



Lamplighters Newsletter

LOVE THE PEOPLE & TEACH THE WORD



AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH
LET THERE BE LIGHT

News and Announcements

Volume 14 No. 2, February 2026

**SAVE
The DATE**

Your Lamplighter Social Committee
is busy planning future events for
you to enjoy with Fellowship, Fun,
Food and Entertainment as well!



JANUARY 24, 2026



Not even freezing rain, sleet, or snow with temperatures at 32 degrees and below could deter these 14 courageous and committed classmates from coming together for our monthly Breakfast Fest! What a loyal group of people! And what a nice surprise having *Gaylord Armstrong* come to join in with those present.



Seeing Lucille in such good spirits Last Sunday after Zack's Class inspired this photo with her daughter, Barbara!



Here is a group of men who played a role in founding ABC. Parker Blevins, Phil Samuelson, Dr. Gary Dyer, David Jenkins, and Larry Miller gathered in the "Circle" where the church was established 17 years ago. They are indeed remarkable and devoted individuals coming together to honor not just the repayment of a debt but also to showcase their Love for Our Church.



Debbie Westlund is presenting school supplies that our first graders could utilize.

Stevie Logsdon is writing a birthday card for one of the students in our Generations program, expressing our support for them now and our commitment to continue until they graduate from high school.



Additionally, Margie Blevins and Barbara Hunley are also taking part in this Milestone celebration. These two gracious women have contributed both their time and talents to the development of ABC from its inception.

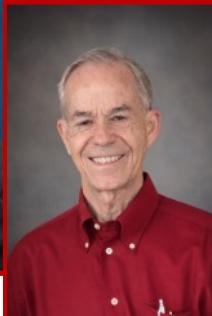
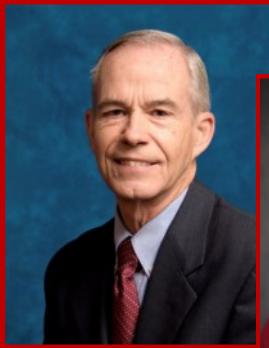


John J. Ellison

October 16, 1945

~
December 31, 2025

Husband to Ethel Ellison



John J. Ellison was born October 16, 1945 in Houston Texas to Margaret and Clarence “Tut” Ellison. His family relocated to Petersburg, Texas where he grew up. He spent many childhood summers with his grandmother exploring nature at her cabin on Lake Whitney, which developed his life-long love for nature and spending time outdoors.

John graduated from Petersburg High School in 1963, where he met his wife of 56 years, Ethel Elizabeth Mabry, whose heart he proudly said he “won” through persistence, patience, and genuine love. Their marriage became a partnership filled with laughter, ministry in serving Jesus together, and unwavering support of each other. They were blessed with two daughters and six grandchildren. John was a loving father to his daughters, earnestly prioritizing them in his daily life, and an adoring “Boppa” who considered the births of his grandchildren among the very best days of his life.

Time spent with family, especially as a grandfather, brought him immeasurable joy. He could often be found bouncing a crying baby, playing at a park or swimming with his grandchildren, riding roller coasters tauntingly teasing that “there’s no turning back now” and educating kids to be “bug literate” so they didn’t blindly squash every insect that errantly wandered inside. His bug lessons were more effective with some children rather than others!

John obtained his Bachelor of Science in Parks and Recreation Administration with a Minor in Landscape Architecture from Texas Tech University in 1968 and earned his Registered Landscape Architect certification in 1972. Beginning his career in Midland, he advanced to serve as Superintendent of Parks for the City of Abilene before becoming the City of Austin Superintendent of Park Improvements.

While working for the City of Austin, he oversaw development of the Mount Bonnell scenic overlook and was honored to work personally with Lady Bird Johnson helping to create the Zilker Park Hike and Bike trail, bringing her Town Lake Beautification project to life as a Bicentennial gift to the City. His visionary concepts for creative outdoor functionality were sought out by friends and eventually led him to venture into private practice, opening John J. Ellison Landscape Architecture in 1985 during which time he also taught classes in Landscaping at Westwood and Westlake Community Education.

