The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

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AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH

A WORD FROM **OUR PASTOR**

ABC Family,

This week we will press on to week four of our ***ADVANCE*** series. So far, we have seen God's invitation for us to discover Him through His word, develop us as disciples, and this week we will see He wants to deploy us on mission for Him.

God has a mission for you. Every believer has a God-ordained purpose for their lives. The Christian life becomes so much more meaningful when we start to understand that and walk in the good works He has planned for us. What would it look like for you to be deployed in 2027? Where could you serve our church body? What person could you reach outside of our church walls?

This Sunday, we will have volunteers in the Lobby to help you find a place to serve here at ABC. With our new upcoming schedule change, we have many tangible needs for servant leaders. I hope you will be deployed into ministry service and use your gifts with us.

Don't forget, you can still pre-purchase your Jesus Daily Bible (QR code inside this newsletter) where you can purchase bibles that morning as well.

I look forward to seeing you on Lord's Supper Sunday. Let's ***ADVANCE*** forward together in our faith and our mission in 2027. I'll see you at 8:45am or 11:15am this Sunday.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER
SENIOR PASTOR





UPCOMING SERIES

Advance 2027

Looking forward to what's ahead

WEEKLY SERMON CONTENT

Follow us in the YouVersion Bible App and get weekly sermon notes to follow along with every Sunday!

DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 19, 2026



Hank Anaway

512-497-7395



Doug Sommerdorf

512-517-2376

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026



Leigh McKinney

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Avery Jane Goodwin

Born: October 12, 2026

Proud Parents: Alex & Hailee Goodwin

Siblings: Elizabeth

Proud Grandparents: Bryan & Amy Goodwin

UPCOMING EVENTS









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

WEEKLY REMINDERS













MIDWEEK **MENU**

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
OCTOBER 28

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

Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, corn, and salad bar

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



PACK A SHOEBOX!

IT'S TIME TO PACK CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES!
Operation Christmas Child is a mission of Samaritan's Purse. Their goal is "to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world" by sending gift-filled shoeboxes, along with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

WAYS TO PACK A SHOEBOX
The easiest way to pack a box is to click THIS LINK and pack a shoebox online.

If you like packing a shoebox the old-fashioned way, pick up a box and return it filled to ABC no later than Sunday, November 22nd, at 11am. Boxes are located outside the Worship Center, next to the Skylight Room, in the Children's wing, and in your BFG classroom.

WHAT TO INCLUDE
If you have not packed a shoebox in the past, consider packing one this year. To see what items can be included*, visit www.samaritanspurse.com/OCC.

*Please note: soap and toothpaste are no longer allowed in shoeboxes.

WALL OF HONOR

NOVEMBER 8, 2026

At Austin Baptist Church, we honor veterans for their service every Veteran's Day with our Wall of Honor. Please fill out **this form** to recognize a veteran or current service member on the Wall of Honor on Veteran's Sunday, November 8th.

Please attach a service photo to the form. If you encounter difficulties, please email the photo to Christina Reese at ***christinar@austinbaptistchurch.com.***

Please Note: If you submitted your veteran or current service member last year, you do not need to resubmit.

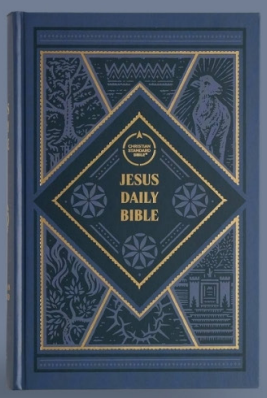
ADVANCE

PRAYER THEME FOR THE WEEK

Pray that God would call and *DEVELOP* many into leadership roles as we *ADVANCE* in 2027.

PSALM 37:4-5

ADVANCE
AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



PRE-ORDER
YOUR JESUS DAILY BIBLE

Read it on:

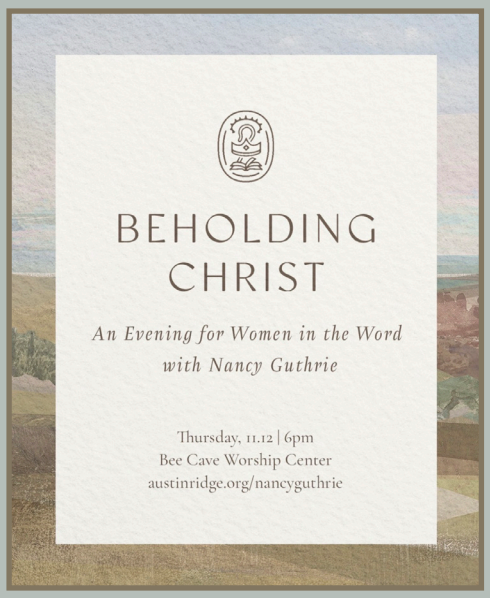
- KINDLE
- NOOK
- BROWSER

PURCHASE HERE

Pick up your copy beginning
Sunday, October 25th

ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE



REGISTER HERE

After you register, please email ***anitam@austinbaptistchurch.com***, so we know who to expect.

