Spicing Up Chapel

By Holly Showalter
Contributing Writer

Junior Gere Horst thinks the number one thing students are looking for in chapel is “something that’s different.”

“I like the multi-cultural chapels, anything non-conventional,” said Sophomore Rodney Umble.

The upcoming schedule, promises, among other things, African music, a soccer team, a Baptist minister and more showcasing of EMU’s own talent.

Although Sophomore Lindsay Martin always plans to attend chapel, she admits she only makes it to chapel about once a week. “I set my alarm for nine, but then I usually reset it for 10.”

Campus pastor Daniel Burns had mixed emotions about the number of students that have attended this fall. “It’s been great,” he said. “I’ve been very encouraged to see the numbers. Of course, it’d be nice to see the place filled out,” he said.

Byron Peachey, campus pastor, understands that not every student can be at every chapel. “I do realize people are in classes before and after and it’s really nice to be able to have that time,” Peachey hopes that news of interesting chapels will spread by word-of-mouth.

For Umble and many others, their chapel attendance comes down to how interesting chapel promises to be. Umble says, “After my 9 o’clock class I ask my friend if he knows what’s for chapel and if we think it looks good, we go.”

“I’ve heard so many speakers. I’m so tired of speakers,” said Umble. Years of chapel at a MennoNite high school have made Umble a fairly sharp critic. Peachey, who holds most of the chapel planning responsibili-

ty, says chapel planners try to balance off-campus and on-campus representation, as well as music and speaking, to get a mixture of different kinds of worship.

Peachey has not had to do much soliciting lately in the planning. “I’ve been pleased by the number of students that have come to me about doing chapel,” he said.

Apart from the regular groups like the Latino Student Alliance and the Washington Community Scholars Center (WCCS); a women’s depression support group, the EMU women’s soccer team and a group of international students approached Peachey about lead-

ing chapel.

Chapel planners were also excited about the number of stu-
daents that volunteered through the chapel participation form; chambers on the first and 27th of November will feature solos and groups.

According to Peachey, hav-
ing special music chapels is pos-

ible because Campus Pastor Matt Hunziker has the time and skills needed to contact and organize the students.

In planning the semester’s last chapels, Peachey deliberately filled December with music. He said, “I assumed at that point of the year people are tired of tests and papers and discussion and would rather just come in and be able to relax and worship.”

Speakers this fall have deliber-
ated focused on a theme of “faith journey and vocation.” According to Peachey, this comes out of a desire from the Lilly Grant to provide examples and discussion about vocation and how that connects with faith.

The Lilly Grant also makes additional money available to bring in speakers that will present not just at chapel, but also in classes, or in the evenings as well. Actor Jeff Barryman, an October feature, was sponsored by the Semeia Series. Bart Shirk, “The Semeia Series also encourages married couples to communicate.

Foot In Mouth

“I almost haven’t read my Bible since college. I got so sick of it.”

Christian Early
Faith and Peace

Have a contribution? Send it along with the professor’s name and class.