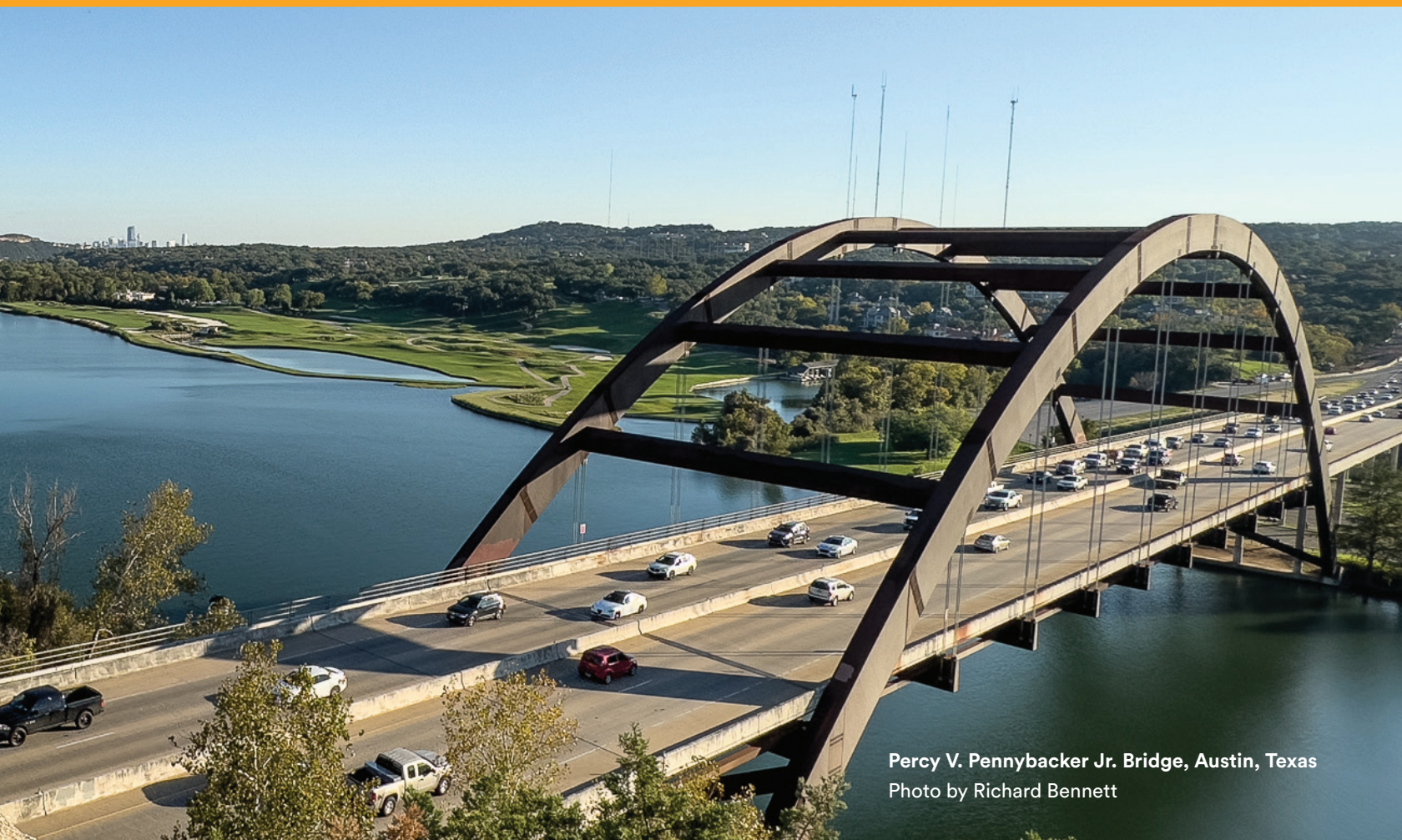


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 18 NO. 39 ————— OCTOBER 22, 2025



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

This Sunday, we will distribute our updated financial report in preparation for the 2026 budget year. Church vote for this proposed budget will take place on **Sunday, November 9th**. Inside this year's report you will find highlights of what God has done through the ministry and mission of ABC this year. You will also be able to review the proposed 2026 Budget and understand how your tithes and offerings will be stewarded in this upcoming year.

