

COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry
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What I did on My Summer Vacation!

What a wonderful summer I had! It all began with a family trip to Germany and beautiful Switzerland. We (Clarice, Eryn & I) were meeting my mom at the Frankfurt airport. We were both flying in to terminal 1. We were at concourse B and mom was coming into concourse C. We were supposed to come together behind security, but we could not get from where we were to where we needed to meet her without going out of security, and once outside you cannot get back in. I was worried about not being able to connect with mom, so I had been praying for weeks maybe months that it would all work out. We ask the information guide to tell us where she would come out of security and we went and we waited and we waited (my mom is a little slow) so we waited a little longer and there she was with her coral coat and her green pants. We toured around southern Germany visiting many city including Frankfurt, Hidelberg, and my favorite, Neckarstienach (It was a beautiful place but I just love to say it! Neckarstienach). Clarice loved Menzenswand, high in the mountains of the black forest with it beautiful waterfalls and goats with bells that tinkle all the time (the bells, not the goats). We had a grand time seeing the sights and being with family. Then we headed on south to visit with former ucmer and our friend, Anina. We visited her school; her neighborhood; went to her Network gathering for worship and fellowship; then onto her family's organic vegetable farm. What a beautiful, peaceful place to be! From the farm we would set out each day to explore the mountains, valleys and lakes of Switzerland; Anina's family surrounded us with love, many gifts, great stories and wonderful fresh vegetables from right there on the farm. What an amazing stay!

My next adventure was going to Chicago with the youth of our church. It was supposed to be hot in Chicago, so Eryn prayed hard for the temps to not be to brutal. Before we were there it was in the hundreds, after we were there it was in the hundreds. But the week we worked it was only in the 80's and mostly the low 80's. God is good. I had also prayed for the folks I was to work with, and for the folks I was to work for, and they all turned out to be fantastic people from many different Christian backgrounds that came together to share God's love with each other.

My final trip was my annual visit back to Oklahoma. Again, I prayed for cooler temperature but the heat this time persisted, ranging all the way up to 117. But the first part of my visit was spent mostly indoors, and I was quite appreciative of it not be so cold in the stores and restaurants. But the one day that I went fishing with my brother and my nephew the temperature was 67 as we headed out to the lake. Granted it was 6am but still I was very happy! I had also prayed about the visit and I had a great time with my family and friends.

I had a wonderful summer with these trips, get togethers with old UCMers and gatherings with current students; it was all good. But there were struggles as well. Struggles that I won't go into but they reminded me of similar trials I had ten years ago. At that time I turned away from God, not totally denying my faith, but my time along with God was certainly lacking. In the midst of my current tribulation I have committed to seek God daily and it is amazing how faithful God is. I look back though my prayer notebook and see God's faithfulness in so many places and so many times in my life. Make a commitment today that no matter how good or how bad things are that you are going to seek God daily, finding truth in his word, comfort in his listening ear and fellowship among his people. Have a tremendous year!



I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing.
Ezekiel 34:26

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UPCOMING UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS

Vespers: We meet Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the lounge above Lola Tilly for an “Evening of worship.” Come join us for singing, prayer, a message, and time with friends! **(Starts September 6th)**

Dinner & Bible Study: Thursdays meet at the UCM office 306 Constitution Hall at 5:30pm. We will go to our Director’s home for a home cooked meal and Bible Study. This semester we will be learning from the book of Nehemiah. **(Starts September 8th)**

Music Ministry: If you play an instrument or like to sing, come join us on Monday afternoons. We meet **at 4pm** (if this time does not work for you let David know) in the UCM office to sing through our songs for Tuesday Evening Worship. **(Starts September 5th)**

Kickoff Dinner: Friday, September 2nd, we will meet in the **UCM office at 5:30 pm** to go the Moore’s house for sub sandwiches, games and laughter. Come reconnect with friends and make new ones as we get ready for the semester.

Fall Hike: Saturday, September 12th, we will meet in the UCM office at 10:30 am to go hiking at Angel Rocks East of Fairbanks. Bring a sack lunch to eat at the top of Angel Rocks. We will also stop at Hilltop Truck stop on the way home for pie; bring \$5 if you wish to order dessert.

Fall Retreat: Friday, September 23rd, we will meet in the UCM office at 5:45pm to head down to First Methodist Church for our fall retreat. Join us for games, food, and time away from campus. On Saturday we will be helping to winterize peoples homes. We will return to campus around 4pm on Saturday. **Cost is \$25.**

