

COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry
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A Few Thoughts to Ponder *By David Moore*

I spent several days home sick this past week (two weeks ago now) and I noted a few things that I think are interesting...

If you had told me before I was sick I was going to miss a full week of work I would have said, "No Way, I can't afford to miss a full week." Sometimes in life illness or injury puts us on the sidelines for awhile just as a reminder that we are mortals. But in my struggle with this "long" bout with the flu I was humbled by a report on the radio which talked about a lady's eleven year battle with Multiple Sclerosis. My one week now seems very insignificant. Life is always about perspective!

I learned, or should I say it was reconfirmed, that people care about me. Clarice and Eryn took care of things at home and helped with the UCM Popsicles for our Habitat for Humanity fundraiser. Kathleen kept things going around the UCM office and spoke at Vespers. Katrina led music by herself at Vespers and leadership picked up the pieces along the way. Thank you all for your help and prayers.

One last thing I learned was that you can raise money for all kinds of things if you believe enough in the cause. I heard about a baseball player that bet with his management that he could give up smokeless tobacco. The bet is \$20k and the loser will pay it to cancer research. A lady in Jacksonville, Florida is raising \$500,000 to put artificial turf on the football field in Barrow, AK. In view of both of these I know that we can raise our goal of \$1000 for Habitat for Humanity apostle build. We are teaming with 8 churches and Habitat to build a home right here in Fairbanks. As a group we need to believe enough in this cause that we give our time and effort to this house project. If you can contribute to this special project we have about \$500 more dollars to raise. You could also help us out by participating in our bake sale later this month and by working with us as we ourselves go build the Habitat house this Saturday, March 24th.

As the week drew to a close and I started to regain my strength I reflected on these three thoughts: Keep life in perspective, know that we love you and so does God, and that it is more blessed to give than it is to receive.

God Bless,
David

UCM Spring Break Trip

Reflections:

We had a fantastic spring break extravaganza. On Friday we loaded up and made the long trek to Subway to pick up our dinner and then hit the road for Anchorage. Half the fun of trips like this are the car rides together, visiting on the walky-talky radios, and the scenery. We were welcomed to St. John United Methodist by Floyd and Ann Faulkner. (Jessica and Megan's Parents) On Saturday we worked at the Alaska Medical Mission sorting medical devices. This equipment will soon be used by teams going out into the villages here in Alaska and all around the world. On Sunday, we worshipped with our gracious host from St. John in the morning and then helped to lead worship through song in the evening. On Monday some of us made our way down to Girdwood to ski at Alyeska. We had a gorgeous sunny Alaskan day, surrounded by mountains, with the ocean in the distance, beautiful blue skies, and just a few purely white clouds. We could not help but feel the presence of God. Others in our group spent time with family and enjoyed being in the big city. On Tuesday we packed up and hit the road heading back north. We enjoyed lunch with Candice and Quintan at Wasilla and then made our way back to Fairbanks. It was great to see God in each of you who went with us. Your laughter, your faith and your service make me smile.

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UPCOMING UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS

Vespers: We meet Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the lounge above Lola Tilly to participate in an "Evening of Worship." Come join us for singing, prayer, a message, and time with friends!

Bible Study: Thursdays from 1-1:50pm we meet in the lounge above Lola Tilly for a mid-week Bible Study. We will be discussing 1st and 2nd Peter throughout this semester, come read with us these great books in the New Testament. Snacks will be provided, feel free to bring your lunch.

Music Ministry: If you play an instrument or like to sing, come join us in the UCM office during the week to practice songs to sing for Tuesday's Evening Worship. We meet every Monday at 3:30pm to practice for about an hour. Let David know if you are interested or have any questions.

Habitat for Humanity: Saturday, March 24th we will meet in the UCM office at 9 am to go work at the Fairbanks Habitat House. We will work until approximately 3:30 pm, returning to campus by 4pm. We might go to Subway for lunch, please bring \$5 to cover the cost of your lunch.

Glow Putt: Friday, April 13th we will meet in the UCM office at 6:30pm to go downtown for a game of glow-in-the-dark miniature golf. Come join us for this fun evening of laughter and chasing little glowing golf balls.

Thank You Dinner: Sunday, April 22nd we will be cooking dinner at UCPC for our donors who have supported us all year. We will meet at UCPC at 4pm for cooking and preparation. Dinner will be at 6pm with our guests. Please come join us to say thank you!

