

COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry

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Thoughts from the Office

Two thoughts have been trudging around in my brain for about a semester or more. I was writing down thoughts for the newsletter when I realized that possibly these two ideas could come together, we will see what happens. One of my favorite things to eat is popcorn. I eat at least a bag a day and sometimes two or three. I even occasionally eat it for breakfast. It is a grain! What is the difference between cereal and popcorn - just a little sugar. My favorite part of eating popcorn is eating the half popped kernels. Now that Eryn is old enough to eat popcorn with me she gets most of them, not because she takes them but because I want to give them to her. I can recall many times with her curled up in my lap and the two of us eating a big bowl of the buttery treat, while I think of how I want to find that perfect piece of corn (kernel) that will satisfy her taste. This picture of a very imperfect father wanting to give his child the very best is a small glimpse of what wonderful things God wants to give to us. The verse comes to mind "draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8). I hope that this semester you will take time to draw near to God and know that as we abide in His will, He will give us what is the very best for us.

My second thought is that we need to be taking care of God's people especially those who are down and out. The second thought appears different from the first, but I believe the two are very connected. This idea comes from many sources: from my book on Mother Teresa, from Tony Gasbarro sharing about life in El Salvador, and others. These two thoughts come together in Matthew 25 where Christ says that what we do to the least of these we do to Him. One of the last chapters in the book on Mother Teresa talked about the house of the dying, where destitute people were taken to spend their last days. She talked about how these people had lived very hard lives and that they should at least die with dignity. I pray that we as a group will help people to live with dignity and to experience life more abundantly through knowing the love of our God. He wants the very best for us. I hope that we share the heart of God in wanting the best for all of God's children. Last semester students were selling crafts from El Salvador to benefit the people of El Salvador, serving at the soup kitchen, clearing the snow from an elderly man's driveway, and supporting a child through Compassion International. If you are interested in any of these projects, please let us know in the office and we will help you to find a place to extend the love of God. In closing I hope that you will draw near to God by drawing near to the least of these; those without food, those who are lonely, those we might not think are as presentable as others.

God Bless & God Speed,

David Moore

David Moore

PEACE
*i leave with you;
My peace i give you
John 14:27*

WEEKLY EVENTS

- MONDAY:** **"Ra-Mon-Day"**--Have a free Ramen lunch with friends in the UCM office (306 Constitution Hall). Drop in anytime between 12 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**--Casual worship service, Upper Lola Tilly Commons, 7:30 PM
- THURSDAY:** **Lunch Bunch Bible Study**--Bring your own lunch; we'll bring snacks. 307 Gruening @ 1 PM. This semester we are discussing 1 Peter.
- SUNDAY:** **Leadership**--Open to anyone interested in planning UCM activities. 307 Gruening @ 3 PM.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

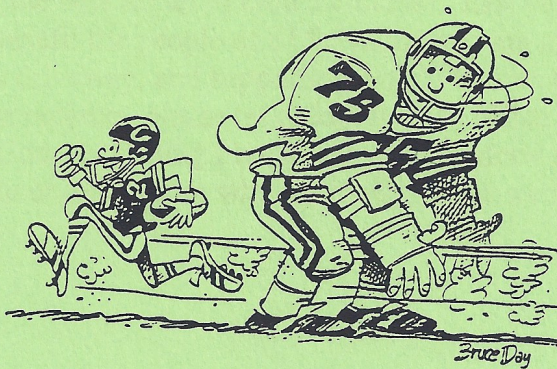
Calling all leaders – Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 16th. **Leadership** will begin at 3 p.m. in Gruening 307. Please join us and bring along your bible and ideas for a great new semester.

The first **Vespers** of the semester will be on Tuesday, January 18th at 7:30 p.m. upstairs in the Lola Tilly commons lounge. Start your semester off on the right note – come share in the message, music, and fellowship.

Lunch Bunch begins on Thursday, January 20th at 1 p.m. in Gruening 307. We will continue our study in 1 Peter. Bring your lunch, a friend, and an open heart and mind!

Out to the Movies! On Saturday, January 15th we will go out for a movie and dinner at Taco Bell. We will meet at the office at 2 p.m. and choose a movie or movies. Bring a friend and money.

Super Bowl Party! Join us at David & Clarice Moore's home for some friendly rivalry while watching the Super Bowl. Don't forget warm clothes for our own game of touch football at half time and a snack to share. We will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the UCM office for this event. See you there.



Circle Hot Springs Retreat! Don't miss out on UCM's Annual Spring Retreat to Circle Hot Springs February 18th-20th. This will be a fun-filled time with worship, discussions, and soaking in the outdoor pool. Lodging, swimming, and meals Sat a.m.-Sun a.m. are provided. The cost is \$25.00 per person. We will meet at the office at 5:30 on Friday night and return to UAF by 3 p.m. on Sunday. If you need help paying for this, please talk with David, Charlie, or Rachel.