

# The Grapevine

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

OF CHESTER BETHEL UMC - 2025



## Building Update



For those who have been away over the summer, the changes to the church building will be striking!

The Preschool 4-5 year old class is now in Room One, We meet for study, business, and work in the Narthex, and fire alarms are everywhere! Is the modular gone yet?

## Altar Flowers

Thank you to all who sign up for altar flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one for Sunday services!

Our Admin Council has noticed many weeks without dedications. Beginning January 1, 2026, our church will use beautiful silk flowers in church on the weeks lacking dedications.

This means we will no longer have live flowers every week. If you would like to provide live altar flowers, please order, pay for, and bring them in on Sunday mornings. Alternatively, if you would like to make a dedication and are content to have a silk flower arrangement, you may pay \$5 towards that cost and honor your loved ones. In either instance, please notify the office by Thursday before your chosen Sunday so that your dedication will be in the bulletin.

If you have any questions about this new arrangement, please reach out to our office for clarification.

## Dates to Remember

- September 1 Labor Day
- 3 Thrift Shop Reopens  
**PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**
- 7 Missions Mtg after church
- 9 1<sup>st</sup> Zoom Bible Study at 7
- 10 Admin Council Mtg 6 PM
- 11 Trustees Mtg 6 PM
- 11 1<sup>st</sup> Bible Study at church; 10 AM
- October 14 Last Zoom Study at 7
- 17 Last study at church at 10
- 25 **Trunk or Treat** 2-4 PM



## Chester Bethel at EDH



Thank you Chester Bethel for helping Aldersgate with our Emmanuel Dining Room ministry in August. Sylvia, Polly and Nancy prepared and served up an excellent meal for the hungry of Wilmington. We are grateful also for the members of Chester Bethel who supported the ministry by providing cookies, brownies and watermelon! The watermelon was popular and especially refreshing on a really hot day!

***Matthew 25:40: 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did for me.'***



# Ordinary Green

by Rev. Kelly Conner

Duke Divinity School has a special window, made by a local NC glass artist, called the “Pentecost Window.” In this window, the colors of the rainbow come together to signify the goodness of God in providing diversity within Creation and within the Body of Christ. Upon finishing one’s degree program, each graduating class is given a thick glass cross made from the same colors that can be found in the Divinity School’s Pentecost Window (red, orange-yellow, bright green, Duke Blue, light aqua, deep purple, and clear), and crosses are given during a special Cross Service at the end of the year. For example, one year, all the crosses will be blue, the next year they’ll be green, the next red, etc. until the cycle repeats again. During the service, that year’s batch of crosses is prayed-over, and the students worship and hear a sermon from a professor that they collectively chose to preach.

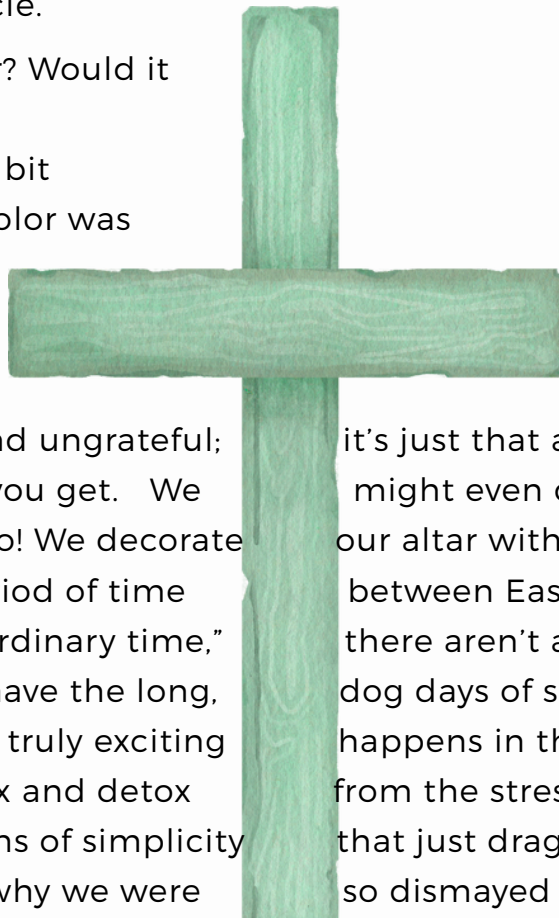


*Duke Divinity staff describe the crosses as “both a tactile way for the graduates to carry a piece of Duke Divinity School with them as they journey to a new stage of ministry, and an expression of appreciation for [the] graduates.”*

The class before me received blue crosses. When my friends and I were entering the chapel for our own cross service, we all wondered which color came next in the cycle.

