

COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry
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God's Finances

By David Moore

As I take a moment to sit down and write this monthly newsletter my thoughts are drawn to the game of Monopoly that Eryn and I are playing. At this point of the game I have less than \$500 dollars and ten properties, in which all but three owe money to the bank. Needless to say, in this game, I am hanging on to the edge of my financial life.

As I pondered my own Monopoly demise I couldn't help but think about the financial health of our society and our nation as a whole. Earlier in the evening I read that the United States has 6% of the world's population but we consume more than half of the world's resources. My timeline for reading this article seems ironic since now it is half time for the Super Bowl and Madison Ave is trying to get you to consume more. On that note, it is funny to realize that not only do we consume a lot but with a savings rate near 0% we spend almost all that we have.

I, in this newsletter, do not want to dwell on past financial decisions and purchases but instead focus on what we can change in the future. My hope is that we will begin to realize that God and His peace is what we need in our lives, not more gadgets, money or a bigger meal. So many times in our life we believe that if we only could make a little more money, have a better car, or a faster computer we would be happy, feel great, and have the perfect friends. But things wear out, break down and ultimately do not satisfy us or sustain us. God on the other hand gives us "Abundant life" that is full of peace and grace that will help us forgive others and to forgive ourselves. His love sustains and forgives us in good times and bad. His creation fills us with the realization that He is an awesome God who is more than enough for all of our needs.

This week go on a shopping spree but not at Fred Meyer's. Instead, shop for peace with all people, bargain for the Holy Spirit's power, search for good and be consumed by God's Love.

January Event Up Date

Game Night:

Our scheduled UCM game night fell on the coldest day of the New Year. What was cold outside turned into a fun and warm game of Encore. We had the fire place in the lounge lit and snuggled down into the big chairs and couches to enjoy each other's company. In trying to remember words to camp songs, preschool tunes and the occasional rap music we created fun memories to start out the new semester.

Student Testimony

By Niki Greer

God's pull in my life has been an easy one to ignore, but after a while, I really realized He was missing. Lucky for me, God had a plan to flatten me with some difficult trials. I had little hope or trust in other people and that's where I turned to prayer. I had no idea that I could fall asleep with small prayers and wake up still holding those thoughts towards the Lord, never really knowing if I'm ever asking of the Lord what He has in mind for me, but sure that I didn't have any better ideas for myself. My life is back in place now and I've grown into a more mature person, with a more mature prayer relationship. Recently I've been able to connect with a new church, I've found a new group of Christian friends, and am able to carry on as a stronger person, with the Lord and a conversation with Him, right in my pocket.

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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 and learning from the Leaders from the Old Testament.

Music Ministry: If you play an instrument or like to sing, come join us on Sunday afternoons. We meet at 3pm in the UCM office and work through songs to sing for Tuesday Evening Worship.

UCM Spring Retreat: We will be meeting in the UCM office at 5:30pm on Friday, February 17th to start our spring Retreat. We will stay in a hotel here in town, go play mini-putt (inside), eat Mexican, work at the food bank, and have study sessions focusing on “Not becoming Settled in our Faith and Lives”. We will return to campus by 4pm on Saturday. Cost is \$25, please come join us!