

Common Ground

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry P.O. Box 750118, Fairbanks, AK 99775 (907) 474-7804
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God With You **By David Moore**

In reading my Bible this morning I came across Matthew 1:23
"BEHOLD THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,"

which translated means, "God with us." I hope that over the next month that you will realize that "God is with us." God will be there as we sing Christmas carols at the Pioneer Home, as I share about the coming Christ in my messages at Vespers, and as we reflect about the Reason for the Season. God will be there as we provide gifts for our Big Brothers/Big Sisters family.

As we share what God has given to us we say to God we trust you with all that we have. This also means that "God is with You!" in all that you do. I hope that you will feel the presence of God as you study for exams, work on your projects and research information for your papers. Know that God is with you as you go home to be with your family, shop amongst the crazy masses and enjoy a winter walk under the Northern lights. Understand this Christmas season the meaning of Christmas is not found in the presents but in His presence.

Peace,
David

UCM Event Update **Singing At UCPC:**

On Sunday the 19th of November UCM's students took a week off from our respected churches and came together as a group. For that Sunday we were in charge of leading singing, prayer, and the sermon for the University Community Presbyterian Church.

With a lot of students participating it was so

much fun to stand up front and sing with Carrie playing the piano, David on guitar and Josh and Harmony on drums. Debbie helped out leading us in song and added to the service by playing her flute. Students led the many congregational readings and David preached the sermon. The congregation at UCPC was all so responsive and supportive of us all and afterwards thanked us for coming and for helping them worship. That evening we all returned to be treated like royalty to a beautiful Thanksgiving dinner. It was us that felt truly blessed!

Student Testimony **By Jessica Faulkner.**

Last week I, like many, traveled home for Thanksgiving. The semester for me had been an incredibly stressful one, so I was looking forward to a nice long break. I stuffed my bag with books, for assignments that I hoped I would find time to work on, and headed to the airport. While waiting for the plane, I found myself shedding my intellectual, school, self as my stress level diminished drastically. I found that, while I had a lot of work to do, it did not matter. My books were put away for friends and laughs and jokes. The mountains of homework could wait for another time.

For me, Anchorage was a breath of fresh air. I found that, far from the stresses of Fairbanks, I was happy and content. Being home amid family and friends allowed me to recharge my drained batteries and made me realize the blessings in my life. Amid the turkey, mashed potatoes and stuffing I thanked God for the incredible blessings he gave me. Sometimes it takes a separation from life, a trip home, to truly realize the blessings in life. I am back now, and am facing the ever towering mountain of homework, but because of those few wonderful days I am ready to face it. I know that God is with me for I have seen what he has already provided me. I hope you take time with your busy lives to see what God has given you. Happy Holidays!

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 are discussing revolutionary men and women who have lived their faith out through God’s word.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

We are sponsoring a needy Fairbanks family this year for Christmas. We have a list of gift suggestions for the family. If you would like to help out by purchasing a gift please just let us know. All gifts are needed in the office by December 11th.

UCM’s Study Retreat

Friday, December 1st, we will meet at the UCM office at 3:45 pm to head to Camp Li-Wa for a night of studying and preparing for Finals. Bring a blanket or sleeping bag and homework but food will be provided. Sorry no internet is available but we will be returned to campus by 4:30pm on Saturday. The cost is \$25.

Food Bank

Saturday, December 9th, as part of the UCM study retreat we will be heading to the Food bank on Saturday to help pack boxes. We will return to Camp Li-Wa for lunch and studying before heading back to campus. If you are interested in working but can’t come on the retreat please just let us know!

Singing at the Pioneer Home/UCM’s Christmas Party

Friday, December 8th, we will meet at the UCM office at 5:30pm to go to the Pioneer Home to sing Christmas carols. We will entertain the residents for about an hour before heading to the First Methodist Church for UCM’s annual Christmas Party, a Pizza dinner and the famous White Elephant Gift exchange. I hope you can take a break from studying to come join us!