On Oct. 19 at 6 p.m., a student group from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke campus ministries gathered in the University Center Annex for “The Gathering.”

The Gathering is a Christian student ministry service geared toward contemporary youth and college students.

Approximately 130 people were in attendance. With the success of the first event, plans are underway for the next gathering on Jan. 18, 2009.

The Gathering at Pembroke was led by the band Narrow Way and the word of God was presented by Pittman.

Pittman proclaimed Psalm 103:18: “This shall be written for future generations and posterity, that perhaps it shall be made clear to the generation to come.”

Pittman is a graduate of UNCP.

“I graduated in 1994 from UNCP and I would have told you that then that I would come back in 2008 and proclaim the name of Jesus… I would have told you, you were smoking something,” he said.

When asked how he found himself back at UNCP after all these years, Pittman said, “Living in the area, [Lumberton], I always remained connected to the University. I have worked and stayed connected to the music program and I have sent a lot of students from my church here.”

Pittman attends Hyde Park Baptist Church in Lumberton where he is the music and education pastor.

Pittman is the other team leader involved in the production of “The Gathering.”

“UNCP is one of our best keeps… it is in the universities in our area. it was the perfect place for us to start an such a ministry,” said Pittman.

Pittman is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Fayetteville. He has been involved in the Hyde Park Baptist Church where he serves as the minister of middle school and recreation.

Pittman and Pittman have a conviction for young people.

Pittman emphasized, “We have a burden for the college age students of our campus. We know that if we don’t do something we are going to be in trouble. we are passionate about the next “great” generation… and we are confident it can start here…in Lumberton.”

Pittman, who plays and sings for Narrow Way, feels that music is an intricate part of this “great awakening.”

“Music speaks to everyone… it is very important… music is the thing that God is going to use to spread the word to our generation… worship is, however, much more than singing, it is our generations’ Jesus.”

Students raved about the event. Chasity Swett, a junior at UNCP, exclaimed, “I can’t believe how the worship was… it was mind blowing to see us all of us from different church backgrounds and worship come together in one form of church worship in the name…seriously, I can’t wait till the next one, I will invite everyone I know.”

Freshman Laura Wethington agreed with Swett.

“This is the first time I’ve seen students from all home with German exchange student Tim Rautenbach.

“It was really good… the minister [Pittman] was right…if we are going to serve God then we need to do it 100 percent. “This was the general reaction from students and those in attendance who they exited the U.C. Annex.

Justin McQueen, a 17-year-old from Lumberton High School member of the Narrow Way Band, sang praise songs to the audience.