COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry P. O. Box 750118, Fairbanks, AK 99775 (907) 474-7804 / fbucm@uaf.edu

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Digging Deeper

Yesterday morning I was looking for something on the computer in the outer office. On that system we have "Daily Bread," a program that gives you a scripture verse for each day. But each time I tried to read the verse something else would pop up and cover "The Word." Three different times this happened but I just kept clicking to get to the scripture. It reminded me of how often we have things come into our lives that cover God's voice up. We must continue to dig to find "God's Word" throwing off the world, our struggles and our distractions. Know that God's truth is there for you but we all need to ask, to search, to knock to find it. O by the way the verse was Isaiah 30:18. "Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice: How blessed are all those who long for Him."

David

March Event Up Date By Crystal Sumner

The Friday before Easter UCM met for a night filled with fun and laughter. We gathered at Emma, Kat, and Jeff's apartment to dye eggs. We had delicious pizza and decorated rabbit cakes with frosting and candy. A pirate bunny was made. There were also crafts like stain glass ornaments and decorating crosses. Jeff enjoyed dyeing eggs and there was a skulled egg and a shamrock egg made. The evening concluded with us watching "Passion for Christ" and realizing Christ bore all that pain so that we may have life. Thank you for all who came and put on this fun filled event.

"Keep holding on" By Emma Flores

Ever notice how life gets hard and we get so frazzled that there doesn't seem to be a way out? I know at least for me when things get hard I often forget that in previous hard times there had been ways out. For example the week before spring break, normally everyone is excited that break is coming and can't wait for Friday. Yet there I was running around trying to get everything done at once because Friday was my deadline. Friday wasn't the day I was going to be free to have spring break. Friday was THE day. It was the day that I had my take home exam due, the day I had an actual exam in class, the day that I had to turn in an article review and a lab from the week, the day that I had to put grades in for my lab students; you get the picture, it was the day for every deadline that I could have possibly imagined. The problem was that all week I had been running around trying to keep my head above water and had no idea where to turn. Friday I was just so burned out that after my first exam I broke down and went home to take a nap. I knew that the nap wasn't going to fix anything, except maybe my sleep deprivation. I just needed some time to myself, and in that moment I realized that I had left God out of my life, for that one week I had put Him aside and had been trying to take everything on my own. I prayed and apologized for forgetting that through Him all things were possible and that I needed help- any kind of help would do. I went back to check my email and my professor had graciously decided to extend my exam due date as well as the labs and as for the grading I was told to do it over spring break. In one moment all my burdens were taken away. I know that its getting time to wind

this semester up and I know that you will feel like deadlines are going to come crashing down on you, but don't forget God is always with you. He will help you, all you have to do is ask, and maybe it won't be the help you expect but as the Third day song says, "keep holding on" because God knows of the wonderful things he has in store for you.

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<u>UPCOMING UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS</u>

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 doing an inductive study of the book of Matthew. This is a great study led by Charlie and Rachel Armstrong. Snacks will be provided, feel free to bring your lunch.

Lemon Grass and Putt-Putt: Please join us for a fun night out on Saturday, April 12th. We will meet in the UCM office at 5:00pm and head over to the Lemon Grass Thai Restaurant for dinner. After a wonderful meal we will go to Glow Putt for an evening of entertaining mini golf. The cost of the evening is only \$5! We hope to see you there!

Thank You Dinner: Sunday, April 27th we will be cooking dinner at University Community Presbyterian Church for our donors who have supported us all year. We will meet at UCPC at 4pm for cooking and preparation. Dinner will be at 6pm with our guests. Please come join us to say thank you!

End-of-the-Year Cookout: Friday, May 3rd we will meet at the UCM office at 5:30 pm to head to the Moore's house for our annual cookout and games to celebrate spring and the end of yet another semester. Please come join us for dinner, games and memories. If you would like to meet us directly at the Moore's house we will be starting dinner at 6pm.