



# **STORIES AND STATS FROM THE AUSTIN STONE**

Quarterly Ministry & Financial Update

THE AUSTIN STONE COMMUNITY CHURCH



## **FY22 Q3 UPDATE**

THE AUSTIN STONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Time and time again in Scripture, we see God's attributes clearly displayed. All we need to know about Him is tucked between Genesis and Revelation. So, when we turn to His Word to learn more about His character, no matter what story we read, we can see God's unchanging nature. Because of this truth, we know that the same love that prompted the selfless sacrifice of Jesus was also present when the universe was brought into existence. And that same love marks each and every season of our lives.

So much has changed in the last few years. As a staff, we look around and see new programming, new faces, and new rhythms. You probably have experienced some changes too. And while adjusting to these shifts can be difficult, we can still praise God knowing that He will always draw us near. We can still depend on and trust His provision. We can bank on Him coming through to care for us when we need Him.

In this update, you'll read stories of God moving powerfully among our Kids, Students, and Women's Ministries. We're celebrating Him for the ways He's used our people for His good works and praising Him for being our firm foundation—ever moving us toward His glory and our good. We encourage you to spend time reading through the stories laid out in this edition of Stories & Stats from The Austin Stone. At the end, you'll find our financial report which outlines the ways we've stewarded financial resources over the last three months to help drive our mission as a church. These numbers represent your generosity and God's kindness to provide for our church as He maintains His heart of provision toward us and continues to provide so that we can do His work.

We pray that, as you pause and reflect, God meets you in that time and stirs up joy in you to continue to love our church, our city, and the nations!



An aerial photograph of a large bridge spanning a body of water. The bridge has a prominent, dark, curved structural element. In the background, there are several modern buildings, including a long, low one with a glass facade and a taller one with a curved roof. The area is surrounded by greenery and trees. The sky is overcast.

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

# Kids

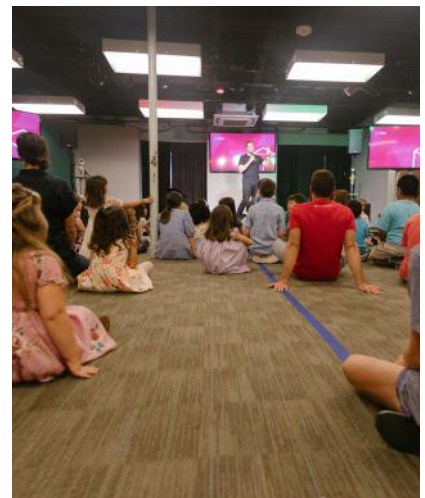
**WITH EXPRESSIONS OF WONDER** etched across their little faces, they look up with twinkling eyes in awe of what they've heard. While we may have listened to the story countless times, they've just experienced it for the first time. Their shock and amazement display the thing many of us have lost—a childlike faith. This classroom of kids is where the largest number of unsaved souls are gathered on any given Sunday at The Austin Stone. It's where our Kids Ministry is faithfully working to raise up, pour into, and equip the next generation of disciples.

This ministry is so much more than a place for parents to drop their little ones off during Sunday service. It's where kids are hearing the truth of God's Word and building a firm foundation on it so that, as they grow, they can boldly step into the world with confidence in the gospel. It can be easy for us to look at the teetering toddler or exuberant elementary schooler and think, "They're too young. They just won't be able to truly understand the reality of the gospel until they're older." But that's simply not true. The Holy Spirit isn't bound by cognitive development. We see that truth in Scripture when John the Baptist leapt in his

mother's womb at the mention of Jesus! The children God has placed in the care of our Kids Ministry are there with purpose—and they're just as valuable to the kingdom as the adults who fill the auditoriums on Sundays.

Like many other aspects of our church family, our Kids Ministry experienced tremendous change throughout the past few years. Yet, even amidst those changes, God has produced a revitalized sense of flourishing among the staff, volunteers, parents, and children. The number of kids in attendance on Sundays has nearly doubled in 2022, averaging just over 1,000 kids across all six of our congregations. More resources have been developed to equip parents, and baptisms among children are surging. And God isn't done.

Charles Spurgeon once said, "The Lord's reserves are coming up, and their drums beat victory." The Kids Ministry is pouring into this next generation of faithful disciples—the Lord's reserves. They're not simply entertaining little ones for a couple of hours each Sunday. They're equipping them to wade into the world with confidence, already beating the drums of victory.



