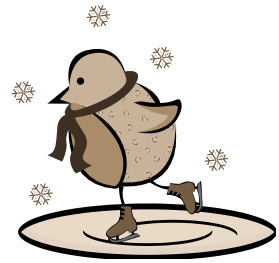


COMMON GROUND

P.O. Box 750118, Fairbanks, AK, 99775
(907) 474-7804/ office@uafucm.org



Vol. 13, No. 2

Mar. 2013

As I told you all in Vespers a couple of weeks ago I am reading the four gospels leading up to Easter. I love reading it and hearing the stories repeated from different perspectives. I have just finished Matthew and will start in on Mark this evening. I was struck near the end of Matthew, by Jesus' statement from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" In this time of darkness when we have been light deprived and it seems as if winter will never end and we have no energy. It is easy to make this same statement wondering why God has abandoned us. But God is right beside us carrying us when he needs to.

On our vacation over break I was at a Target and there was a young boy maybe 4 years old and he and his dad were in line next to us. The little boy wanted a video from a rack that was right by where we were. The dad sent the child to get the video but when the child tried to find his father again he could not see him. They were literally within 10 feet of each other but the child began to cry and to panic. The father calmly called to him and reassured the boy that he was right there beside him. So often we feel like God is so distant or totally not

present but he is right there watching over us. On Tuesday night at Vespers I mentioned the song "If you are going through Hell" which says,

*If you're going through hell
Keep on going, don't slow down
If you're scared, don't show it
You might get out
Before the devil even knows you're
there*

It is important during this hard time of cold, dark, and busy that we don't get down but keep on plodding putting one foot in front of the other. Make a list and check things off. Have a time when you meet with God every day. Get together with good people who will encourage you and help you find your way. I know that it is a hard time of year but the sun (Son) is coming and the warmth will not be far behind. Hang in there and know that the grace of God is ever watching over you!

Peace,

David



United Campus Ministry
PO Box 750118
Fairbanks, AK 99775



UPCOMING UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS



Ice Park Sunday March 3rd we will meet at the UCM office and head over to see the ice sculptures at the Ice Park. Please bring **WARM** clothing and money for snacks/souvenirs if you wish. The Cost is \$5.

UCM Spring Break Trip March 8-12th Every year UCM has a spring break trip, and this year we are going to Anchorage. We are staying the night at St. John's United Methodist church and will be helping out at Empty Bowls, singing at St. Johns, Skiing at Alyeska, and more. For a complete list of times, events, and items to bring, please contact the UCM office. Cost is \$225 if you are skiing and \$175 if you are not skiing.

Fairbanks Food Bank Saturday March 23rd we will be volunteering at the local food bank putting together boxes for people in need. If you would like to come with us we will meet at the UCM office at 9:15AM and head over, we should be done around Noon. Afterwards we will go out to eat at a local restaurant so we should get back to campus by 1:30PM. Please bring \$5 for lunch.

Tuesday Evening Worship is at 7PM in the lounge above the Lola Tilly Commons. We call this worship service Vespers (meaning an evening worship service). The service consists of singing, student testimony, a short message, and a time of quiet reflection. This is a great mid week pick me up.

Thursday Bible Studies every Thursday from **1PM-1:50 PM**. We meet at the United Campus Ministry office. This semester we will be studying the book of 1st Samuel. Feel free to bring your own lunch; we will provide cookies and milk. Later Jess Morris will be leading a bible study at 7PM that is focusing on the book of Philippians. The Bible study will be held at Cutler Apt. 606 and should have a black cat and UCM posters on the door.