

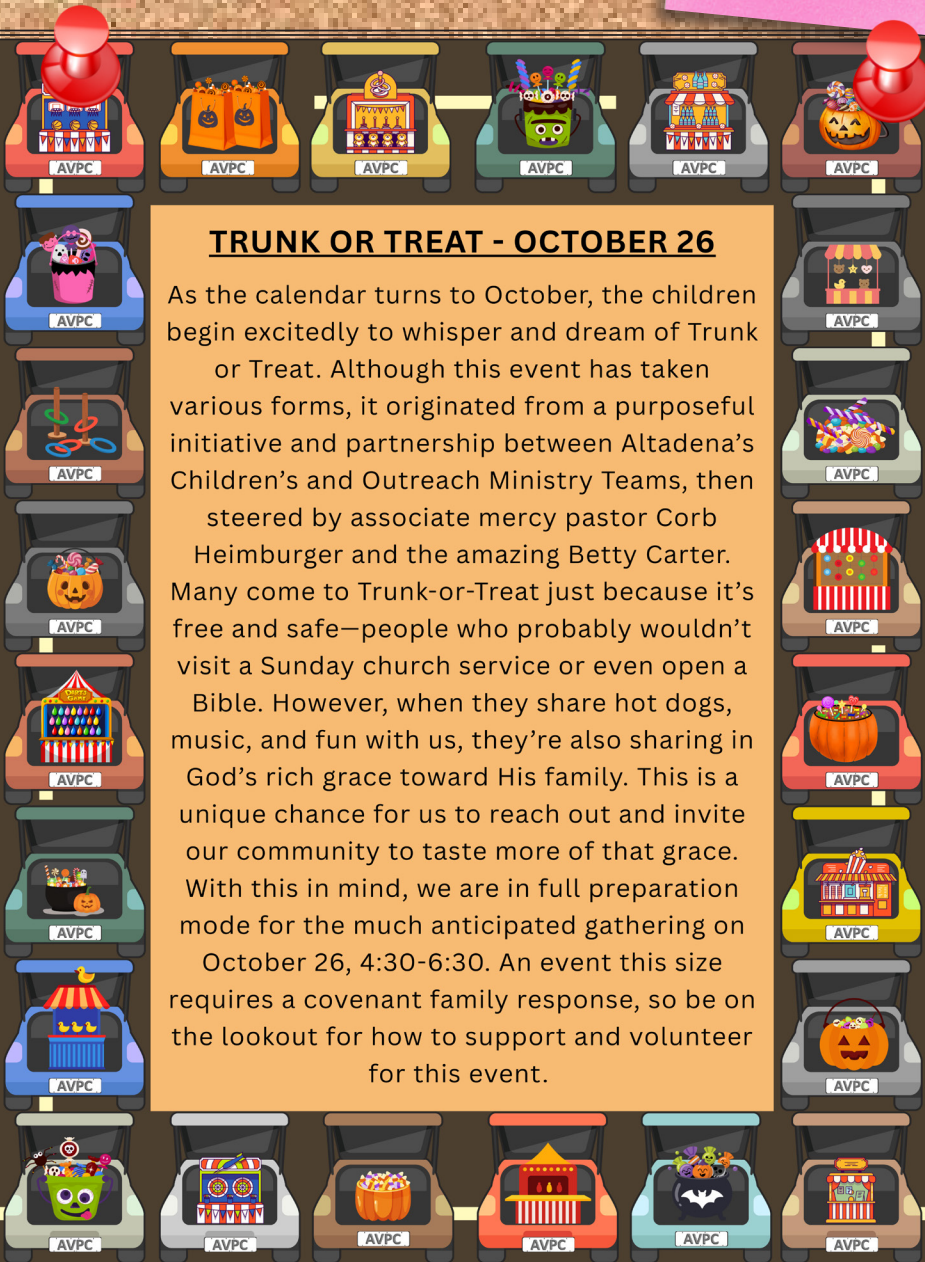


OCTOBER 2025 / VOLUME 295

SALTSHAKER

Quote of
the Month

I dream of a better tomorrow, where chickens can cross the road and not be questioned about their motives.



