, I recently finished up my second summer as a Mountain Guide at Beyond Malibu, a YoungLife backpacking camp in British Columbia. This was one of the most exciting, challenging experiences of my life. I've learned a lot about what it means to follow and serve God in the past few years, due in large part to the nature of these positions

I feel very lucky to serve, watch, and learn from a man like Earl in this coming year, as I am further shaped and challenged by the Lord.

-Landon



Earl with Peter and
Marge Yuen, and
Joanne Yee at ERRC
Banquet.
Oakland, California,
September 2016

Earl looks forward to preaching at Sunday services at University Presbyterian Church on January 1 and January 8, 2017.

A Note From Earl...

I will greatly miss Howard E. Butt Jr., my longtime friend, mentor, and colleague who had a unique Christ-centered ministry of encouragement through the HEB Foundation out of Kerrville, Texas. Howard, a man of generous hope, steady love, and contagious joy went to be with the Lord on September 11 at the age of 89. I thank God for Howard's life of faithful witness and the blessing he was in the lives of all who knew him. His outreach included leaders in business and government and the ordinary person - always with his imprint of grace. My love runs deep for this man and his beautiful wife, Barbara Dan, and their wonderful family. We all have been blessed to know Howard and will miss his earthly presence.

Howard E. Butt Jr. (1927-2016)



COME JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

TITLE: *The Fulfillment of an Old Promise*

TEXT: *St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, Chapters 9, 10 & 11*

DATES: 10/30 – *Romans 9: The Stone of Zion Fulfilled*

11/6 – *Romans 10: The Same Lord is Lord of All*

11/13 – *Romans 11: Chosen by Grace*

TIME: 9:15 a.m.

LOCATION: *First Presbyterian Church of Tacoma, South Chapel*

TEACHER: *Rev. Dr. Earl Palmer*

The book of Romans is widely considered to be one of the greatest books in the whole Bible. Martin Luther, Charles Wesley, Karl Barth, and many other influential Christians were transformed through an encounter with the book of Romans. And as countless others will attest, a careful reading of the book of Romans will reap tremendous benefit for all who undertake it.

There's just one caveat. The book of Romans also includes some of the most difficult material in the whole New Testament. In this third installment of his study of the book of Romans, Earl Palmer takes on the challenging section of Chapters 9-11 and shows how it provides an important key for understanding the book as a whole.

Rev. Palmer is an internationally recognized Bible teacher and scholar and is the author of twenty books including *Salvation by Surprise: Studies in the Book of Romans*.

Rev. Dr. Eric Jacobsen, Senior Pastor



Conversation at the Kilns, July 2016. Earl, Walter Hooper, Rev. Dan

We honor the memory of **Frank Haas**, our beloved colleague and longtime encourager of Earl Palmer Ministries. He served on the Board of Directors from the very beginning and continued in active leadership until his sudden death on September 23, 2016. As a man who lived his faith, we commit him to the eternal care of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Plan Ahead! Don't Miss This!

Because of the overwhelming response to an event held on November 4-6, 2015, The Center for Continuing Education at Princeton Theological Seminary will host a follow up event to continue the discussion next Spring:

The Joy of Preaching Through Exposition of the Bible Part II.

May 3,4 & 5 - 2017:

Explore with Rev. Dr. Earl Palmer, and Dr. Michael Denham, Leader of Worship at The National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., the practical steps of study, sermon preparation, yearlong planning for relevant, cross-generational teaching of the Bible joined together with the design of worship, which in itself is an expositional surround of the wholeness of Biblical texts. Registration will be open in winter; for more information go to <http://coned.ptsem.edu/events/the-exposition-seminar-ii/>. Space is limited so early registration is recommended.

On the Road with EPM ... Earl and I have been busy the past couple of weeks, with visits to both Berkeley and Jacksonville. In Jacksonville, Earl spoke at the Bishop's Institute about the amazing life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

What strikes me most about Earl is not his deep scriptural knowledge or speaking skill, though those traits are remarkable, but instead the joy and kindness that permeates his every action. He has had an amazing career and has a wealth of knowledge from which to draw, two traits that can easily tempt one to arrogance or detachment. Instead, when spending time with Earl I am time and again struck by his humility. Earl is a perfect embodiment of St. Augustine's quote, "If

it seems to you that you have understood the divine scriptures, or any part of them, in such a way that by this understanding you do not build up this twin love of God and neighbor, then you have not understood them." I can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store.

