

# EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

*Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith*

## Winter/Spring 2016

### Looking Ahead

#### In Seattle/Western Washington

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

(Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall, UW)  
March 7, April 4, May 2: 7–8:30 pm.

##### **Sammammish Pres. Lecture Series**

*Lord, Teach Us to Pray*

Jan. 29, 30, 31

##### **Theological Dialogue for Lay Teachers and Pastors \***

*Dogmatics in Outline* (Barth, 1959)

Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 16, April 13

(Please email [stephen@earlpalmer.org](mailto:stephen@earlpalmer.org) for registration details)

##### **Bible Class: The Meaning of the Resurrection**

University Presbyterian Church

Jan. 24, 10 a.m.

##### **Winterfest @ Orcas Island Community Church**

March 4-6

##### **Covenant Shores Bible Study**

March 13-14

##### **Word and Worship**

The Highlands Chapel

March 24, April 28, May 26 7:30-8:30 pm.

##### **Skagit County Prayer Breakfast**

McIntyre Hall, Mt. Vernon

May 12, 6:30 a.m.

##### **Preaching at First Bellingham**

Presbyterian Church

June 12 @ 10 a.m.

##### Around the Country

##### **New College Class on C.S. Lewis in a Time of War**

Berkeley, CA April 23, 9 a.m.-3 pm.

##### Around the World

##### **C.S. Lewis Study Week in Oxford, England**

July 16-22 and July 24-30

\*Watch for details at [www.earlpalmer.org](http://www.earlpalmer.org)

\*For more information, email [info@earlpalmer.org](mailto:info@earlpalmer.org)

**I've been thinking...**...and asking the question "How do we keep our outlook positive and our minds healthy when there are real stresses that crowd in upon the space and time where we live our lives?"

I believe the apostle Paul is a man who managed to keep his head clear and his equilibrium in the midst of such stress. He tells us how in a letter he wrote to friends at Philippi who were concerned about his well being during his imprisonment in Rome. Paul reassures with these words, "Not that I am alluding to want for I have learned to find resources in myself whatever my circumstances. I know what it is to be brought low, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have been very thoroughly initiated into the human lot with all its ups and downs – fullness and hunger, plenty and want. I have strength for anything through him who gives me power" (Phil 4:11-13 NEB).

Paul makes use of a Greek word for sanity – *outarkes* – in these sentences. In some translations of this text the word is rendered *content* – "For I have learned to be content with whatever I have" (NRSV Phil 4:11). This is a combined word, *auto* (I, myself) combined with *akeo* (enough). It describes saneness of a person as one who is functioning with a wholesome connection to his or her self, and then is able to keep a clear mind that finds stability in what is solid and the real. Paul credits the living presence of his Lord as the one who enables an ordinary disciple like himself or the Philippian friends to take in stride both good circumstances and dangerous ones: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (NRSV Phil. 4:13).

Earlier in the same fourth chapter of Philippians, Paul clearly identifies the one who is that living presence as he writes, "Farewell; I wish you all joy in the Lord. I will say it again, all joy be yours. Let your magnanimity be manifest to all. The Lord is near; have no anxiety, but in everything make your requests known to God in prayer and petition with thanksgiving. Then the peace of God, which is beyond our utmost understanding, will keep guard over your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:4-7 NEB).

Paul could have challenged the believers to move in a totally different direction; he might have urged the people to show to others their zeal or perhaps their intense sharply focused action. Instead, he uses a mellow word, which is one of the New Testament love words. This word is *epieikes*, sometimes translated kindness, or forbearance. Paul trusts this moderate word because the Lord is the one who is alongside. In a very healthy and nourishing way he urges his friends in Christ to be calm and moderate.

For me, one of the best parts of Paul's case for wholeness and a healthy mind is his intentional use of the phrase, "I am learning."

The secret for St. Paul is that he is always learning – he writes mid-story in his own life and to friends who are also mid-story in their own lives. He wants them to know that learning how to cope with the challenges of his century is an ongoing, doable process. And what makes this learning apprenticeship all the more meaningful and joyous is that we are not alone, the teacher is nearby.



Shirley Palmer; Earl; EPM Board President, Tony Whatley; board member George Nethercutt; and his wife, Marybeth, at the Princeton Seminar

*-Earl F. Palmer*



**Come join us in Kane Hall  
The Walker-Ames Room**

is located on the 2nd floor of Kane Hall at the University of Washington.

