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,

I hope you made the commitment to ***ADVANCE*** in your faith and mission in 2027! If you were unable to buy your *Jesus Daily* Bible, we will continue to have them for sale in the lobby. I encourage you to purchase a Bible, join a BFG, and find a service team. God is going to do a transformational work in our lives through this discipleship journey. Who can you invite to come be a part of the journey at ABC?

As a word of reminder, get out and vote! Early voting continues this week as we come closer to the November 3rd election day. I wrote an extended blog last week on why it is important for Christians to vote. I'd encourage you to read it and share it on your social media if you find it to be helpful. You can find the content **HERE**.

As you know, I'll be heading to Thailand on Saturday with a great team from our church. Pray for our travel and our effectiveness in ministry. While I am out, you will be well taken care of by our staff. Nathan Wood will kick off a new sermon series this Sunday. This month we will study the fruit of the spirit to prepare our hearts for this upcoming holiday season. Thank you for your prayers, and I look forward to seeing you when we return.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER
SENIOR PASTOR





UPCOMING SERIES

The Fruitful Life

A study of the Fruit of the Spirit

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 26, 2026



Alex Davis
512-599-0963



John Landwermeyer
512-819-8468

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026



Bill Castagna



Luke Reynard



Noah Hightower

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Matthew Brooks Arterbury

Born: October 17, 2026

Proud Parents: Tim & McKenna Arterbury

Sibling: Benjamin

UPCOMING EVENTS









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

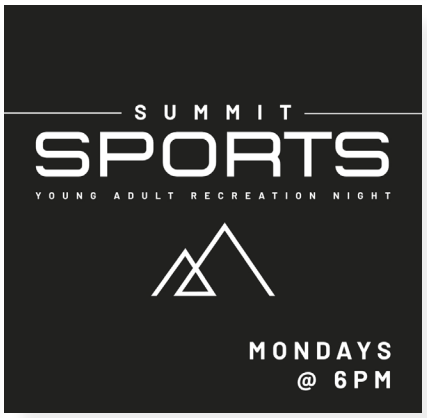
WEEKLY REMINDERS











MIDWEEK **MENU**

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
NOVEMBER 4

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

Cheeseburgers, French fries,
and onion rings

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

Egypt Mission Trip Recap

October 18-26, 2027

Dear Church Family,

This past week ABC sent a group of 13 incredible volunteers to serve alongside our partners at tC Egypt. As you'll see in the pictures, God worked through our team in so many ways throughout the week. We served 500+ patients through the medical clinic, led a discipleship conference for over 40 volunteer small group leaders from all across Egypt, and had the opportunity to preach at a small church in north-central Cairo and at the Recovery Church at tC Cairo. Our team also led multiple Work and Faith seminars that reached well over 100 people, hosted multiple Women's Ministry events in Fayoum serving dozens of women, and served alongside the teams at the Recovery Houses in Cairo. I'm incredibly proud of our team as they served in the Name of Jesus. Through their service, they helped strengthen the reputation of our partners' ministry in their local communities and contributed to the continued advancement of God's Kingdom. We hope you'll consider joining us on a future trip as we seek with Jesus to "light up our world."

In Christ's Love,

DR. MATT GILLUM
EXECUTIVE PASTOR









ADVANCE

PRAYER THEME FOR THE WEEK

Praise for an overwhelming response of commitment to *ADVANCE* this past Sunday!

Continue to pray for the *new leaders* stepping up in 2027!

EPHESIANS 3:20

ADVANCE
AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUNK OR TREAT

Candy Collection

COMPETITION WINNERS

ADULT BFG: ACTS (112 lbs)

YOUTH BFG: 10th Grade (17 lbs)

Congratualtions to the winners and thank you everyone who donated for being a part of what made Trunk or Treat so sweet!

ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Hello Ladies!

As fall settles in, we have some fresh opportunities for women to connect with one another, grow in God's Word, and see how God is at work—both here at ABC and around the world! These are easy ways to get connected, and we'd love for you to bring a friend along.

1. Thailand Mission Trip Update Wednesday, November 4 | 6:30 p.m. | Room 243 A/B

Come hear from our Thailand mission team as they share stories from their October trip, the ways they saw God at work, and how ABC partners with the International Mission Board to share the gospel around the world. It's a wonderful opportunity to see how your prayers and generosity are making a difference!

2. ABC Women's Book Club - Sunday, November 8 | 1:30 p.m. | Room 243B

Our very first Book Club is here! We'll be discussing ***Theo of Golden*** by Allen Levi. Whether you love to read or simply enjoy good conversation, you're welcome to join us. Come ready to connect over a good book and enjoy a little time together! (A Zoom option will also be available for those who can't attend in person. If you would like to be a part of the Zoom, please email Virginia Kreimeyer at ***vkreimeyer@gmail.com***).

3. Beholding Christ: An Evening for Women in the Word with Nancy Guthrie - Thursday, November 12 | Austin Ridge, Bee Cave Campus

We have a special invitation to join Austin Ridge for an evening of teaching with trusted Bible teacher and author Nancy Guthrie. Nancy helps women understand Scripture and see how the whole story of the Bible points to Jesus Christ.

Pie and coffee: 6:00–7:00 p.m.

