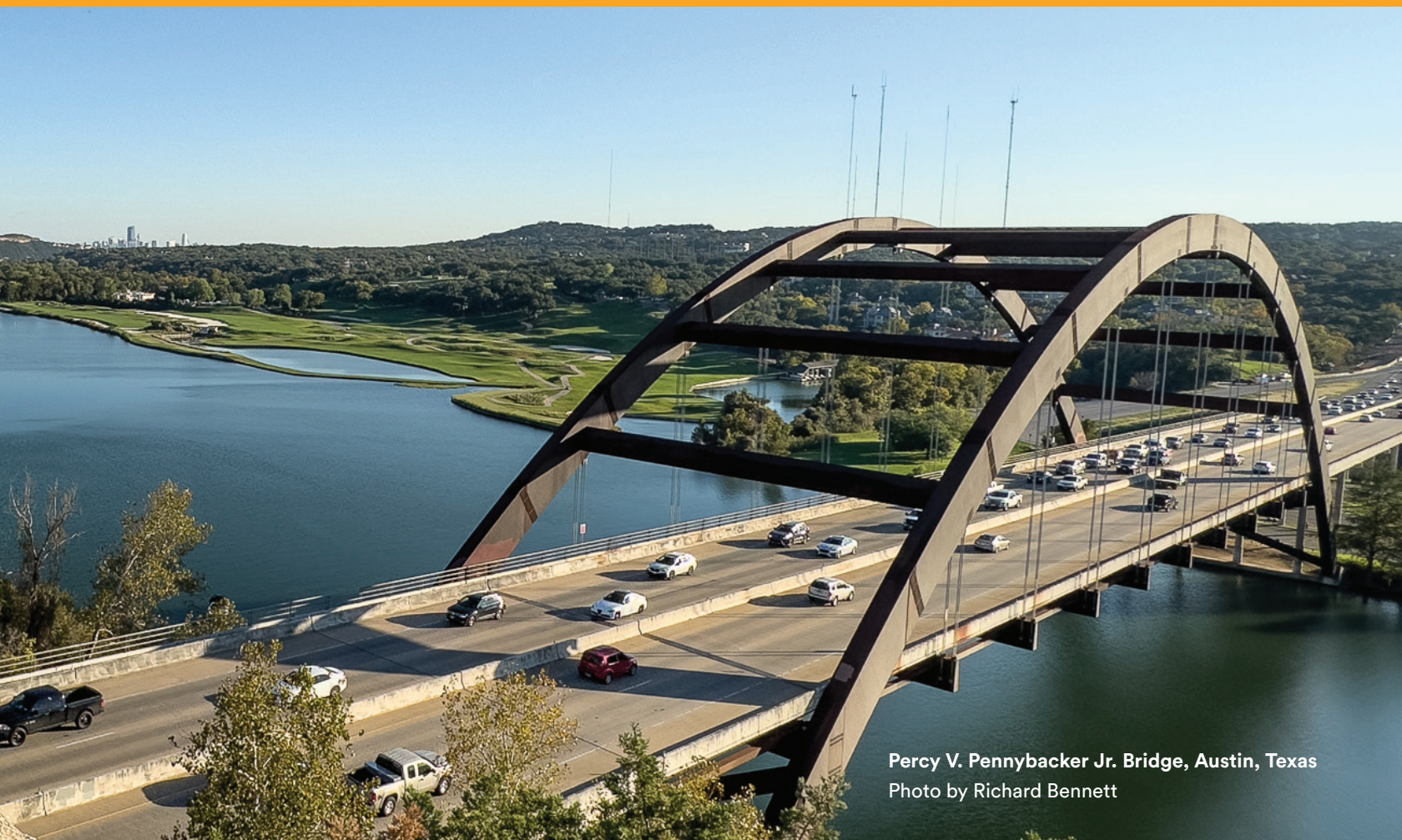


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 18 NO. 40 ————— OCTOBER 29, 2025



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

TABLE of CONTENTS

A Word from Our Pastor	3
Deacons on Call	4
New Members	5
Upcoming Events	6
Weekly Reminders	7
Proposed 2026 Budget	8
Wall of Honor Submission Form	9
Operation Christmas Child	9
ABC Women's Ministry	10
Week in Review	11-12
- Trunk or Treat	
- Bryant Wright Guest Speaker	
- Office Volunteer Appreciation Lunch	
From the Pages of Bill's Notebook	13
Our Response to God's Faithfulness	14
- Attendance	
- Financial Report	



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

It is hard to believe, but the holidays are just around the corner. I am so excited to see how God is going to move through ABC during this special season. But I am also aware that the holiday season can be quite painful for some. This year, ABC has grieved the loss of 25 believers in our church family. The holidays can be extremely difficult for those surviving family members and closest friends, as each celebration is a reminder of their recent loss.

