

# COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry  
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## God's Finances

*By David Moore*

Last April I went to a Worship Connection conference in Kansas City. One of the speakers, Adam Hamilton, told a story of how he issues a challenge to his congregation to read the New Testament in a year. He said if you read just 5 minutes a day you can finish the entire book in that amount of time. He also commented that we should not try to analyze everything we read but to find one point each day that we can hang onto. I wanted to see if I could do this so that night in the hotel I set out on my journey through the book of Matthew. There were days when I read more than 5 minutes and there were times in the summer that I did not read at all and felt like I had fallen so far behind that I could not catch up. But I reassessed my goal, reworked my plan and got back to reading each day. This morning I read the 21st chapter of Revelations and either tonight or tomorrow I will finish my quest. It has been a good journey through the life of Christ, to the early church, and into the writings of Paul, James and John.

I encourage you if you have never read the New Testament all the way through, or are not currently reading something for your devotional time each day, that you give this project a try. Again it is just five minutes a day. Don't try to pick the passage apart, trying to analyze each thing. Grasp just one thought and apply it to your life that day.

This past weekend on the UCM spring retreat we talked about goals and not settling in our lives. I hope that you and God have goals for your life and that you do not lose sight of them. I trust that you realize that there will be times when you struggle and you might fall behind, but at this point it is important to reassess your goals and rework your plan, all the while not giving up on your dreams.

## February Event Up Date

*Spring Retreat:*

The UCM spring retreat, here in Fairbanks, was wonderful. We stayed at the Westmark Hotel, enjoyed meals out at new restaurants, and played mini-putt. Saturday we all worked at the Fairbanks Food Bank.

During the weekend we had three sessions on "Not Settling" in our faith, dreams, and in relationships. Our talks inspired students to write down some of their goals and dreams that they had in their hearts and might have given up on. We also explored our pasts and how we can not let our history keep us back from a strong future and all that God has planned for us!

## Student Testimony

*By Alex Taylor*

A few weeks ago I asked for prayer at Vespers about how I was going to cover my month's expenses. This was during the bitter cold month we had and I had used way more heating oil than I had anticipated based on previous usage and now was facing the need to refill my tank. I was pretty worried about how I was going to cover everything and had promptly forgotten I had asked for prayer. Within the week I started house/dog sitting for a family on vacation and in appreciation they said, "We'll leave a check for you."

Still concerned about my expenses I went up to the house stressed. As I was going over the list of things I needed to do to take care of the dogs and the house, I came across the check and nearly fell over. The check was almost exactly what I needed to for my heating oil bill. Shortly after Kathleen asked me how my expenses were going and I was confused for a second and then I remembered. In remembering my troubles Kathleen reminded me of God's faithfulness to us, even when we forget we ever asked for help.



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### **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 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.

**Ice Alaska: Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>** we will meet in the office at 7 pm and head to the Fairbanks Ice Park. The cost for this Alaska event will be \$5. Dress warm and bring a camera, we will return to campus by 10pm.

**Latin Dance:** We are going to have a free Latin dance workshop on **Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**, led by our own Nicolette Sauro. We will meet in the Wood Center, conference rooms C & D, from **7pm – 9pm**. Refreshments will be provided after we have learned cha cha!