- 3/7/16 **St. Paul's Greatest Poem**  
1st Corinthians 13
- 4/4/16 **She Taught Us Well: Dorothy Sayers, a Whimsical Believer**  
*Christian Letters to a Post-Christian World*  
by Dorothy L. Sayers
- 5/2/16 **The Great Divorce: An Imaginary Story by C.S. Lewis**  
*The Great Divorce*  
by C.S. Lewis

To attend an event, please register at:  
[www.thekindlings.com/events](http://www.thekindlings.com/events)

Each event is podcast and made available to download at:  
[www.thekindlings.com](http://www.thekindlings.com)

Please visit The Kindlings Muse page at [www.earlpalmer.org](http://www.earlpalmer.org) for detailed directions and instructions on parking, or email

**Dates and Time:**  
7-8:30pm.

**Winterfest on Orcas Island!  
March 4-6**

Spend a weekend with Earl at Orcas Island Community Church. Topic: The Legacy of C.S. Lewis.

**Friday Evening** (March 4)

*C.S. Lewis: Surprised by Joy*

**Saturday Morning** (March 5)

*Merely Christian*

**Saturday Evening** (March 5)

*Exploring the Imaginary Worlds of C.S. Lewis*

**Sunday Morning** (March 6)

*Lewis's Timeless Words for a World in Crisis*

**How to find out more?** Please register at [www.eventbrite.com/e/winterfest-2016-with-earl-palmer-tickets-19922733432](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/winterfest-2016-with-earl-palmer-tickets-19922733432)

**Start the New Year: A Weekend on Prayer with Earl at Sammamish Presbyterian Church**

*Lord Teach Us to Pray*

**Time & Titles**

Friday evening, January 29

-*The Language of Prayer in the Old Testament*

Saturday morning, January 30

- Session 1: *The Language of Prayer in the New Testament*

- Session 2: *Prayer is for Amateurs*

Sunday Worship, January 31

- *The Prayer Jesus Taught (Luke 11:1-13).*

**Location**

Sammamish Presbyterian Church  
22522 NE Inglewood Hill Rd  
Sammamish, WA 98074

Contact the church at (425) 868-5186 or go to [www.earlpalmer.org/events](http://www.earlpalmer.org/events) for more information.

**LEARN ABOUT C.S. LEWIS & THE DANGEROUS YEARS: World War I & World War II**

**You are invited** by New College Berkeley to attend a one-day teaching session with Earl Palmer on Saturday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, 2407 Dana, Berkeley, CA. The subject will be *C.S. Lewis in a Time of War* with special attention given to his BBC broadcast talks. New College is an evangelical, ecumenical graduate school of

Christian studies and spiritual formation located near the campus of the University of California, Berkeley and is affiliated with the nearby Graduate Theological Union.



-Email [newcollege@aol.com](mailto:newcollege@aol.com) to register for this upcoming event or call 510-841-9386.

**Learning Together with Friends: A Ministry in Common**

Reverend Dr. Douglas Dupree, Earl Palmer, and Bishop John Howard at The Bishop's Institute for Ministry and Leadership of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida. Earl comments: "This weekend was a high point of shared vision and a weekend of discovery around C. S. Lewis as our mentor."



Stephen and Earl at The Bishop's Institute

**On the Road with EPM ... by Stephen Michel**

These first few months with Earl Palmer Ministries has been both a learning and rewarding experience. Before coming on board with EPM I had not been very interested in C.S. Lewis outside of *The Chronicles of Narnia*. That changed when I traveled to Florida to the Dioceses and listened to Earl lecture on the life and work of C.S. Lewis. I became curious about C.S. Lewis, and I was encouraged by the simple life principles he seemed to live by. He encouraged people to push back against cynicism because of the negative impact it has on people, and to understand that people are drawn to goodness. I was challenged to cherish the people around me more and to stop focusing on the negative but instead search for the goodness in each person. The next main event I attended with Earl was the Seminar at Princeton. This was a great time of learning for not only me, but for everyone who attended. I had never experienced such a thorough unfolding of a book of the Bible. Earl's walkthrough of II Timothy was tremendous. I do not think I will be able to look at the text in the same way again. One particular passage stood out: II Timothy 2:14. Here, Paul urges people to avoid "warfare" over words and not be argumentative in presenting the gospel. This observation revealed a deeper understanding of that passage and moved me to be more careful in arguments: to respect the other person and their point of view.