That is why we are hosting our first ever “Christmas Memorial Service” on Sunday, November 30th, at 5pm. The purpose of this worship service is to bring glory to God by remembering the ones we have lost in our church family this year. The service will feature encouraging music, a comforting message, and a time where we will read the names of our church members who have gone home to be with the Lord this year. We will light candles in their absence as a symbol of our remembrance of them.

I would like to invite you to join us for this special service. Your presence will serve as a ministry to their families. I pray God will use this service to encourage our souls and strengthen these families as they prepare for the Christmas season. I also hope this service will become a new tradition in our church, as we continue to prioritize our love and care for one another at ABC.

I hope to see you this weekend in worship for a Lord’s Supper Sunday. I will kick off a new 3-week series titled, “The Generous Life.” We will look to the Scriptures to examine what it means to live a joyful and generous life for Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. I hope to see you at 8:45am or 11:15am.

P.S. This is the last call for Egypt! We still have a few spots available. Sign up to secure your spot today at the link [here](#).

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER

SENIOR PASTOR





UPCOMING SERIES

The Generous Life

The calling, joy, and impact of a generous life

DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 27, 2025



John Holstrom

512-694-7507



Greg Kalb

512-784-7772

GREG KALB is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business and is a registered investment advisor. He and Lindsey have four girls: Lauren, Marilyn, Gwendolyn, and Eden. They joined Austin Baptist Church in 2021.

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025



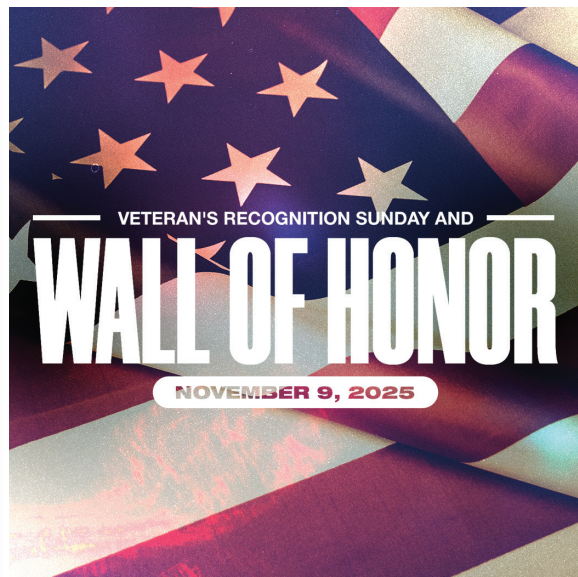
Margaret Samoa
with daughter Narei Mareko



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
NOVEMBER 5

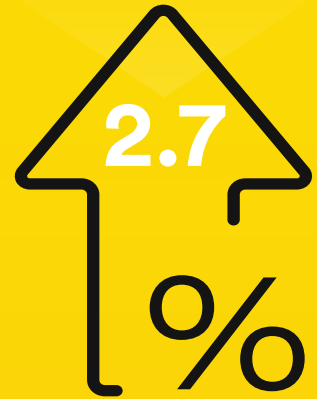
COST: \$10 per person;
\$5 for kids' meal (12 & under)