TRUNK OR TREAT - OCTOBER 26

As the calendar turns to October, the children begin excitedly to whisper and dream of Trunk or Treat. Although this event has taken various forms, it originated from a purposeful initiative and partnership between Altadena's Children's and Outreach Ministry Teams, then steered by associate mercy pastor Corb Heimburger and the amazing Betty Carter. Many come to Trunk-or-Treat just because it's free and safe—people who probably wouldn't visit a Sunday church service or even open a Bible. However, when they share hot dogs, music, and fun with us, they're also sharing in God's rich grace toward His family. This is a unique chance for us to reach out and invite our community to taste more of that grace. With this in mind, we are in full preparation mode for the much anticipated gathering on October 26, 4:30-6:30. An event this size requires a covenant family response, so be on the lookout for how to support and volunteer for this event.

AVPC NEWS

A REFUGEES JOURNEY - OCTOBER 17 & 19

A Refugees Journey

A free one-of-a-kind walk through experience retelling the stories of six brave refugees.

Friday, October 17 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm &

Sunday, October 19 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm*

This is a come-and-go event and includes a special time of prayer and worship. Children, Families & Groups are welcome.

Cross Cultural Connections at
First Baptist Church Hoover
2025 Patton Chapel Road
Hoover, AL 35216

Please Register at:
bhmccc.info/arefugeesjourney

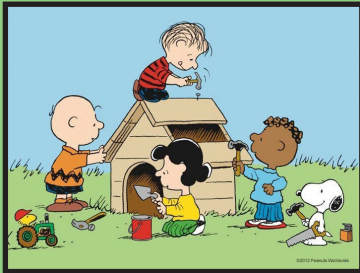
*Please note the last group will be allowed in thirty minutes prior to closing.



AVPC NEWS

PARK WORK DAY

You're invited to come help with another park work day, scheduled for Saturday, October 18, at 8:00 AM. A variety of projects are on the list. Please bring your work gloves and garden tools, such as shovels and wheelbarrows. Lunch will be provided.



OUR SYMPATHY

We want to express our deepest sympathies to Rosemary Bobbitt after the loss of her husband, Cary.

ADOPT A GHK TEACHER

We have the opportunity to bless our God's House staff and teachers by praying for and encouraging them throughout the year. Your family can "adopt" a teacher, and you will receive specific requests from them to guide your prayers. Contact Luke Bishop if you are interested or if you have any questions (bishoplukergmail.com).



10/3 Steve Klose	10/13 Joy Black	10/24 Tyler Belcher
10/4 Genie Deason	10/13 Russell Windsor	10/24 Jim Bonner
10/4 Tre Smith	10/14 Carly Price	10/24 Carter Edmonds
10/4 Jacob Short	10/14 Ella Shepherd	10/24 Asher Labreche
10/6 Jon Carter	10/15 Jeanett Bennett	10/24 Barry Parker
10/6 Natalie Short	10/16 Scott McCrory	10/25 Davis Windsor
10/7 Mary Katherine Calderini	10/17 Francie Cvacho	10/25 Zach Windsor
10/7 John McCary	10/18 Nick Moyer	10/26 Mica Whitner
10/7 Lea Anne Parker	10/20 Tara Howard	10/27 Emma Wilson
10/9 Ava Barley	10/20 Jill Sciacca	10/28 Everly Klose
10/9 Ray Collins	10/20 Tracy Whitner	10/28 Jayla Smith
10/9 Tom De Shazo	10/20 Marian Wilson	10/30 Peter Short
10/9 Darren Popwell	10/21 Bentley Lumpkin	10/31 Jacob Folker
10/12 Jennifer Rush	10/23 Marilyn Russell	10/31 Jake Tate



Pastor's Pen

“When people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen.”
— Ernest Hemingway

“Son, you keep telling the car what to do without learning how it talks!”
— Milton Haynes

“When you listen to and read one thinker, you become a clone; two different thinkers, you become confused; ten thinkers, you’ll begin developing your own voice; two or three hundred thinkers, you become wise.”
— Tim Keller

Grandpa's Lessons About Driving a Manual Transmission...