Would we have clear? Would it be orange-yellow?

I think we were all a bit dismayed that our color was green.



I don't mean to sound ungrateful; green is as basic as you get. We "ordinary." And we do! We decorate to commemorate a period of time "ordinary time." In "ordinary time," "ordinary time," we have the long, believe that nothing truly exciting time," we get to relax and detox it can feel like months of simplicity anticipation. That's why we were crosses! Green is so "ordinary."

it's just that as a liturgical color, might even describe it as our altar with green paraments to between Easter and Advent, called there aren't any high holy days. In dog days of summer where many happens in the church. In "ordinary from the stress of the holidays. But that just drag on with little so dismayed to receive green

But as our selected preacher, Dean Susan Jones, preached during our cross service, and the vast amount of our church calendar, and our life, is spent in "ordinary time." As she reminded us, ordinary time is a return to "normal life." It is in "ordinary time" that we do all the hard behind-the-scenes work to grow as people, as leaders, as worshippers, as Christians. "Ordinary time" envelops us in a comforting embrace as we return to it time and time again. *(cont)*

## Please Pray for:

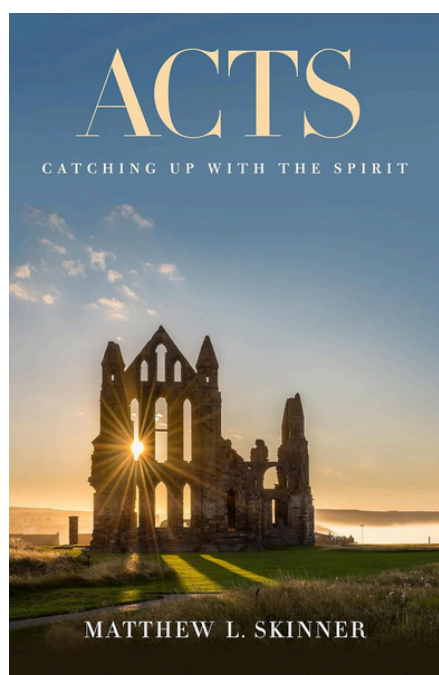
Steve Schellberg (H); Brione (H); Donna (H); Ken Donahoe (H); Joseph Glasgow (H); Bill Hazel (H); Linda Lyons (H); KFK (O); Jean Andrews (H); Andrew R.(O); Bill and Doreen Jones (H); Mary Ann Box (H); Ramona Harlow (LT); Holly Dorner (H); Donna McCormick (H); DeBrock Family (O); Allison (H); Kim Nally; Amy (H); Gail Kracyla (H); Dominic King (LT); Jill Brownback (LT); Nancy Walker (LT); MaryAnn Rumford (LT); Rick Browne (LT); all peoples impacted by war (LT)

cont. from p.4

Without “ordinary time,” our lives might be too exciting, leading us to feel overwhelmed and exhausted. “Ordinary time” gives us the kind of breather that we need to settle down and prepare ourselves to get to work.

The concept of “ordinary time” also reminds me that our God is a God of not only our holidays, big emotions, or exciting times, but also of our everyday routine. I like to share with children that Jesus lived everyday lives just like us: He ate, slept, walked, played, and had a body that needed to burp or have other functions just like ours do. That means our God is the kind of God who lives with us in every season of our lives – not just the most exciting or trying times. Our God is God of all of it!

God takes the long road, camping out with us in our normal lives – and in all the aspects of our human condition. It means so much to me that God is here with me in the monotony, in the hardship, in the terrible, beautiful mess that is my life. And I would argue that this kind of God is the one you need too. We have a God of the ordinary times – and aren’t we truly blessed by that?



## Bible Study begins Sept 9 &11 , based on the book “Acts: Catching Up With the Spirit”

The book is available online in many different places and if you need any help in purchasing a copy don’t hesitate to call the church office for assistance. 302-465-3549

### **Missions Update**

Each year three charities are chosen for donations for each half of the calendar year. For July through December of 2025 the following charities will benefit from your financial mission giving:

**Friendship House**

**Sunday Breakfast Mission**

**Ministry of Caring**

Please continue with your generous giving; we are helping many in need!



CHESTER BETHEL PRESCHOOL

# OPEN HOUSE

*See our new digs!*

Preschool families and all Church members are invited!

**SEPT. 3 , 5:30-6:30**

**PLEASE STAY FOR A  
WATER ICE WELCOME  
6-7 PM**