I am so excited that this 2026 proposed budget is the first debt-free budget in church history! Jesus is going to advance the Great Commission through ABC at a new level, as resources are now reallocated to maximize ministry impact. Accordingly, we are renaming our General Fund, the *Great Commission Fund* this year. This name change gives clarity to the purpose behind our General Fund giving and spending.

Why do we spend money in our budget on facilities? So we can have a beautiful place to gather and make disciples. Why do we budget significant funds for children and youth? So we can make disciples in the next generation. Why do we spend money on personnel? So our staff can equip the saints to go and make disciples. Why do we spend money on outreach events? So we can reach our community to make new disciples. Why do we give away 10% of our contributions to missions? So we can obey Jesus by making disciples of all nations.

I am excited to see how God will advance the Great Commission forward through us as we partner together in our general fund giving. Thank you for your faithfulness, and join me in praying for God's blessing over our church as we enter this debt-free, fiscal year. I also encourage you to join me in praying for our guest speaker, Pastor Bryant Wright. As mentioned on Sunday, I am looking forward to hosting one of my mentors this Sunday at ABC.

Bryant is the founding pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Georgia, where he led the church to grow to over 7,000 members during his 38-year pastorate. During that time, he served as the President of the Southern Baptist Convention from 2010-2012. He most recently served as the inaugural President of Send Relief, the compassion ministries arm of the SBC. In his retirement years, Bryant is mentoring young pastors and continuing his broadcast preaching ministry, Right From The Heart Ministries. I know we will all be blessed by his message this Sunday, so please join me at the 8:45am or 11:15am service to give Bryant a warm Austin, Texas welcome.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER

SENIOR PASTOR





THIS SUNDAY **GUEST SPEAKER**

Bryant Wright

- Former Senior Pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, Marietta, GA
- Former President of the SBC
- Former President of NAMB Send Relief
- Founder of *Right From The Heart* Ministries

DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 20, 2025



Jake Ross

214-802-7927

JAKE ROSS is a proud member of the Fightin' Texas Aggies class of 2011. He works in project management in the video game industry. Jake and Emily have a son, Maclin, and two daughters, Adelaide and Vignette. They serve on the Rooted BFG leadership team. They have been members of ABC since 2014.



Bill Hill

512-342-8002

DORMAN (BILL) HILL earned a B.S. degree in mathematics from West Texas State University. He served in the Air Force from 1963-1967. He retired in 2008 from a career in semiconductor manufacturing. He and Jo are the proud parents of David and Tracie and have six grandchildren. They joined ABC in 2011.

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025



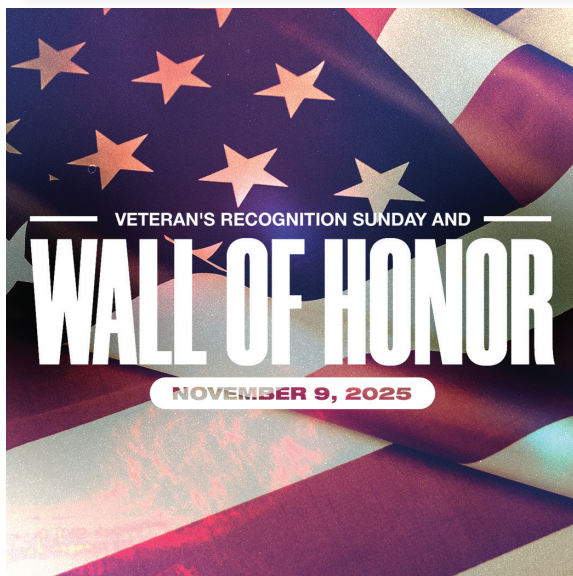
**DeWayne & Denece
Hodges**



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

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

WEEKLY REMINDERS



MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
OCTOBER 29

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

Pork chop, baked sweet potatoes,
mac 'n' cheese, 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.