Lessons for driving a stick include:

- Topography: when the car is in neutral, it will roll on every hill.
- Anatomy: the inventor of the stick shift failed math class: 3 pedals for 2 feet!
- Dance: you can't just jam pedals; you have to choreograph movements to move.
- Listening! Grinding, screeching, peeling rubber, high revving = certain doom.

Little wonder when shopping for a car recently that one salesperson quipped that manuals are equipped with anti-theft devices because few learned to drive them.

I contend that the conveniences of automatic transmissions are harming our culture! We don't need to pay attention to our surroundings; cars stop and go stably on their own; the math adds up: 2 pedals and 2 feet; we eliminated dance, leaving us uncoordinated in working together; turn up the radio or make some calls; you don't have to listen; the car takes care of itself.

OK, our culture? Yes, our culture. Driving in this morning, my college sports show was talking about their anxiety over the harmful rancor in our political and media lives. The news and social media fallout of last month's violence is both deeply unsettling and begs the question of how we should respond — how do we stop allowing those profiting from division from holding so much influence?

Step into the Lord's car, the church — listen to the Lord's machine at work in our world. She is humming along on the fuel of God's word, on the road to God's glory, singing the songs of God's praise, protecting us from the harmful elements of the world's storms and accidents — is she perfect? NO, but her maker is good and perfect, and his destination for us is secure.

Back to learning to drive a stick shift — learning to drive life God's way! We need three pedals to really learn to DRIVE again — not just me against you, gas and brake, but the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit interacting intimately as in a dance to take us through whatever craziness the map demands. One of the incredible aspects of the Christian life is that God is both Sovereign and providential, and yet he compels us into the driver's seat he gives us, then teaches us to listen to him, hear his rhythms, understand the tools he has given us to navigate.

AVPC has twice that number to listen to and read! The church is a clamoring wonder of people learning to drive God's life God's way, and while it is a mess, we are offered his complete assurance that he will fix the dents, mend the bones, and get us all the way home to glory in the end. Our world desperately needs to learn to drive in and like Jesus — invite them to come along.