## Now and Then...Reflections on My Experience with EPM

I recently interviewed several of the Study Assistants/Interns who have been a part of the EPM team over the past several years. Here are two questions I asked and some of the responses: (1) **What have you been doing since you left EPM?** (2) **In what ways did your year with EPM impact what you are doing now?**

- I finished my Master of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary and recently accepted a call as Associate Pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church in San Carlos, CA, where my wife and I now live. The most significant impact has been the mentorship I received in preaching...Earl was able to help me bring the Bible alive. I cherish the memories, and the time has shaped my pastoral identity for the better. *Reverend Kurt Heineman (2008-09)*
- After my year with EPM, I went to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary where I received my M.DIV in 2013. After graduating, I moved back to the Seattle area and began working at Bellevue Presbyterian Church, where I am currently an Associate Pastor focusing on Men's Ministry, New Members and Hospitality. I got officially ordained in the PC(USA) in May 2015. It impacted me tremendously. It was during and through my year with Earl that I felt and moved forward with a call toward pastoral ministry. *Daniel Triller (2009-2010)*
- Liz (my wife) and I will graduate from Princeton Theological Seminary and will begin our search in January 2016 for a call sharing ministry in a small church as co-pastors. EPM introduced me to two things: Expositional preaching and the exegesis that helps shape those sermons. Exegesis is discovering the meaning that the text is trying to communicate through careful study of the original languages and historical context. *Dexter Kearney (2012-13)*
- At the end of my year, I got married. A few weeks later I moved to Princeton with Annika. My year with Earl confirmed my call to ministry and influenced my choice of seminary. Now I am in my first year at Princeton Theological Seminary. I've expressed this before, but I feel Earl has a gift of building up and mentoring other pastors and I see his influence/gifts spreading exponentially if he is able to continue and expand his role investing in current and future pastors. *(Gray Segars 2014-15)*

*Stephen Michel (2015-2016)*



The Christopher Sams family at Word and Worship

### Mark Your Calendars: Word and Worship

**Where:** The Chapel at the Highlands

**Series:** Reflections on Three Psalms

March 24 **The Pathway Psalm**  
(Psalm 119)

April 28 **The Worship Psalm**  
(Psalm 100)

May 26 **The Shepherd Psalm**  
(Psalm 23)

#### 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.



C.S. Lewis: Apologist for the Christian Faith

### By Popular Demand: 2016 C.S. Lewis Study Week in Oxford, England

**What:** A weeklong seminar on C.S. Lewis presented by the C.S. Lewis Foundation

**When:** July 16-22 (Session 1) or July 24-30 (Session 2). This second week is a repeat of Session 1

**Where:** The Kilns, home of C.S. Lewis — Oxford, England

**Who will be speaking?** Earl F. Palmer will teach on the topics: The Life Journey of C.S. Lewis; Lewis' Discovery of Faith in Jesus Christ; his Friends; and his Writings that make the Case for Christian Faith. Kim Gilnett from Seattle Pacific University will team with Earl as principle on-site resource.

**How to find out more?** Link for online registration is now available; check [www.cslewis.org](http://www.cslewis.org) for details. **Number of participants will be limited due to the setting for this event/venue.**

## Meet Mary Snyder: New Member to the EPM Board

**Q:** *How did you come to know Earl Palmer and his ministry?*

**A:** My husband, John, and I moved to Seattle from Dallas 25 years ago. Our friends in Dallas said for us to try UPC when looking for a church home. We were blessed to have Earl as our head minister for many years. When he left to start Earl Palmer Ministries, how could we not follow? Earl is a natural encourager and his expository teachings of Christ's life make Christ relevant in our lives. His curiosity is contagious, and I always tell my non-believer friends to listen to Earl as his knowledge makes one think and want to learn.

**Q:** *How do you believe EPM is able to fulfill its mission statement?*

**A:** Earl Palmer Ministries is all about serving, encouraging, and building up others in their faith. I have observed that each board member reflects this same motto in his/her own personal walk. Earl is such a gifted teacher, and we as part of his ministry think of ways that we can continue to share his teachings and legacy as a great expository teacher across the U.S. and in foreign countries.



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*Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith*

PO Box 85117

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](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 Stephen at [stephen@earlpalmer.org](mailto:stephen@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.

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Your support makes this ministry happen. As we continue in this eighth 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](http://www.earlpalmer.org).

On behalf of the EPM team, I thank you.

*Earl F. Palmer*