Program: 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Location: Austin Ridge, Bee Cave Campus

ABC Carpool: Leaving ABC at 5:30pm, or meet us there!

Cost: $12 per person. Click **HERE** to register!

After registering, please email me at **anitam@austinbaptistchurch.com** so I know who to expect and can coordinate our ABC group.

I hope you'll find one, or several, of these opportunities to jump into the story with us! Whether you're looking to grow in your faith, meet new friends, explore a good book, or hear how God is working around the world, there's a place for you. Come as you are, bring a friend, and find your place in the story!

With joy!

ANITA MCGINNIS

WOMEN'S MINISTER

Trunk or Treat

October 25, 2026



1st Place Trunk: Mario Kart
The Ullriches, Tungs, and Pevetos



2nd Place Trunk: Chick-Fil-A
6th Grade BFG



3rd Place Trunk: Minions
The Kellogg Family



Best Trunk Theme: Cat Lady
Erin Simmons

















WEEK IN REVIEW

Egypt Mission Trip

October 18-26, 2026



















From the Pages of Bill's Notebook



Remembering my first spiritual memory. It is vague but goes something like this: I was preschool age going to my Baptist church on a Wednesday Night. The kids wore their Halloween costumes that night because it was Halloween week. Some wore their bathrobes and were Biblical figures like Joseph, Mary, Moses, etc. One may have even had a John the Baptist outfit made of a burlap potato bag. Unfortunately, the outfit I wore that night was a Biblical figure too, but it was a Little Red Devil suit, complete with a plastic pitchfork. Mrs. Borge, the preschool teacher that night, was a little concerned about a kid who would wear a devil's suit to church. So, in a very simple way, Mrs. Borge told us about how much Jesus loves us and how He wants us to belong to Him. I thought that sounded good, because, in spite of my attire, belonging to the devil sounded pretty scary. Fast forward a few years to age 10; I decided that I wanted to let my church know that I belonged to Jesus. I was baptized and did my best to do what I thought Jesus would want me to do. Fast forward a few more years to a mission trip in my teen years and I felt like God was calling me to be a minister of His Good News. I initially accepted, but then slowly, started rejecting that call. I plunged headlong into rebellion against what I knew to be right and good for the next several years, though I still attended church. I loved myself much more than I loved God or anyone else. Finally, God got my attention one day while I was sitting alone reading the Bible, reflecting on the moral bankruptcy of my life and the ways I had mistreated so many people, even some who loved me a lot. God spoke to me inaudibly. He said, "Bill, you are my child and I am your Father, you belong to Me, but you are acting like a child of the Devil." I wept and began a journey of repentance. God began to disciple me, reminding me how those who really belong to Him act and don't act, think and don't think, speak and don't speak. I eventually accepted His call on my life to serve Him in full-time ministry; I went to Seminary and began to serve Him as a pastor. Sometimes I still need to be reminded how God's children act.

Jesus once warned those who were against Him but claimed to belong to God, the Father saying, *"If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God... You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires... there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies...Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God"* (John 8:42, 44, 47 NIV). If for some reason we don't hear God speaking to our heart, we may need to examine whether we are really one of His. Sometimes, though, we just behave like we have forgotten that we belong to God and we behave like we did when we belonged to the Devil. Listen for God's voice to remind you Who you really belong to and how His kids act.

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



But What Do I Wear?: The Biblical Story of Clothing
by Caroline Saunders

Caroline Saunders has written children's books and teen and women's Bible study books. She helped start a local ministry for women called Story & Soul. Saunders is a pastor's wife and has three children. From her website, "Caroline [Saunders] loves to use wit and wisdom to help women, teen girls, and kids know and love God and His Word. You'll notice that she's serious about Jesus and unserious about almost everything else."

For most women, clothes can take up a lot of our time, thoughts, and money. Clothes can also be related to a lot of our memories. This is not a book with a list of rules for clothing but how to think about getting dressed. Saunders begins ***But What Do I Wear?*** by explaining why she wrote the book. Throughout the book she tells, "approximately seventeen stories I may regret telling." The first story is a funny one about the time she wore a denim jumpsuit with purple clogs while speaking to some middle and high school girls. This first story introduces the reader to Saunders's sense of humor. The book is written in four sections: Section 1 - *The Beginning*, Section 2 - *The Spiritually Naked and Ashamed and the God Who Covers*, Section - 3 *The Ultimate Uncovering*, and Section - 4 *The Unveiling*. Before these sections is a chart with two columns: *The Exposure* (a call to worship) and *The Covering Truth* (a call to wear it, walk in truth) that pairs the chapters to different types of character exposures or flaws. Saunders, "traces the larger themes of clothing and covering throughout the Scripture, from Genisis to Revelation – from the fig leaves to the righteous robes – she invites women to see the bigger story and approach with biblical clarity, practical confidence, and a deeper understanding of what it means to be clothed in Christ."

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	10.25.2026
8:45 AM WORSHIP	528
11:15 AM WORSHIP	362
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	722

FINANCIAL REPORT	10.25.2026	
ACCOUNT	OCT. 25, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND *(GENERAL)*	$49,048.44	$3,916,557.67
DESIGNATED		$183,113.46
TOTAL GIVING	$51,244.44	$4,840,706.81

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

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