-Kyle Parker, Senior Pastor

MISSIONS NEWS



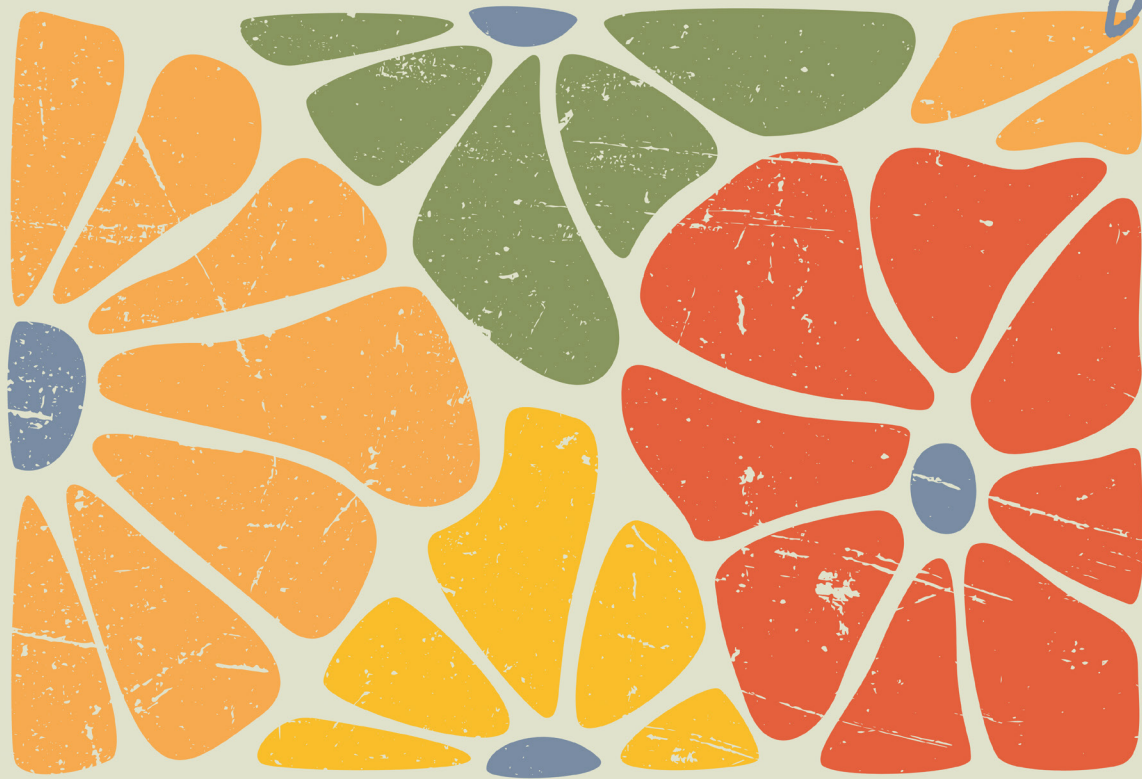
Welcome back Michael who – among other roles – serves with the Mission Team! He will lead a short Vision trip to Albania and Kosovo from October 8-13. The group includes Jeff Schofield, Sarah Bishop, and Abi Bostrom who are excited to minister to and learn from our supported missionaries in this region. The trip will include visits with Hysen & Esmeralda Kanani and Besiana Rajta (CRU, Albania) followed by some time with Agron & Elona Sopaj (CRU, Kosovo) and Doni & Albina Mehmeti (MTW, Kosovo). The number of practicing Christians in this region is low with Islam being the predominant religion. In fact, Kosovo is thought to only have 2-6% of the population claiming any form of Christianity.

This trip is designed to provide planning insight for an AVPC-sponsored Short-Term mission trip to the same area in March 2026, hopefully including some of you! The Vision Team will find out what our missionaries' needs are (both personal and service) and what help we can best provide in March. It will be an exciting venture! This trip is a great illustration of our coming Missions Conference (Feb 4-8, 2026) theme: "The Harvest Awaits: Pray. Send. Go." based on Luke 10:2-3. Hopefully you will all PRAY as we SEND our Vision Team to GO. To God be the Glory!

Luke 10: 2-3: "...The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Mardi Penuel for the Missions Committee

Women's Ministry



Flower Arranging for Beginners: October 16

Join us on Thursday, October 16 at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall for an evening of flower arranging and fellowship. All supplies are provided. Just show up and arrange.

Email Heather Sommer (heather@avpc.org) if interested.

Save the Date: March 6-8, 2026

Ladies - mark your calendars now and plan to come away with us in March to the Springville Camp and Conference Center.

This is sure to be a time of rest, refreshment, and connection. There is a team already praying and planning with YOU in mind. The setting is beautiful, peaceful, and relaxed. Make plans now to be there!



GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN

Our preschoolers are enjoying the new season as they settle into their routines with joy and confidence. September was full of special moments –we celebrated a few birthdays and held our first chapel of the year. Thank you to Catie Lumpkin for leading chapel and reminding the children that Jesus is the Light of the World.

This month, we look forward to Community Helpers visits and other fall activities that help our children learn, play, and grow. We are grateful for your prayers and support as we continue creating a warm, Christ-centered environment each day.

HAPPY Birthday



Mrs. Laura

May God Bless you and Keep you this coming year!

HAPPY Birthday



Mrs. Susan

May God Bless you and Keep you this coming year!

HAPPY Birthday



Mrs. Jill

May God Bless you and Keep you this coming year!

