

COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry

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Most all of you have done some packing lately, moving here to school or just moving around town. Some of you, I am sure, feel like you aren't settled and are in a constant state of packing and unpacking. I despise packing and am very thankful for Clarice's organization and focus when we have moved. Have you ever noticed that when you move, things that have been in drawers forever all of a sudden become your most important memory, so you pack them away for one more move only to stuff them back into a new cubby where they will not be seen until your next move. We all do this to some extent, reflecting on the people we love, the places we have seen and the things we have done. It is extremely difficult to throw these things away. Now have you ever helped a friend move? This is a very different story. It is a piece of cake to throw their junk away and keep them to the task at hand, which is moving. So are these things treasures or are they junk? That is the 96 million dollar question. I believe that they are both. We definitely have photos and letters that are important to us that we want to save, but there are a lot of things that we should put in the dumpster and remember in our hearts or just forget about.

As we start a new semester, for many of you a new chapter of your life, I believe that it is important to take time to reflect on who we are as a person. In this reflection you will find a few things that you probably would like to put in the dumpster. With a new place to live, new faces surrounding you, and new classes and challenges, this is a great time for a new you. II Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." We all battle with putting away our old selfish self and stride toward the newness and freshness of Christ's life and love. It is a lifelong battle that is usually two steps forward and one step back. But it is important to realize that Christ is always with you and that He carries you when you fall.

I would also encourage you to look at the good things in your life. The truths that you have been taught by your parents, teachers, counselor, coaches and friends will serve you well as you begin a new portion of your life. Paul says in Philippians 4:8,9 "Finally brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute. If there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you." Each one of us over our lifetime has seen examples of Gods' goodness and grace lived out in other peoples lives as well as in our own. Let us not try to live in the past but use the past as a source of strength for our future.

I am excited about United Campus Ministry, and seeing those of you who have involved in the past, as well as adding new faces to our group. I hope you will join us for the UCM Kickoff on the first day of school. We will meet here at the office at 5:30 p.m. and go to our house for Sub Sandwiches and games. I look forward to seeing you all.

God Bless,


David

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY: "Ra-Mon-Day"--Have a free Burrito lunch with friends in the UCM office (306 Constitution Hall). Drop in anytime between 11:30 and 1:30 p.m.

Music Practice--Come to the office at 6PM 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 p.m.

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 @ 3p.m.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS



FREE KICKOFF DINNER! Come join in all the fun as we start the semester out with a bang! Meet at the UCM office (306 Constitution Hall) at **5:30 PM on Thursday, September 6th**. We will walk or caravan to the home of David and Clarice Moore for some great food and a lot of fun. The Moore's address is 4042 Dunlap, off of Fairbanks Street south of Campus and their phone # is 474-8618.

LEADERSHIP will start on **Sunday, September 9th at 3PM**. We will be reading What's So Amazing About Grace, by Phillip Yancy. We are looking for a few good leaders...so come with your fresh outlook and ideas.

VESPERS is an informal worship service held upstairs in the Lola Tilly Commons every **Tuesday night at 7:30 PM**. The first Vespers of the semester will be **Tuesday, September 11th**. It's a great opportunity in the middle of your busy week to "take time out" for God!

DINNER AND BIBLE STUDY is what's happening on Thursday evenings this Fall! On **September 13th at 5:30 PM** meet at the UCM office and we will head over to the Moore's for a fine home cooked meal and a Beverly Hillbillies Bible Study.

CAMPUS CELEBRATION II! All of the different campus ministries are coming together for a time of worship and praise. We will meet in the **Wood Center Ballroom at 7PM on Friday September 21st** for this exciting event.