# Students

**OUR STUDENTS MINISTRY** isn't just a place where middle and high school students come each week for fun events and free food. It's where the next generation of spiritual leaders are being equipped to carry the gospel to future college campuses and workplaces. It's where a teenager's spiritual path is being paved with assurance in Christ and confidence in His Word so that when they step

into the reality of adulthood, they're armored with truth. Through events like the Students City Limits fall retreat and ATX Student Weekend and weekly community groups, our Students Ministry intentionally invests in and pours into the lives of these kids—deeply committed to discipling students and partnering with parents.

## **ATX STUDENT WEEKEND**

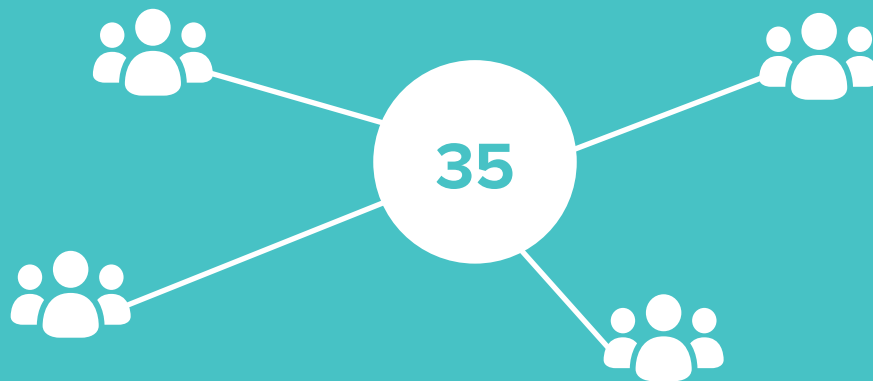
425 students, leaders, and staff from The Austin Stone gathered for a weekend conference where a total of 900 middle and high school students from across Austin came together to worship and learn more about God.



425

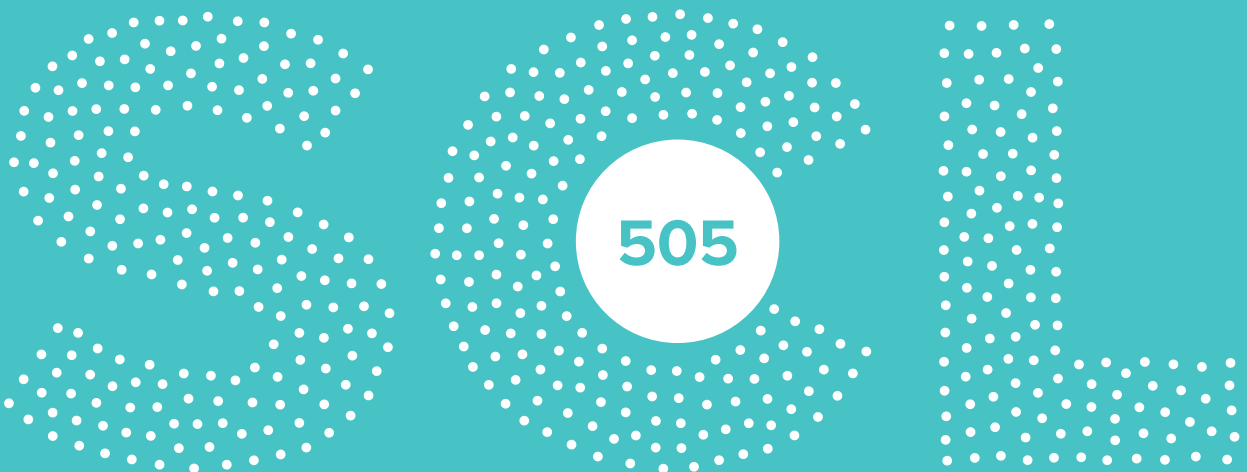
## LAUNCH STUDENT COHORTS

35 high school juniors and seniors engaged in the beginning phases of an 18-month leadership program designed to prepare them to be life-long disciples of Jesus and emerging Christian leaders in whatever context God calls them to in the next season of life.



## STUDENTS CITY LIMITS

505 students, leaders, volunteers, and staff came together across a single weekend for this fall retreat where students spent time in their community groups, worshiped, and heard gospel teachings.



