## Religious organizations prosper

Students join spiritual groups around campus to find

friendship and religion

Tess McMains

Students all over Elon University are taking leaps of faith getting involved in religious organizations on campus. With more students joining every year, religious-themed

groups continue to grow in popularity, scooping up huge mbers of freshmen for their ranks.

One of the largest organizations is Intervarsity or I.V., a hationally known group with a chapter on campus. Here, students are students once a week meet for praise, worship and a guest peaker. For the most part, it is a student-run organization, For the most part, it is a student-run organism to other students.

Emily Aker, a junior at Elon, is the "leader of the leaders" in IV, having a hand in everything from planning meetings of the street on average of the strongest organizations on campus, saying on average they have 150 they have 150 students attend weekly meetings.

The point is to create community within the Christian community at Elon," said Aker, "and for people to feel eved and accepted."

"I guess that's what I.V. is really known for," Aker conwe really outreach to students by loving, especial-

The plan is obviously working, with close to seventy reshmen signed up to attend I.V.'s annual Beach Retreat

this weekend, a getaway for members to come together and renew fellowship.

But Intervarsity doesn't have the monopoly on Christian fellowship at Elon. There are numerous other organizations such as Campus Outreach and various bible studies organ-

One new group is a Women's Praise and Worship, where ized by students. Elon women get together every two weeks to sing worship songs and pray together.

Danielle Andre, a junior who came up with the group, said it came about very casually when she was hanging out

"Over the summer, we randomly talked about it to the with friends. girls one day," Andre said. "And my good friend Claire plays the guitar and I sing and it just kind of came togeth-

The group had their first meeting last week with twenty girls coming out for it.

"We had a better turnout than we expected," Andre said. "We really just want to create a place, however temporary, for girls to be able to come together and lean on one another and just find peace."

Women's Praise and Worship meets bimonthly at 9 p.m. Thursday in Danieley. Intervarsity meets at 9 p.m. every Tuesday night in Moseley.

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