Catfish, baked potatoes, mixed vegetables,
hushpuppies, and salad bar

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

PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET

Department Name	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
MISSIONS	239,400	567,508
CHURCH OUTREACH	73,600	79,600
PASTORAL MINISTRIES	26,200	31,200
PERSONNEL	2,793,833	3,002,650
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	15,450	12,750
WOMENS MINISTRY	15,000	17,794
PRESCHOOL MINISTRY	20,645	25,300
CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY	60,150	71,850
ABC PRESCHOOL	(34,450)	(1,552)
STUDENT MINISTRY	85,748	63,039
YOUNG ADULTS	23,150	19,250
SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY	8,900	10,500
FOOD SERVICE	57,940	69,400
HOSPITALITY & EVENTS	27,500	30,200
WORSHIP MINISTRY	58,250	58,250
OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	177,000	171,422
PHOTOGRAPHY	500	500
FACILITIES	794,530	1,113,613
LIBRARY	3,100	2,500
TECHNOLOGY	94,000	91,265
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP	16,950	8,150
SOUND, LIGHTING & VIDEO	50,000	48,500
DEACON MINISTRY	6,700	6,200
TRUSTEES	154,248	155,196
LONG-RANGE PLANNING	2,500	1,000
FINANCE	8,400	8,400
GREETERS/USHERS	1,000	1,000
DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING	5,000	4,000
GUEST & INFORMATION COMMITTEE	4,600	4,600
CAPITAL LOAN SERVICE	84,802	0
MARRIAGE & FAMILY ENRICHMENT	5,000	1,000
CAPITAL LOAN PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS	647,198	0
TOTAL	\$5,526,844	\$5,675,085



**PERCENT INCREASE
FROM 2025 BUDGET**

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER 26

**Great Commission
Reports Distributed**
(print and digital
copies available)

OCTOBER 29

**Church Business
Meeting @ 5:00pm**

OCTOBER 29 & NOVEMBER 5

**Proposed 2026 Budget
available to view in
The Bridge**

NOVEMBER 9

**Church vote for
Proposed 2026 Budget
in both services**

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.

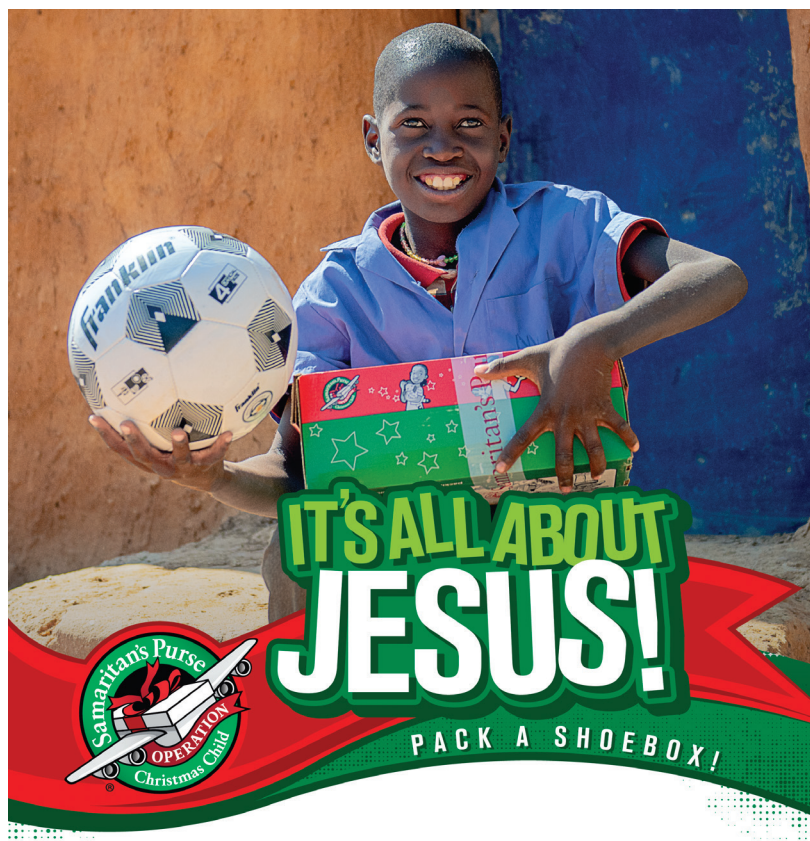
If you or a loved one has served in the United States Military, you may submit an entry to display on the wall.
Please fill out this form by Friday, November 7th, at 3pm to recognize a veteran or current service member.

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



IT'S TIME TO PACK YOUR 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 the link **HERE** 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 23rd, at 11am**. Boxes are located outside the Worship Center, next to the Skylight Room, and in the Children's wing.

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.*

SCAN/CLICK HERE TO
LEARN HOW TO PACK
A SHOEBOX





ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

SWEET SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 2ND, 4-6PM

This Sunday is one of our favorites—it's both Sweet Sunday and Fall Back Sunday! This one is extra special. Not only will we enjoy fall-inspired sweets and treats, but we'll also get a sneak peek at the holiday fashion season! A few of our very own women will be modeling festive styles, from cozy-casual to Christmas party ready.

