

COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry

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Last night Eric Jensen was over at our house and we were discussing buying Christmas presents for people and how enjoyable it was to buy people things that they either really want or really need. For Christmas we (Clarice and I) decided on only spending \$10 dollars on each other and I was supposed to only spend \$10 on my present to Eryn as well. You must understand that a budget is only a guideline and is not written in stone. Needless to say I did not stick strictly to the budget, but that's okay. Clarice told me that she wanted a sweatshirt from Gottschalks and I always know that she will enjoy a magazine and she also mentioned needing a phonecard to be able to call me from Snowcamp, where she takes the youth from First Methodist just after Christmas. I was very happy to buy these things for her. Some of this she knew I was getting but that was alright. Eryn wanted a paintable Breyer horse from the Alaska Feed Store. Clarice suggested this to me several times and told me that it was \$25, quite a bit over what I was supposed to spend for Eryn. I pretended that I was going to do something else for Eryn while all the time knowing that I wanted to get her that horse. She had said more than once that she had wanted it and had not whined or made a scene about it and I like to get her something special. I bought the horse and was quite proud of myself hoping to not only surprise Eryn but also Clarice. Eryn was excited to have the horse and spent a little bit of time painting it but not quite as much I would have liked. But it is on her shelf and I hope that in time she will spend time painting it. There are a couple of things that I take away from this experience. The first is that in the same way that we want to give good gifts to each other God wants to give us what is good. As I reflect on what Christmas is about it comes down to God giving us the greatest gift of all, His Son. I also believe that during Christmas time we often buy a lot of junk that people don't need and I believe it is important to note that God did not give us what we wanted but what we needed, a Savior. As we begin a New Year I hope that you will take time to reflect on what you need to be happy, healthy and wise. I hope that you will take time to reflect on ice cream and exercise, surfing and studying and on being a couch potato and being tuned into God. I know that it is hard to be disciplined, but in the early part of the semester it is easier to get the things done that we need to and to build habits that will last through the semester as well as throughout our lives.

God Bless,

David

WEEKLY EVENTS

All Weekly Events Begin Sunday January 21, 2001.

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

The First Vespers of the semester will be on Tuesday January 23rd 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 free Pizza afterwards.

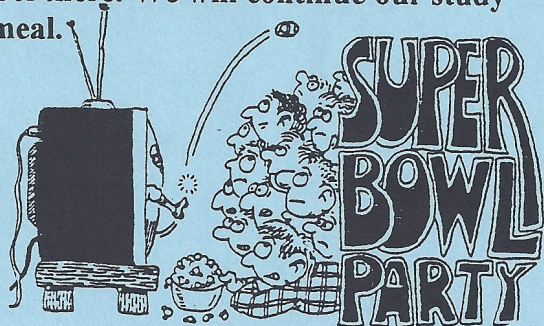
Dinner and Bible study will begin on Thursday January 25th, at the home of David and Clarice Moore. Meet at the office at 5:30pm to car pool there. We will continue our study of the Hebrews and have a wonderful home cooked meal.

You're invited to a **SUPER BOWL PARTY!!**

WHEN: Sunday January 28th

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Meet at UCM Office



We will then head over to David and Clarice's home for an afternoon of friendly rivalry watching Super Bowl XXXIV. Bring a snack to share and warm clothes/shoes for our own game of touch football at half time.

OUR SPRING RETREAT will be February 23rd and 24th.

Our speaker will be Sister Marita of the Catholic Diocese of Fairbanks. She will be sharing about her faith journey and about prayer. Location to be determined soon. We will be fairly close to Fairbanks for convenience sake. Cost is \$25.00, if you have problems with the cost, please speak to David.

MORE DETAILS AT A LATER DATE.