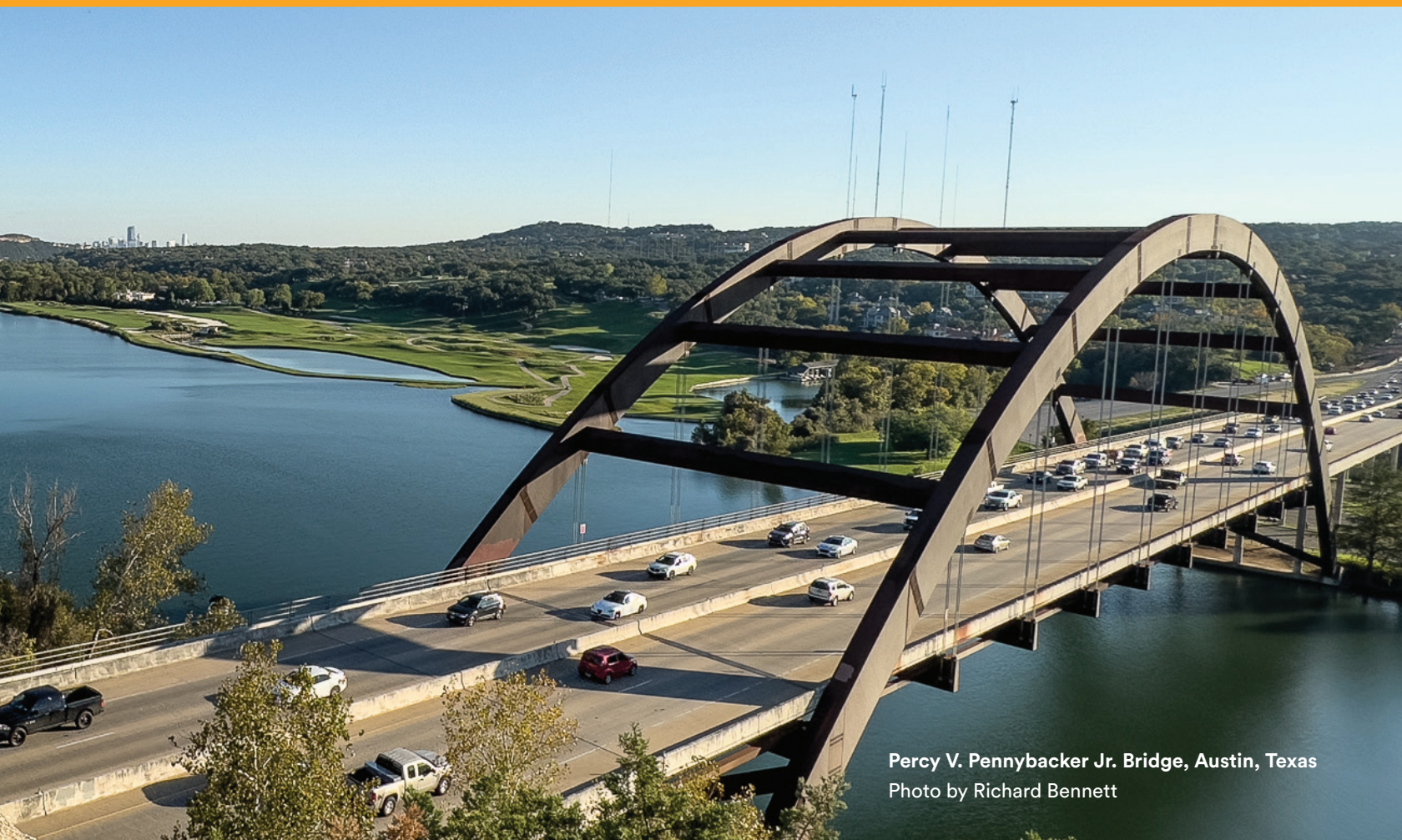


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



Percy V. Pennybacker Jr. Bridge, Austin, Texas
Photo by Richard Bennett

VOL. 18 NO. 38 ————— OCTOBER 15, 2025



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

The apostle Paul said, “pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ” (Colossians 4:3). Paul was always looking for open doors in ministry. He longed to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and help believers mature in their discipleship. So he kept his heart and eyes open to the people who were crossing his path. If we want to be a multiplying congregation, we must also adopt this mindset and pray for God to give us ministry opportunities each day.

I’d encourage you to ask two simple questions in your daily prayers. First, “Lord, who around me needs to know Jesus Christ?” We’ve established through our series that every Christian is a missionary with a mission field. So it is wise to pray for God to give us opportunities to witness. Second, I’d encourage you to pray, “Lord, who around me needs to grow in Jesus Christ?” We’ve learned God wants to mature each of us and has called us into ministry service. There are likely believers around you that need discipleship. You can be like Paul if you simply look for your Timothy.

