

COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry

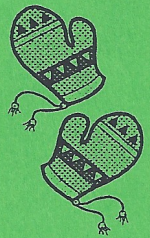
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This fall we begin burning our wood stove for the first time to try and save money. We really enjoy having the fire and I really enjoyed splitting wood. The fire was a definite fuel saver but unfortunately it has cost us in other areas. In October and early November I spent a good deal of my morning trying to start a fire. This not only caused me a great deal of frustration trying to start wood that was wet or just newly cut or that I just could not get started but it also caused me to get to work later than I already do. I often obsess about things and I was constantly checking the fire making sure it was not going out and making sure it was not going to make the house too hot. In November I was sick all month. It was terrible, one of those sicknesses where you are not sick but you are tired all the time and you are never really well. I finally went to see a doctor last Friday night. The diagnosis was that I am allergic to the smoke. She gave me a decongestant and an inhaler and sent me on my merry way. We stopped burning the fire and I am much happier and have felt like a million bucks since Saturday. Looking back I don't think we saved much money, if any. I know we saved on fuel but what is the cost of being sick for three or four weeks and the cost of my time and frustration, as well as my doctors visit which was \$170 including my prescription. It is great to save money but it seems that many times when we try to cut corners too tight we end up either breaking even or wasting money.

This story reminds me of the many things in the Bible that don't seem to make sense when looking at them from a worldly point of view. Some of these examples are Matthew 16:25 "For whoever wishes to save his own life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it." An example of this is that Jesus the King rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and then was crucified, instead of riding in on a horse and leading a revolt.



There are three of these examples that are particularly appropriate for the Christmas season. The first is that Jesus the King was born in a stable and not in a castle or a palace. I think that it is important to remember Jesus' humble beginning and remember that as we help others who are in humbling circumstances that we are reaching out to Christ. Another verse that I think is important to be reminded of this time of year is, Mark 10:31 "But many who are first, will be last; and the last, first." A little common courtesy helps a lot during the mad rush of this season. This includes, time in the checkout line, in the parking lot, as well as at the dinner table. One of Christ's greatest examples was that of a servant. Let us give this gift back to Him by putting others needs before our own. The final verse is Acts 20:35 "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" I encourage you to look for ways God wants you to give this holiday season and to give prayerfully, joyfully, and in the manner God calls you to give.

David Moore

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY: "Ra-Mon-Day"--Have a free Ramen lunch with friends in the UCM office (306 Constitution Hall). Drop in anytime between 11:30 and 1:30 pm.

Music Practice--Come to the office at 4 pm to sing, play guitar or just listen as we practice the music for Tuesday's Vespers service.

TUESDAY: Vespers--A casual worship service, Upper Lola Tilly Commons, 7:30 pm.

THURSDAY: Dinner & Bible Study--At 5:30 pm we meet at the office and go to the home of David Moore for a great home cooked meal and a casual bible study.

SUNDAY: Leadership--Open to anyone interested in planning UCM activities and willing to make a commitment to leadership. UCM office @ 3pm.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Singing Christmas Carols will be the main item on the agenda on Thursday, December 7th. As usual we will meet at 5:30 pm and go to David's home for dinner and bible study, but on this Thursday evening, we will spend more time singing than usual and a little less time in bible study, and I suppose about the same amount of time eating dinner. ☺ The reason for this is to have time to reflect on the reason for Christmas and to prepare for singing at the Pioneer Home on Friday.

Christmas Party! We will meet at the office at 6 pm on Friday, December 8th for a great evening of singing, fun, and fellowship. After visiting and caroling at the Pioneer Home, we will gather for a white elephant gift exchange and good food. Please bring a wrapped, inexpensive gag gift to the exchange and be creative!

Finals Care Package Prep. will take place on Sunday, December 10th at 5 pm. Please meet at the office to help assemble our care packages and enjoy a pizza snack. These care packages have been purchased by parents of UAF students and are one of UCM's main fundraising sources. Your help will be greatly appreciated and, as always, each others company makes the work enjoyable.

*Merry
Christmas!*



*We love You,
Jesus!*

Also this Christmas, we are sponsoring a family of three from Big Brothers/Big Sisters. We have the opportunity of giving them both a box of food as well as gifts for the two girls and the Mom. If you would like to buy a gift for our family, or help with the shopping, please come talk to David, Rachel, or Lois in the office. Thanks.