November 9th-16th, we will honor veterans and active-duty service members. We will have a special time of prayer and recognition in both Sunday services on the 9th. ABC's Wall of Honor will display photos of these individuals in the lobby.

If you or a loved one has served in the United States Military, you may submit an entry to display on the wall.
Please fill out this form by Friday, November 7th, at 3pm to recognize a veteran or current service member.

PLEASE NOTE: If you submitted an entry last year, you **do not** have to resubmit your entry **unless** you have updates or another entry you'd like to include. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to **Christina Reese** at christinar@austinbaptistchurch.com.



SCAN/CLICK HERE TO
SUBMIT YOUR VETERAN OR
SERVICE MEMBER

VETERAN'S RECOGNITION SUNDAY AND
WALL OF HONOR
NOVEMBER 9, 2025



Austin Baptist Church will be hosting the
THE COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY

Classics & Hymns Spring Tour
THUR // FEB 26, 2026 // 7:00 PM

BUY TICKETS HERE

thecollingsworthfamily.com
1-800-965-9324
(fees may apply)



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE



SWEET SUNDAY | GREAT HALL, NOVEMBER 2ND

Sweet Sunday is coming up on November 2nd from 4-6pm in the Great Hall, and it's one you don't want to miss!

Think fall and holiday vibes walking down the runway — complete with cider, and fall treats, This is your time to sit back, relax, and be immersed in the upcoming holiday season. No sign-up needed — just come, and bring a friend.

If you've never been to a Sweet Sunday, this is the perfect one to stop by and check out. It truly is a sweet time with women of all ages, stages, and phases sharing in fellowship, food, and fun, all tied up with a word from God's Word. You can't help but meet new people, be encouraged, and laugh a lot! Seriously, there's a lot of laughing happening on a Sweet Sunday.

WOMEN'S RETREAT | MADE FOR FRIENDSHIP

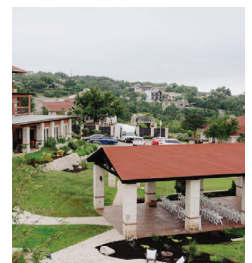
Registration is now *open* for our Women's Retreat – “Woven: Made for Friendship” on February 6–7, 2026!

We'll be staying just 10 minutes from the church at Vintage Villas, but you'll feel as if you've slipped away to a Tuscan villa by the lake. You'll enjoy beautiful, hotel-style rooms, delicious meals, engaging teaching, and time to rest and connect.

The registrations have been coming in quickly, so register [HERE](#) to ensure you get your preferred room style.

If you would like to contribute towards Women's Ministry scholarships, please contact anitam@austinbaptistchurch.com or click [HERE](#).