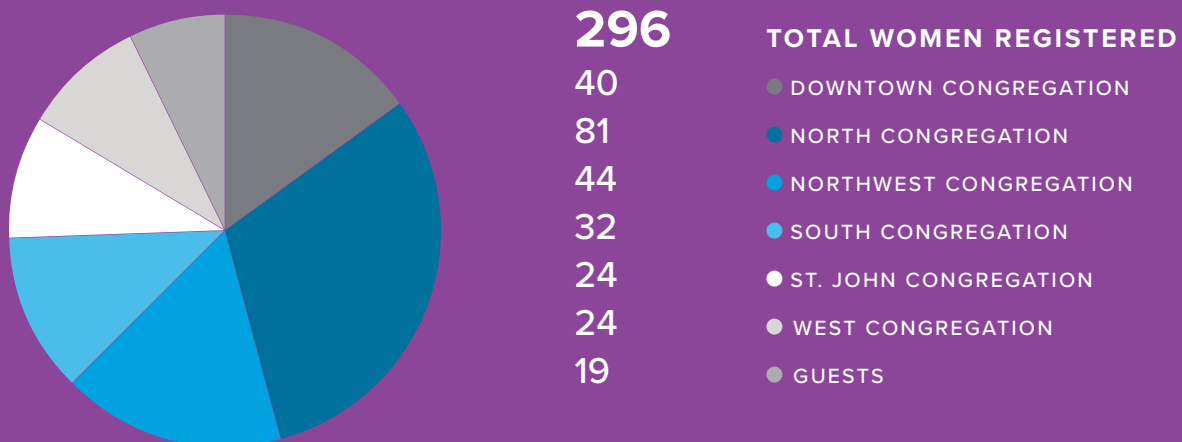
# Women

**IT ISN'T OFTEN THAT A NEED** is unifiedly felt across a group of people from different life stages and backgrounds. Yet, that has been the experience of our Women's Ministry the past few months. Women from across all congregations of The Austin Stone vocalized the shared hunger for hope and the desire to know more of Jesus. And when presented with opportunities to grow in love of Jesus and connection with one another, they responded.

Women's Ministry is centered around supporting the flourishing, discipleship, and mobilization of women for God's glory and the church's good. Their core desire is for women to feel seen and loved by their sisters in Christ—to provide hope for the wilting woman, to encourage the emboldened, to disciple daughters of our Heavenly Father. Through events like Women's Workshop and Women's Retreat, semesterly Bible studies, and congregational gatherings, our Women's Ministry is creating opportunities for connection, equipping, and leadership development for the ministry of the gospel.

## LAMENTATIONS BIBLE STUDY

Lamentations: Hope in the Middle was a six-week fall Bible study where women gathered to learn how our freedom to lament what is broken is a means for us to trust Jesus.



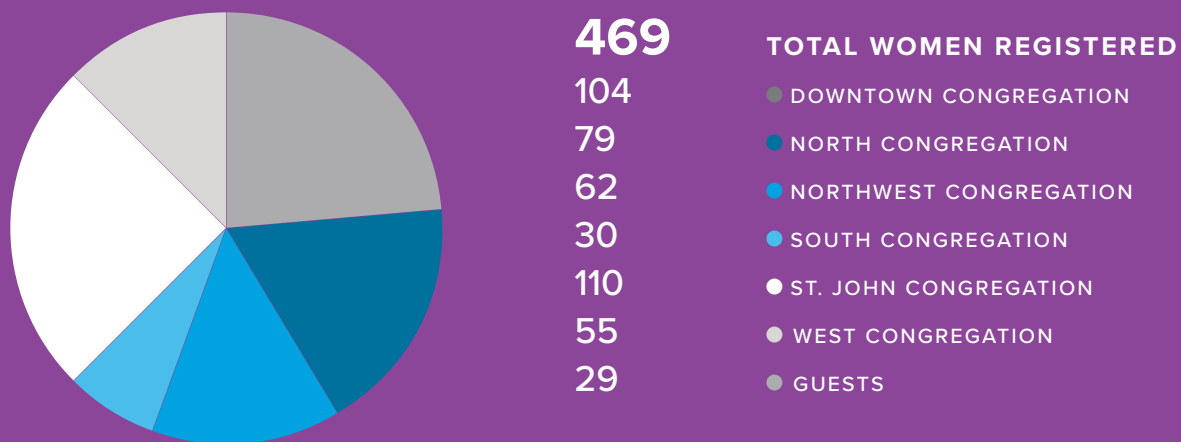
**9** FEMALE TEACHERS, **5** IN-PERSON CLASSES, **1** ZOOM CLASS

## DID YOU KNOW?

In the past year, 54 women graduated from The Austin Stone Development Program, 18 women graduated from the Writer Development Program, and 44 women graduated from Equipped to Counsel! That means 116 female leaders dedicated hours to be trained in and equipped with theological truths so that they can use their unique giftings to point people to Jesus! The Women's Ministry also recently launched their Women's Mentorship Network where over 20 female partners are intentionally pouring into the next generation of women leaders in the church.