Simple, faithful prayers and intentional actions lead to Kingdom multiplication. God wants you to live on mission for Him, so where are those open doors in your life? I hope to see you in church this weekend as we conclude our “Multiply” sermon series. This Sunday is also our Egypt Bible Tour interest meeting. If you are considering joining us for this trip of a lifetime, come meet me in the Chapel at 12:30pm (more info: austinbaptistchurch.com/Egypt). Invite a friend, and I look forward to worshipping with you at 8:45am or 11:15am.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER

SENIOR PASTOR





CURRENT SERIES

Missions Month: Multiply

How God Advances His Mission Through Us

DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 13, 2025



Tom Howell

512-413-5381



Billy Wright

512-468-0017

BILLY WRIGHT is a graduate of Baylor University and is a doctor of chiropractic medicine. Billy and Suzy are the proud parents of Tyler and Tanner. They joined ABC in 2022.

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025



**William, Lorena,
Javier & Michael Cenicerros**
along with son Edwin



**Jeff & Avery
Markim**



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all
that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you
always, to the end of the age.

MATTHEW 28:19-20

STAFF NEWS

OCTOBER 15, 2025

Church Family,

This past Sunday, we announced to our Student Ministry that **Addy Winters** will be our next Girls Ministry Associate! Addy has interned with us for two summers and has become a beloved member of the Student Ministry team in that time. Addy will start in December after she finishes this semester at Texas Tech. We are looking forward to her joining the team. Please join me and the rest of our staff in praying for Addy during this transition, as well as for God to use her mightily in the lives of our middle and high school girls!

CORBIN SMITH
STUDENT MINISTER



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Hello Church Family,

This month we celebrate two staff anniversaries. First, on October 16th, **Bill Browne** will celebrate his first anniversary on staff as our Technology Administrator. It has been a joy welcoming Bill to the team. He has done great work in building up our technical systems and security, and he continues to apply his expertise to improving existing systems. Bill brings a great attitude and work ethic to our team, and we're so glad that he is serving alongside us.



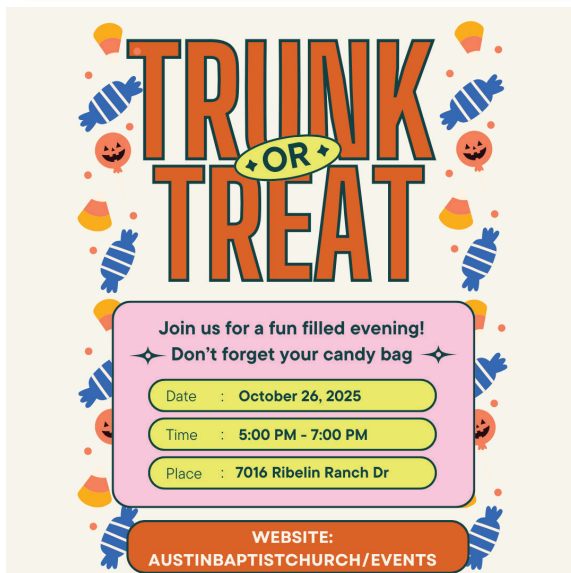
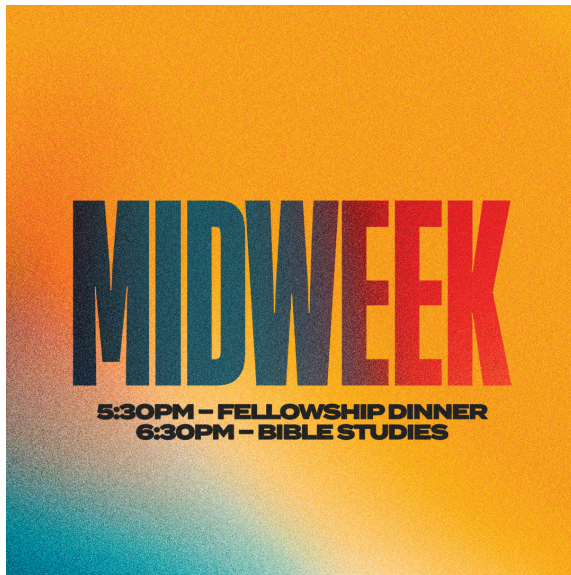
On October 21st, **Adam Mendez** will celebrate his 5th anniversary on our Facilities Staff. Adam is an excellent member of our team. He consistently finds ways to serve and build up the quality of our facilities. Not only that, but Adam serves with a cheerful attitude and in a way that shows he cares about what the Lord is doing through ABC. We're grateful to have him on our team!

As you have chance this week, please join me in thanking these wonderful men for their service to the Lord through ABC.