- *Landon Bennett, EPM Study Assistant 2016-2017*



Landon and Doug Dupree in Florida

Please Know... It is with gratitude that I have recovered from a major health crisis six months ago. Earl and I thank you for the many ways you supported us through this time. Your phone calls, cards sent, e-mail messages, flowers, meals – and most of all your prayers – gave me pause to think about how fortunate I am. I am told it may take a year to be "myself" again, but the doctors say "I am way ahead of the curve" and life is returning to normal. The added factor to the formula of hospital stays, clinic visits, specialist appointments, and pharmacy prescriptions has been my family, who have cared for me far beyond my expectation. I learned that Earl is quite handy with preparing meals, doing the laundry, vacuuming the floor, chauffeuring me, and most importantly loving me to wellness. To each of you near and far who joined the team, please accept my deepest gratitude.

- *Shirley Palmer*



Out and about on Whidbey Island, September 2016

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Seattle, WA 98145

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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 Stephen at landon@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. Word and Worship provides a setting for expositional teaching of the Bible and inspirational music. 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 ninth 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.

Earl F. Palmer

A New Initiative For Earl Palmer Ministries

It is my pleasure to introduce our new digital media strategy for Earl Palmer Ministries. Our goal is straightforward. We want to make Earl's life work more easily accessible to our current followers and we want to expand the outreach globally. I have had the personally enriching experience of knowing Earl since he became the senior pastor at University Presbyterian Church some 25 plus years ago. I have observed that his expositional preaching style, his Christ-centered ministry, his living example of the Christian walk and his huge body of work has and continues to have a profound effect on so many people.

Now as Chair of the Earl Palmer Ministries Board, I want to announce that we are making a broader effort to expand the outreach of Earl's work in the expanse of his 60 years of active ministry. We started last year with an investment of time and resources by hiring Barry Hill, graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and founder of Bright Salt Media Labs to videotape Earl's teaching on expository preaching at Princeton Theological Seminary. Barry understood our mission so we decided to engage in an ongoing relationship. The first seminar, "The Joy of Preaching Through Exposition of the Bible" at Princeton was recorded and is currently available for download on the home page of the new website. In May 2017, we will record Part II on expository preaching at Princeton. It will be a classroom "how to" style.

We are excited to report that the first phase of The Earl Palmer Ministries new website will be up and running in October. The domain is the same- www.earlpalmer.org - but the design and strategy reimagined. Currently we are digitizing Earl's sermons, books, and articles to make it more convenient for you to use and share. For example, we are putting his sermons into podcast format. Our hope is that once digitized, people can search by topics that Earl has referred to often, such as Lewis, Tolkien, Chesterton, Pascal, etc. or they can search by a particular book of the Bible.

Next, we will tackle digitizing the twenty books Earl has authored. In addition, we plan to capture his thoughts about a wide variety of topics in video and audio formats to add to the website. These materials will include video, podcast, devotionals, sermons, articles and much more. All of Earl's articles (even those embedded in the newsletter) will be in a super friendly format to read and share with others! The site will also feature conversations of Earl's material on social media platforms – to engage with existing communities and to expand the communities for more robust discussion.

Earl Palmer Ministries hopes that the new site and subsequent outreach strategy will continue to be a place for people to be encouraged in their faith and to learn from Earl's ministry and sixty years of service to the kingdom of God. The Board is very excited about our new digital initiative! We can't wait for you to check it out! There are a few actions that we ask of you:

- Visit the site on a regular basis
- Open the newsletters
- Share or leave a comment when you read an article
- Engage with the article or pass it on
- Be an active supporter in your engagement with the newsletter, on social media and when visiting the Earl Palmer website and when you see a post in Social Media
- Consider adding financial support to the already significant investment for this digital media initiative. Please indicate that your contribution is for the EPM Digital Media Project.
- Share Earl's ministry throughout the world by joining the mission of EPM of "Serving to encourage and build up faith in Christ." (I Thessalonians 5:11)

Thank you. *Tony Whatley*

60 Years and Moving Forward! Catch a glimpse of the places Earl has served (1956 – 2016): First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley; Union Church of Manila; The National Presbyterian Church; University Presbyterian Church (as Minister to Youth and University Students and then as Senior Pastor).