Children's Ministry



UPCOMING EVENTS:

SMALL GROUPS SERVE BRIDGE NIGHTS

October 5 - Harris/Holmes Group

October 12 - Peters/Drace Group

October 19 - Ireland Group

October 26 - Trunk or Treat

This year, our annual AVPC Children's Ministry Sunday will be held on October 19. Why a Children's Ministry Sunday? In our Worship Center *Elements of Worship* study, our AVPC children have been learning that they are not future members of the church, waiting until their youth or adult age to contribute and participate - they are present and integral members of the Church, both here at Altadena Valley and universally! In fact, when asked the question, "Who is the Church?", they are to respond enthusiastically, "We are the Church!" Children are not the only ones who can forget this reality. Our *Elements of Worship* family devotional states, "When the church gathers in worship, we do so not merely as individuals but as a collective body - the body of Christ...When we gather to worship, we participate in a profound act of covenant renewal. Children are members of this covenantal community. As children worship alongside the body of believers, they solidify their purpose and identity." Children's Ministry Sunday is an opportunity for our covenant children to lead us in this truth.

Ways for Children to be Involved:

1. Art Gallery Wall: Turn in your art for our Children's Wall by October 5th to Mrs. Catie's office. Art will be on display throughout the month of October. All ages and stages of art welcome!
2. Children through ages 5th grade will be singing in early and late services. They will be finished by the Pastoral Prayer in late service. Join us! (We are practicing these songs during Hymn Sing and Bridge Nights.)
3. We need Worship Leaders for the October 19! Talk to Mrs. Catie for more information.

Youth Ministry News



As we are going through the Gospel of John on Sunday mornings, and I just had the chance to preach on the passage where Jesus chooses the disciples, I am reminded of what a gift diversity in the church body is. While our church may not look diverse at first glance, we are a beautiful tapestry of different backgrounds, gifts, interests, and views. The one thing holding this ragtag group together is our recognition that Jesus is Lord and our utter dependence on Him. Which brings me to the area of ministry where I serve, and the reason you are reading this section of the Saltshaker: our students. If you have ever actually read any of the articles I have written in this space, you might have picked up on the fact that I think we have an amazing group of students here at AVPC. They reflect the homes in which they are being raised, and I hope that the youth ministry staff has been a part of shepherding them well. While they have always been such an encouragement to me, and anyone who has spent any time with our group, I have been particularly encouraged this fall as we have come back together. Our youth group at AVPC is every bit as diverse as our church body, maybe even more so. The level of unity that I have witnessed among our students this fall has, frankly, blown me away. I can tell you with full confidence that, friends, the Holy Spirit is alive and well at our church.

Please join me in continuing to pray for our students, as well as our church at large. While we cannot manufacture unity by our own power, it is something that needs to be contended for. Please pray that we would see this continue among our students and in our church. Altadena Valley Presbyterian Church has been a gift to my family and me for 21 years. May it continue to be so.

Peace,
Clint

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 17 - Hockey Night

October 19 - 7th Annual AVPC Hipple Games

October 25 - Pumpkin Patch (Junior High)

November 8-9 - Fall Retreat (Senior High)