Beyond what's new in fashion, we'll also be reminded of what truly matters—the things God desires for us to be clothed in. Sweet Sunday is a wonderful time to connect with new faces, build friendships, and simply enjoy being together. If you've never joined us before, come give it a try! You'll find laughter, encouragement, and a sense of being woven together with other sisters in Christ.

EMBRACE GRACE BABY SHOWER | NOVEMBER 16TH, 12:45PM

We're thrilled to host our first Embrace Grace Baby Shower on Sunday, November 16th, from 12:45–3:00 PM in the Skylight Room. We'll be celebrating five incredible moms, blessing them with gifts that are practical, meaningful, and full of love.

If you'd like to give a gift, you can use our combined registry [HERE](#). Please have your gifts wrapped, labeled (with the mom's name), and delivered to the church by November 16th.

We're also in need of volunteers to provide food for the event. If you'd like to help in that way, please sign up [HERE](#). If you are helping provide a gift or food and would like to attend the baby shower, RSVP by emailing me at anitam@austinbaptistchurch.com by November 9th.

As we head into Week 9 of our Embrace Grace semester, it has been a blessing to see how God is working in each woman's life. Thank you for being a church family that leads with love and with our mission to lead people into a life changing relationship with the Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

Woven Together,
ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Thank you to everyone who helped make Trunk or Treat a great success! It was a fantastic evening for our church family and community and would not be possible without volunteers like you!



1st Place: 7th Grade Class
"6-7"



2nd Place: Garrett & Shelby Ullrich,
Caleb Tung, and Annie Wong
"Despicable Me"



3rd Place: The Smith Family
"Duck Blind"



WEEK IN REVIEW

Bryant Wright: Guest Speaker

Sunday, October 26, 2025



Office Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Thursday, October 23, 2025



This past week, the ABC office staff hosted a volunteer appreciation lunch for those who volunteer weekly in the main office. We are grateful how they generously give their time and energy to support us in ways that allow us to focus on our mission at ABC. The delicious lunch was catered by Bellissima Italian Restaurant on FM 620.

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook



Keep it shiny side up. We had a rule when I was growing up: no play until the chores were done. One of my chores as a pre-teen was mowing the yard. When I first started, we had a power-assisted push mower. If our one acre yard had been flat, the task would not have been so challenging, but it was a long sloping hill in the front of the house and a pretty steep terraced hill in the back. It would take me well over an hour to accomplish this task (which is an eternity for a hyperactive pre-teen boy). Fortunately for me, the push mower died, so

Dad bought a Simplicity Lawn Tractor. It was a dream come true to ride this fancy grass-clipping go-cart. When I was learning to mow with the lawn tractor, I had to make some pretty sharp turns on the steep terraced slopes of the back yard. A couple of times the tractor almost flipped over on me. My Dad quickly taught me to slide from the seat to ride the top edge of the uphill tire well while hanging on to the steering wheel to keep the mower from rolling over, kinda like those guys we saw racing in the sailboat regatta who were hanging off the rails of their boats to stay upright. The only explanation for me not losing an appendage with that powerful lawn vehicle was simply because of God's grace and mercy. Riding mowers were later equipped with a kill switch to stop the engine if you came out of the seat, but this was back in the era of no bike helmets and operating heavy mowing equipment with 36 inches of whirling, sharp blades was at your own risk. I had so much fun on that riding mower. It was designed to stay shiny side up, but with some speed and a sharp turn on the side of a hill I discovered that it could go dirty side up, to my own detriment, fairly easily.

That is kind of the way I could sometimes be as a person who belonged to the Light. When I started following Jesus, I knew I was designed to stay shiny side up, to walk in the Light. But with a wrong turn here or there, in my anger, upset, or fear, I could just as easily reveal my dirty and dangerous side. I could easily forget that Jesus' people are made for shininess. Jesus reminded those who were following him to: *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"* (Matthew 5:16). He reminded them that they too were "the light of the world," a title that was divinely His, that He bestowed on everyone who follows 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



OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE10.26.2025

8:45 AM WORSHIP	606
11:15 AM WORSHIP	291
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	740

FINANCIAL REPORT10.26.2025

ACCOUNT	OCT. 26, 2025	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$76,672.09	\$4,352,827.13
DESIGNATED	\$1,410.00	\$124,718.40
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$98.133.00	\$2,084,225.47
TOTAL GIVING	\$188,715.09	\$6,574,271.00

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.



7016 RIBELIN RANCH DR. AUSTIN, TX, 78750