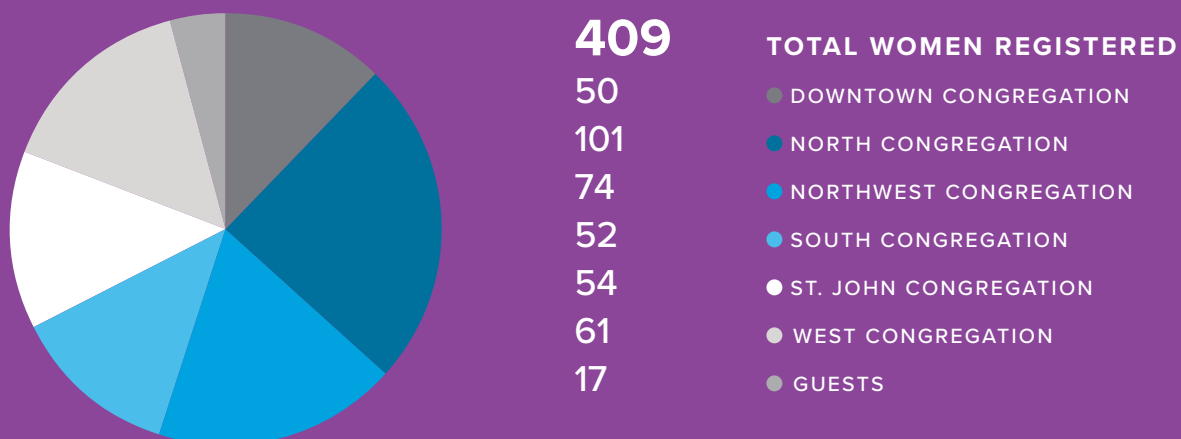
## **WOMEN'S RETREAT: EXPECTANT**

Women's Retreat: Expectant was a weekend where women from all congregations of The Austin Stone came together for a time of fellowship, biblical teaching, refreshment, and worship as they focused on 1 Peter 1:3-9 and the truth that we get to live expectantly on this side of heaven because our hope is fixed on Jesus.



## **EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY**

This spring, women are meeting weekly for the six-week Ephesians study to look at the eternal purpose God has for His people as we navigate the here and now.



**11** FEMALE TEACHERS, **7** IN-PERSON CLASSES, **1** ZOOM CLASS

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely in the Mediterranean, featuring numerous buildings with terracotta roofs and a prominent church spire in the distance. The town is situated along a coastline with a body of water in the foreground. The entire image is covered with a dark, semi-transparent overlay.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

# FISCAL YEAR 2022 Q3 UPDATE

AUGUST 2021 - APRIL 2022 (IN THOUSANDS)

	Actual	Budget
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>21,319</b>	<b>21,187</b>
<b>GIVING</b>	<b>18,856</b>	<b>18,587</b>
Tithe & Offering	17,361	17,776
Designated Contributions	1,495	811
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>2,463</b>	<b>2,600</b>
Austin Stone Counseling Center	764	904
Facility Rental & Leases	927	849
Program Revenue	680	820
Other Revenue	92	27
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>19,697</b>	<b>21,651</b>
<b>CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY</b>	<b>9,577</b>	<b>10,824</b>
Congregational Programs	6,120	6,774
Family Ministry	2,346	2,797
Counseling Center	972	1,097
Soul Care	139	156
<b>MOBILIZATION</b>	<b>2,551</b>	<b>2,919</b>
Local Mission	643	962
Global Mission	1,908	1,957
<b>CENTRAL MINISTRY SUPPORT</b>	<b>7,569</b>	<b>7,908</b>
Equipping & Resources	704	791
Worship & Creative	2,474	2,775
Ministry Operations	3,920	3,856
Staff & Leader Development	471	486
<b>NET PROCEEDS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>1,622</b>	<b>(464)</b>