Hello ladies!

We have a special invitation to join **Austin Ridge for Beholding Christ: An Evening for Women in the Word** with Nancy Guthrie on Thursday, November 12!

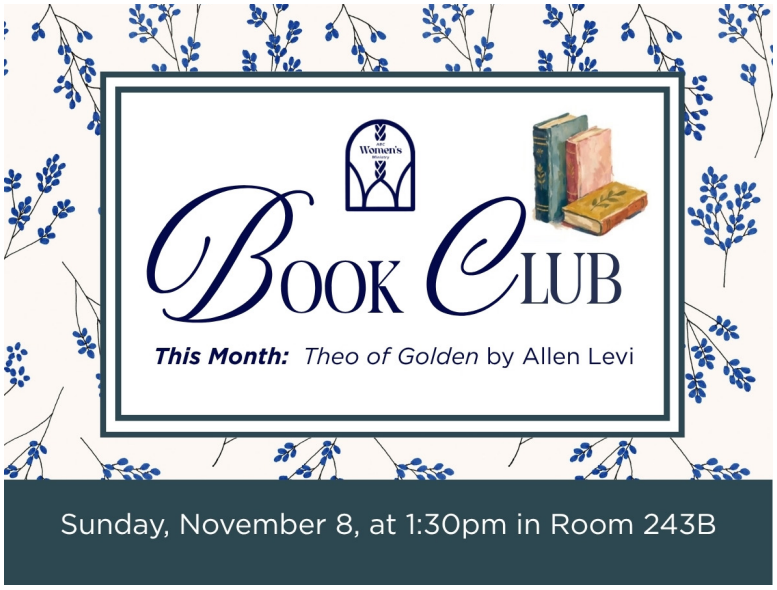
Event Details

- ABC Carpool: Leaving ABC at 5:30 p.m., or you can meet us there!
- Pie and coffee: 6:00–7:00 p.m.
- Program: 7:00–8:30 p.m.
- Location: Austin Ridge

Nancy Guthrie is a trusted Bible teacher and author who helps women understand Scripture and see Christ at the center of the Bible's story. During the evening, Nancy will show us how the whole story of Scripture points to the day we will see Christ face-to-face, and how we can behold His beauty now through His Word. Together, we'll worship, learn, and be reminded that the story of Scripture and the story of our lives are ultimately about Jesus.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to gather with women, grow in your love for God's Word, and deepen your awe of Christ!

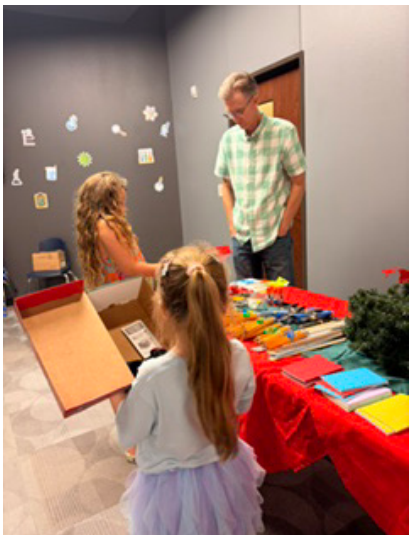




Operation Christmas Child: Packing Party

October 14, 2026










WEEK IN REVIEW

WEEK IN REVIEW

Upward Sports
Saturday Game Day
October 17, 2026















From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

Repentance, revival, and worship on Halloween? As a kid I remember dressing up in costumes to go door to door to ask people for candy, i.e. "trick or treating." Usually the night ended with my sister and I in a glycemic spike and fighting over which candy bar was whose. After the candy was dumped on the living room floor to be "inspected" by my mother - who typically took a "candy tax" for the inspection service - my candy often got mixed together with my sister's, resulting in a shouting match and candy thrown around the room when the best candy was quickly opened and consumed before either of us agreed on whom it belonged to. There were "good" candy bars like Snickers and Reese's and there was some other "candy" that was not as good. The not-so-good got put in the "save for later" bag that usually got hidden under the bed for desperate moments in life that needed to be medicated with large amounts of sugar. This was a time when Halloween seemed fun, innocent, and sweet, although the over-indulgent excesses led to bad over-sugared behavior.