MEN'S MINISTRY



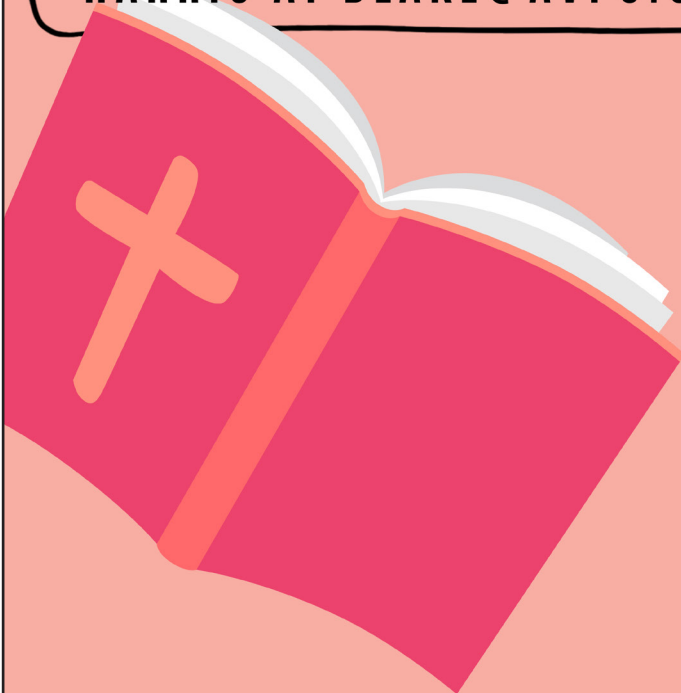
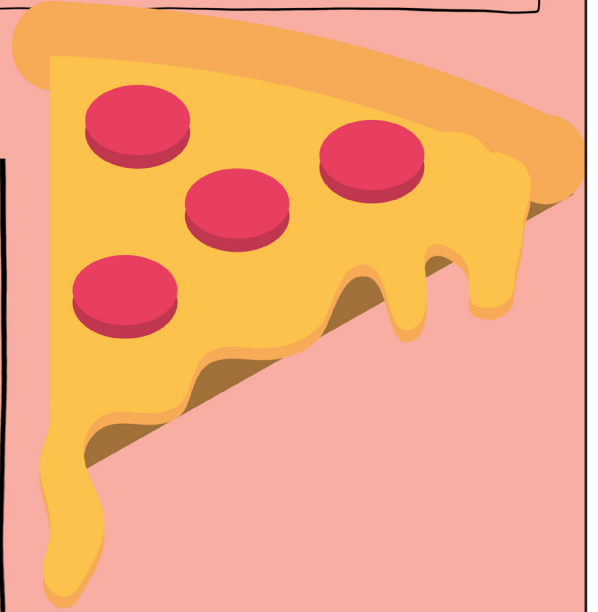
MAN MOOT PLATINUM™

Men of all ages are invited on Saturday, October 11, to a Man Moot to put other moots to shame. There will be football, meat, and fellowship. Time and location to be announced based on game times.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

NEW YOUNG ADULT GATHERINGS

JOIN US ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER
21 AT 6:30. LOCATION TBD.
WE'LL HAVE DINNER AND
FELLOWSHIP AND HEAR A
TESTIMONY FROM SOMEONE IN
THE CHURCH. INVITE A FRIEND
AND WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!
QUESTIONS? CONTACT BLAKE
HARRIS AT BLAKE@AVPC.ORG.



IT WAS GREAT TO VISIT AUBURN AND
SEE SOME AVPC COLLEGE STUDENTS.



SESSION/DIACONATE MINUTES

SESSION MEETING • AUGUST 19, 2025

- Mark Damron, the church's new fractional CFO was introduced to the Session. He told the Session his background and talked about his goals as he takes on the job.
- The Missions Team requested approval and was approved with unanimous consent for the following:
 - Ending the monthly support for Peter and Janet H. with Serge, effective July 31, 2025.
 - A one-time gift of \$10,000 to church planters Josh and Abigail Duemler.
 - A one-time gift of \$3,000 to the Gideons.

DIACONATE MEETING • SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

- Joshua Putman recommended to replace the handrails at the exterior entrances to the Welcome Center, Sanctuary, Parlor, and Office Entrance doors out of the Capital Reserve Fund. He recommended replacing the white picket fence located at the front of the church out of the Capital Reserve Fund. He recommended to approve the proposal from King Fisher Signs for new campus-wide signage out of the Capital Reserve Fund. This was approved with unanimous consent.

JULY FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	(\$19,924)	\$123,729	\$128,860	(\$7,537)	(\$32,592)
MISSIONS	\$176,731	\$27,393	\$34,215	\$7,537	\$177,446
TOTAL	\$156,807	\$151,122	\$163,075	\$0	\$144,854