In Christ's Love,

DR. MATT GILLUM
EXECUTIVE PASTOR

UPCOMING EVENTS



For all event and weekly activity information, please visit
austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS

WEEKLY REMINDERS



MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
OCTOBER 22

COST: \$10 per person;
\$5 for kids' meal (12 & under)

Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes,
green beans, bread roll, and salad bar

Please note that Midweek dinner is served in the Café.
Seating for dinner is in The Great Hall until 6:30pm.



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

What a beautiful gift ABC gave our Embrace Grace mommas on their “Me” Day! This special day was designed to help these incredible women feel pampered, encouraged, and most importantly, deeply loved by Christ as they were “bestowed with a crown of beauty”—quite literally.

The day began with our mommas dropping off their little ones, giving them the rare gift of time just for themselves—free from responsibility and full of rest. They were greeted with delicious snacks, warm smiles, and heartfelt conversation before beginning their pampering journey. From shopping for baby items to getting their hair, nails, and makeup done, to enjoying relaxing massages, the day culminated in a radiant maternity photo shoot capturing their joy and beauty. None of this would have been possible without the incredible leadership of Kelsey Dramberger and the many women who served so generously through their gifts.

Here's a glimpse of the ABC women serving in their callings:

- **Kelsey Dramberger:** Leader, Organizer & Encourager
- **Julie Christianson:** Co-Leader, Organizer & Encourager
- **La Vetta Juniel:** Glamorous nails
- **Victoria Mann:** Glamorous nails
- **Michelle Kattawar:** Gentle massages
- **Carolyn Bourne:** Makeup artist
- **Pauline Hernandez:** Hair stylist
- **Carolyn Brown:** Handmade flower crowns
- **Gina Danks:** Set up, Boutique, Maternity Dresses & Encourager
- **Chloe Champagne:** Set up, Boutique & Encourager
- **Shannon Smith:** Boutique, Set up & Encourager
- **Connie Lundgren:** Set up & Gift Bags
- **Emily Ross:** Photographer, Set up & Encourager
- **Anakaren Moreno:** Childcare
- **Rachel Tovar:** Childcare
- **Bethany Spencer:** Childcare & Encourager
- **Allison D'Alfonso:** Childcare & Encourager

As I watched Kelsey gently place the flower crowns on each woman's head, I was reminded of Isaiah 61:3 which says: *“I will bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.”*

By the end of the day, these women stood taller, their hearts filled and their faces radiant—not just from outward beauty, but from the love of Christ shining within. Thank you, Austin Baptist Church, for making a lasting difference in the lives of these mommas and their babies.

Woven Together,
ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER

Embrace Grace “Me” Day
Sunday, October 12, 2025



WEEK IN REVIEW

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

During a local summer missions/ministry opportunity with another church, our young adults and their families went to a government-assisted housing area in East Austin in the late 90s. We led a Vacation Bible School for our kids and the kids from that neighborhood in the afternoon. Our church brought an extra large grill, a couple hundred burgers, tables, and chairs and hosted the whole community that evening. It was a great time of laughter and fun for everyone. When it was time to leave, we loaded up the trailer with everything we brought. Our facilities people had to leave early, so I was supposed to see that the church truck and trailer made it back to the church. However, the battery died on the truck from the church that was towing the trailer, and the battery also died on our friends' minivan, which was being used to jump it. As the sun went down we called roadside assistance, but they refused to come to that community after dark because of unfortunate incidents in the past. Our friend's van finally started, but the truck still would not. So, we sent our kids home with our friends in the minivan. No taxis would come to that area and definitely would not tow a trailer. My friend, and pastor of the church we had teamed up with, said, "I'll go home and get my truck, so we can get the trailer back to your church, and you can have the church truck towed in the morning." However, we were quite certain the trailer would not make it through the night in that parking lot. Those housing projects became a very different place after dark, crawling with questionable characters engaged in questionable activities. There were no more kids laughing and playing, no more grandmothers sitting outside in front of their doors smiling, no more happy burger-eating neighbors in the sunshine. As dusk approached, we began seeing more influence from the dark side. We began to see cars with blacked out windows slowly pull up, and shadowy figures walk up. As darkened car windows lowered slightly, money was handed in and small packages were handed out. It wasn't like Anita and I had a place to go hide, so we sat on the curb in our dress shorts, penny loafers, and polo shirts, just like fish out of water. There was no blending in or acting natural in those 50 minutes or so. As we sat, praying and waiting for our pastor friend to return and rescue us and the trailer, a van with blacked out windows slowly pulled up and stopped right in front of us. Anita and I looked at each other and said, "It's been fun, I love you, and at least our kids are with people that we love and trust." We both silently called on the name of Jesus. The front tinted window on the van slowly rolled down and inside we saw four police officers in full riot gear. They asked us, "What are you doing here? You have to get out of here!" We explained that we were stuck without a vehicle and we were waiting for a friend. These officers could not blow their cover, so they could not let us wait in their van. They told us to be careful and drove off. Finally, my friend came with his truck. I never asked him what kind of truck he had, but assumed it was a full-sized truck. He pulled up in a tiny, 15-year-old, stick-shift Datsun truck to tow our giant 2-ton trailer loaded with chairs, tables, and grills. He backed up to the trailer, but we discovered that the hitch ball was too small. So, I said I'll stand on the hitch to hold the trailer tongue down. This was NOT a good idea, but it was the only choice we had. Anita got in the cab with my friend, and I rode that hitch for 10 miles across town like a street surfer. We slowly drove through the city streets with sparks flying from under my feet with every bump. When we finally made it to the church, my hands were frozen to the tailgate because I had clinched it so tightly. That night when we made it home to our kids, we laughed, thanking God for all His grace.