Woven Together,
ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

Parenting Safari! As our family grew, I lost any of the “coolness” that I ever thought I had. As more bundles of joy began blessing our home, the first thing to go was the sporty SUV. We needed something much more practical, so we got a minivan. We started with two old Chrysler vans with wood panel decals, then moved on to a GMC Safari. The van had three rows of “don’t make me come back there” seating for eight. It was “so not cool,” but we discovered that the minivan was a great place to disciple our kids. It was like a little family church on wheels. They were captive in car seats, they had no control over the audio, and it was the first place Mom and Dad could help them process what happened at school, sports practice, or a friend’s house. With four kids, we were always going somewhere: school, soccer, dance, swim, church, and long trips to see the relatives. We began with an opening prayer for a “hedge of protection” around our vehicle. As you can imagine, these preacher’s kids also had to listen to Bible Songs, Kids’ Praise music, and every episode of Veggie Tales. (And if you turned it up loud enough it would drown out even the most obnoxious whining). When it was a good day, we thanked the Lord for His amazing love and grace. When it was a bad day, conversations were steered toward God’s amazing love and forgiveness. When there were challenges to be faced the next day with a tough assignment or a difficult classmate, the discussion turned toward a Biblical life lesson on hanging in there or treating people like we would want to be treated. When an ambulance came by, we prayed for anyone who was hurt. The kids learned some scripture and godly values as they rode around. But don’t get the wrong impression, just like most “churches,” we also had our share of dysfunctional behavior in that van. Short-tempered parents spewing angry outbursts at kids who were doing the best they could at the moment. Selfish choices to not share the snack or say something nice. Sippy-cups thrown at siblings. Stopping at every other exit on a two-hour trip, because, despite the warnings, at least one of them didn’t use the restroom at the last stop. We definitely weren’t the most emotionally or spiritually healthy van on the road; however, by God’s grace, He used it to help disciple all of us. We were learning to share Cheetos in that van, to respect each other, and wait our turn to talk. We also had a lot of joy in that van, too. We sang together (though we certainly were not the Von Trapp family), and we often got to hear the latest joke or funny incident at school. Perhaps some of the most important discipling came during middle school carpools. Once, my wife had a daily 45-minute commute each way to the gym with seven middle school cheerleaders. My wife would sit, listen, and gently steer the conversation back to something more healthy when the language or topic took a turn for the worse. She was not sure what kind of impact her driver’s seat discipling made on these girls from various family backgrounds. But when one of them broke her elbow trying to do a handspring, they all ran straight to my wife asking for prayer and looking to her for support. Maybe that rolling Bible-to-life-lesson classroom in the uncool van did make a difference.

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 (NIV): Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you go along the road.

In His Joy,

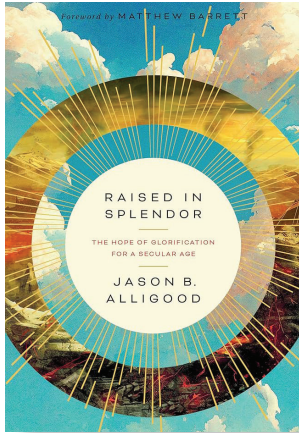
BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



Raised in Splendor: The Hope of Glorification for a Secular Age by Jason B. Alligood

Jason B. Alligood graduated from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with a PhD in Systematic Theology. He also attended Calvary Theological Seminary and Moody Bible Institute. He has been on the faculty of Cedarville University as an Assistant Professor of Theology since the fall of 2024. Alligood has also taught as an adjunct professor at various institutions and seminaries for over a decade and has served in various pastoral positions for 27 years. His last position was as the teaching pastor at Fellowship Bible Church in Peoria, Illinois.

Raised in Splendor is a rare book in that it focuses on our future glory in a world where large numbers of books are written about theology. Most Christians know the terms justification, sanctification, and glorification because these three terms are inseparable. In this book, Alligood helps you to understand how justification, sanctification, and glorification are related. Alligood defines glorification as: “the final stage of the triune God’s overarching work of salvation in believers in which He fully conforms them to the image of the glorified human nature of the Son and by which they will be totally free from sin and its effects.” Alligood discusses hope on two fronts: “...God does what he does for us for the sake of His name and glory,” and, “The Biblical idea of hope is centered around God’s glory and His promises...” This book is about hope for our future, but he also wants you to see “what benefit glorification is in your life today as you await its fulfillment.”

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

ATTENDANCE10.19.2025

8:45 AM WORSHIP		573
11:15 AM WORSHIP		344
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		747

FINANCIAL REPORT10.19.2025

ACCOUNT	OCT. 19, 2025	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$53,319.12	\$4,276,155.04
DESIGNATED	\$911.00	\$123,433.40
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$81,168.60	\$1,985,967.47
TOTAL GIVING	\$135,398.72	\$6,385,555.91

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:

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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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