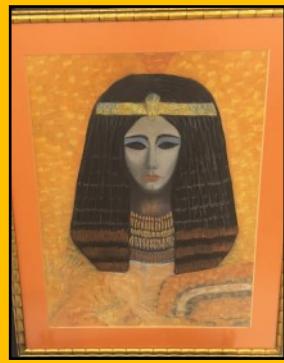
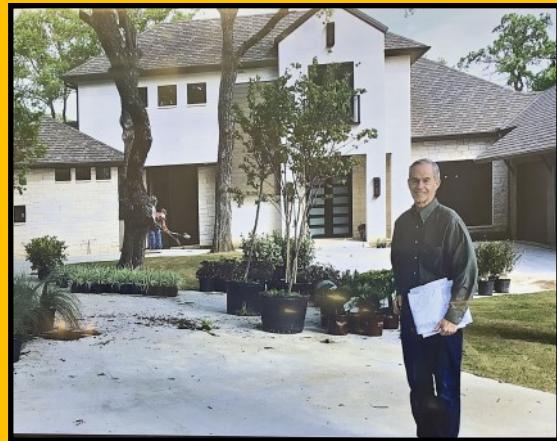
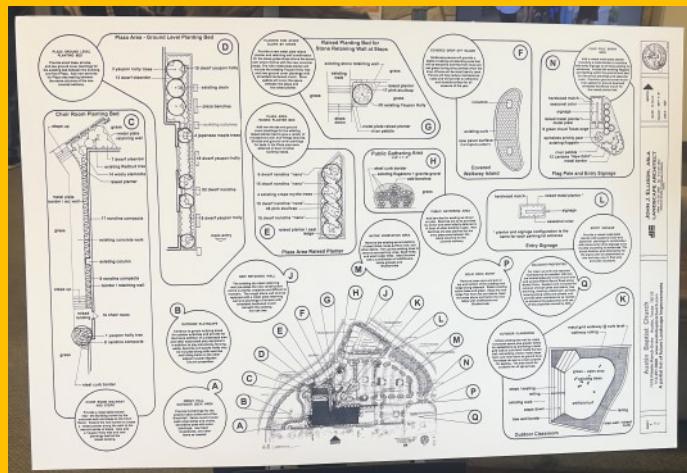
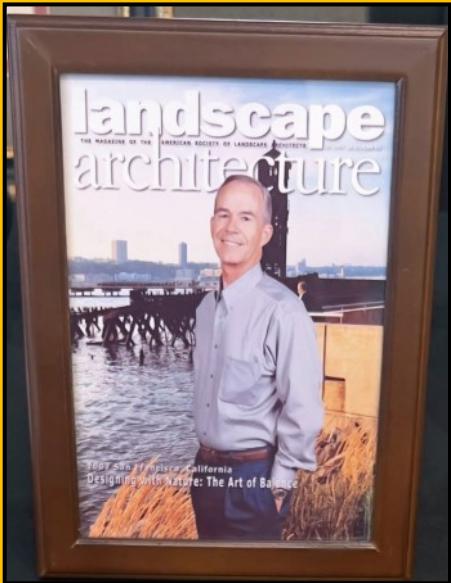
John enjoyed creating beautiful outdoor spaces for residential and commercial clients and saw his landscape architecture come to life across the greater Austin and San Antonio areas. He had an extensive portfolio including the home of one of Austin's resident PGA members, numerous local churches, several Eanes ISD schools his children and grandchildren have attended, as well as the master ***Landscape Design Plan for his cherished Austin Baptist Church.***

John committed his life to Christ as a child and enjoyed worshipping and serving in his local church. He was an active member of Hyde Park Baptist Church where he was ordained as a Deacon and had the privilege of working with Youth in 10th Grade Sunday School and the High School Chapel Choir. Along with Ethel, they spent their vacation week for many summers as sponsors for the Hyde Park Chapel Choir Tour, chaperoning large groups of high school teenagers in various cities across the USA to host Bible clubs and Christian choir concerts. He later became a Charter Deacon and founding member of Austin Baptist Church where he served until his battle with Parkinson's disease intensified.

John's faith in Jesus became sight on December 31, 2025, with his wife and daughters at his side. He is preceded in death by his parents, Margaret and Tut Ellison, brother-in-law LA "George" Patterson, nephew Greg Patterson, and Ethel's brother and his wife, Ralph and Bobbie Mabry.

He is survived by his loving wife Ethel, daughter Jennifer Bossen and husband Andrew Bossen of Sherman Texas, daughter Stephanie Poage and husband Collin Poage of Austin Texas, grandchildren Avery Poage (19), Drew Bossen (17), Julia Poage (17), Bella Bossen (15) Margaret "Maggie" Poage (12), and Michael "Mick" Poage (10). He is also survived by his only sister, Carole Patterson of Allen Texas, as well as numerous treasured nieces and nephews.

His family will forever be grateful to the staff and PALS at Belmont Senior Living in Westlake for welcoming him into their family and for the patient, loving care they provided. A celebration of life will be held for John at 11:00 am on Friday January 9, 2026 at Austin Baptist Church. The family requests memorials be given to Austin Baptist Church or to plant a tree in his honor somewhere you enjoy spending time outdoors.









Sun



Mon

Give a Happy Birthday Shout out to the Folks either in the Photos or that have their Name in Colored Boxes as they are Celebrating Their 80+ Birthdays This month.

Three of the 1st Grade students in our Generational Prayer Program have their names written in Black. Please add them to your prayer list

Tue

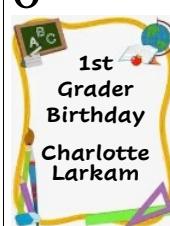
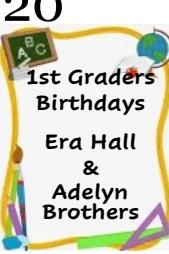
Wed

Thu

Eri

Sat



1 Frances Stephanian	2 	3 Susan Warren	4 5 <i>Diane Akers</i>	6  Charlotte Larkam Holly Bunting	7  <i>Clifteen Samuelson</i>
8  <i>Bette Williams-Barber</i>	9  <i>Rita Jones</i>	10  <i>Carolyn Nauert</i>	11 Alan & Mary Sue Barr 31 Years Cheryl Hallibuton	12  <i>Jane Root</i>  <i>Ray Halford</i>  <i>Charlie Meeks</i> Gregory Crouch	13  <i>Leta Gandy</i>
14 Lela Newsom Sue Phillips		Tom & Melinda Stacy 47 Years			Matthew & Katie MacConnell 17 Years John Hughes
15  <i>Joe Guedea</i>	16	17 <i>Darlene Gay</i>	18  <i>Joan Alexander</i>  <i>Joe Higgs</i>	19  <i>Mount Rushmore</i>	20  Era Hall & Adelyn Brothers
22  <i>Marvin Friesz</i>	23	24	25	26  <i>Doug Burris</i>	27
28 Jenifer Jones Susan Thorson					