This trailer surfing rescue from our ministry adventure reminds me that we have all been rescued from darkness into God's marvelous Light by Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul was trying to remind the believers in the Ephesian church that they belonged to Jesus, that their lives were rescued, and that they needed to act like the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. He says, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8 NIV). Paul says, "You were once darkness," NOT you were once IN darkness. Without Jesus, there is no light in us because of our sin. When we don't belong to the Light, we belong to the darkness and do dark things. But when we belong to Jesus, we act like Him.

Hang in there people! God is glad to be with us! I'm praying for us all!

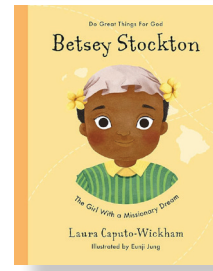
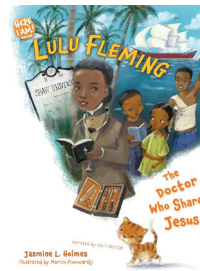
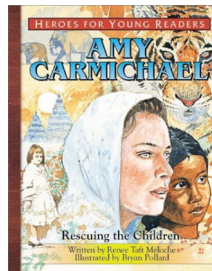
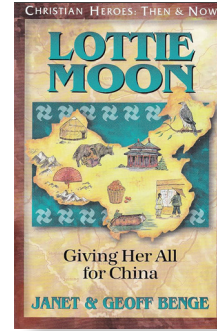
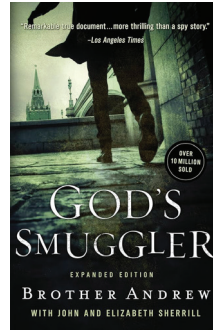
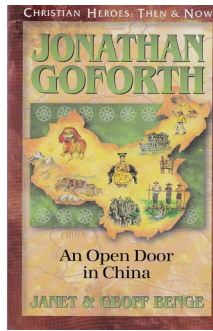
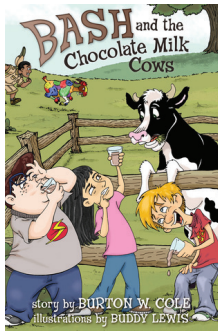
In His Joy,
BILL MCGINNIS
PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library

The ABC Library has all sorts of books on missions and missionaries for children and young adults. Some examples of those books are shown below.



CONTACT: Rita Ervin

Email library@austinbaptistchurch.com

or visit us online at austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY

LIBRARY HOURS

SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM

WEDNESDAYS - 5:00PM-7:30PM

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM: austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS: austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG

ABC PODCASTS: austinbaptistchurch.com/PODCASTS

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE10.12.2025

8:45 AM WORSHIP		617
11:15 AM WORSHIP		318
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		758

FINANCIAL REPORT10.12.2025

ACCOUNT	OCT. 05, 2025	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$103,068.91	\$4,222,835.92
DESIGNATED	\$1,670.00	\$122,522.40
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$289,795.00	\$1,904,798.87
TOTAL GIVING	\$394,533.91	\$6,250,157.19

JOIN US SUNDAY FOR WORSHIP!

8:45 AM | Choir-led Worship
10:00 AM | Bible Fellowship Groups
11:15 AM | Band-led Worship

HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED PRAYER?

CONTACT US!

ABC CHURCH OFFICE

Call **512.491.9600** or visit **austinbaptistchurch.com/TEAM**

ABC PRAYER TEAM

Email Bill McGinnis at **billm@austinbaptistchurch.com**

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- **EMAIL:** **mariahp@austinbaptistchurch.com**
- **CALL:** **512.334.8247**

Please submit articles and items for The Bridge by the Friday BEFORE publication.



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