The name Halloween actually means "holy evening." It was the night before All Saints Day, or Allhallowtide, in the Christian calendar. It was a major feast day that began with a night-time vigil of prayer and preparation, honoring all known and unknown saints in heaven. From there the pagans took it over and those with ill-intentioned made it about ghosts, witchcraft, and the undead. Who knew though that the idea of dressing up on October 31st came originally from a revival that happened in the Old Testament after God's people had returned from exile to rebuild Jerusalem. Nehemiah 9:1-6 NLT says, *"On the twenty-fourth day of that same month, the seventh month* [of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, this day was October 31, 445 B.C] *the people assembled again, and this time they fasted and dressed in burlap and sprinkled dust on their heads. Those of Israelite descent separated themselves from all foreigners as they confessed their own sins and the sins of their ancestors. They remained standing in place for three hours while the Book of the Law of the LORD their God was read aloud to them. Then for three more hours they confessed their sins and worshiped the LORD their God. The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Kenani—stood on the stairway of the Levites and cried out to the LORD their God with loud voices. Then the leaders of the Levites—Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah—called out to the people: "Stand up and praise the LORD your God, for he lives from everlasting to everlasting!" Then they prayed: "May your glorious name be praised! May it be exalted above all blessing and praise! You alone are the LORD. You made the skies and the heavens and all the stars. You made the earth and the seas and everything in them. You preserve them all, and the angels of heaven worship you."*



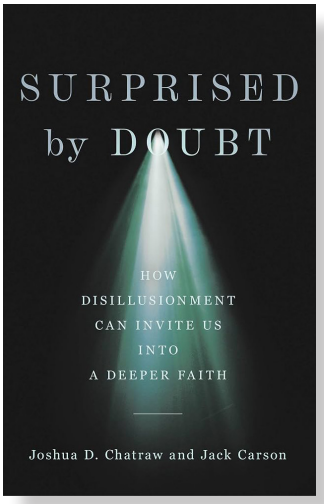
So next week for Allhallowtide, maybe take some time to reflect, refresh and revive your faith. Hang in there people. God is glad to be with us. I'm praying for us all.

In His Joy,

BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE

ABC Library



Surprised by Doubt: How Disillusionment Can Invite Us Into a Deeper Faith by Joshua D. Chatraw and Jack Carsen

The highlighted book this week is ***Surprised by Doubt: How Disillusionment Can Invite Us Into A Deeper Faith*** by Joshua D. Chatraw and Jack Carsen. Chatraw earned a PhD at Southeastern Theological Seminary. He has pastored several Baptist churches in Virginia and Georgia. Chatraw has been the Billy Graham Chair for Evangelism and Cultural Engagement at Beeson Divinity School since 2003. He has authored and co-authored several books. Jack Carson is a PhD candidate at University of Aberdeen. He also serves as the theologian in residence and the Executive Director of Center for Public Christianity at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.

In the Preface of ***Surprised by Doubt***, Josh Chatraw says that it may surprise some people that even theologians and apologists still have doubts. He says, "Doubt doesn't have to incapacitate your faith." This book does not try to answer all of your questions but hopes, "…you will find ways of thinking differently, practices to engage in, and better questions to attend to- with the aim of trying on what C.S. Lewis described as the reality of Christ." This book is built, "… on C. S. Lewis' metaphor that Christianity is a house with many rooms…", which is found in Lewis's book ***Mere Christianity***. ***Surprised by Doubt*** is written in three parts: Part 1: The Attic, Part 2: Outside the House, and Part 3: The Main Floor. Some Christians are stuck in the attic and are considering jumping out of the attic or leaving the faith because of their doubts. The authors warn readers that jumping out of the attic, leaving the faith, can trade one set of problems for an even worse set of problems on the outside. Readers are encouraged to come to the main floor, the "load-bearing walls" and explore the historical evidence of the resurrection and the credibility of Jesus before jumping out of the faith. This book is good for believers, skeptics, and seekers.

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

OUR RESPONSE TO **GOD'S FAITHFULNESS**

ATTENDANCE — 10.18.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP	**562**
11:15 AM WORSHIP	**375**
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	**782**

FINANCIAL REPORT — 10.18.2026

ACCOUNT	OCT. 18, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND *(GENERAL)*	**$54,655.07**	**$3,867,509.23**
DESIGNATED		**$182,063.46**
LIGHT THE WAY - *COMBINED*		**$729,608.68**
TOTAL GIVING	**$57,940.07**	**$7,789,462.37**

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**

FOR PUBLICATION CONSIDERATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Mariah Parker, Director of Communications

- **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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