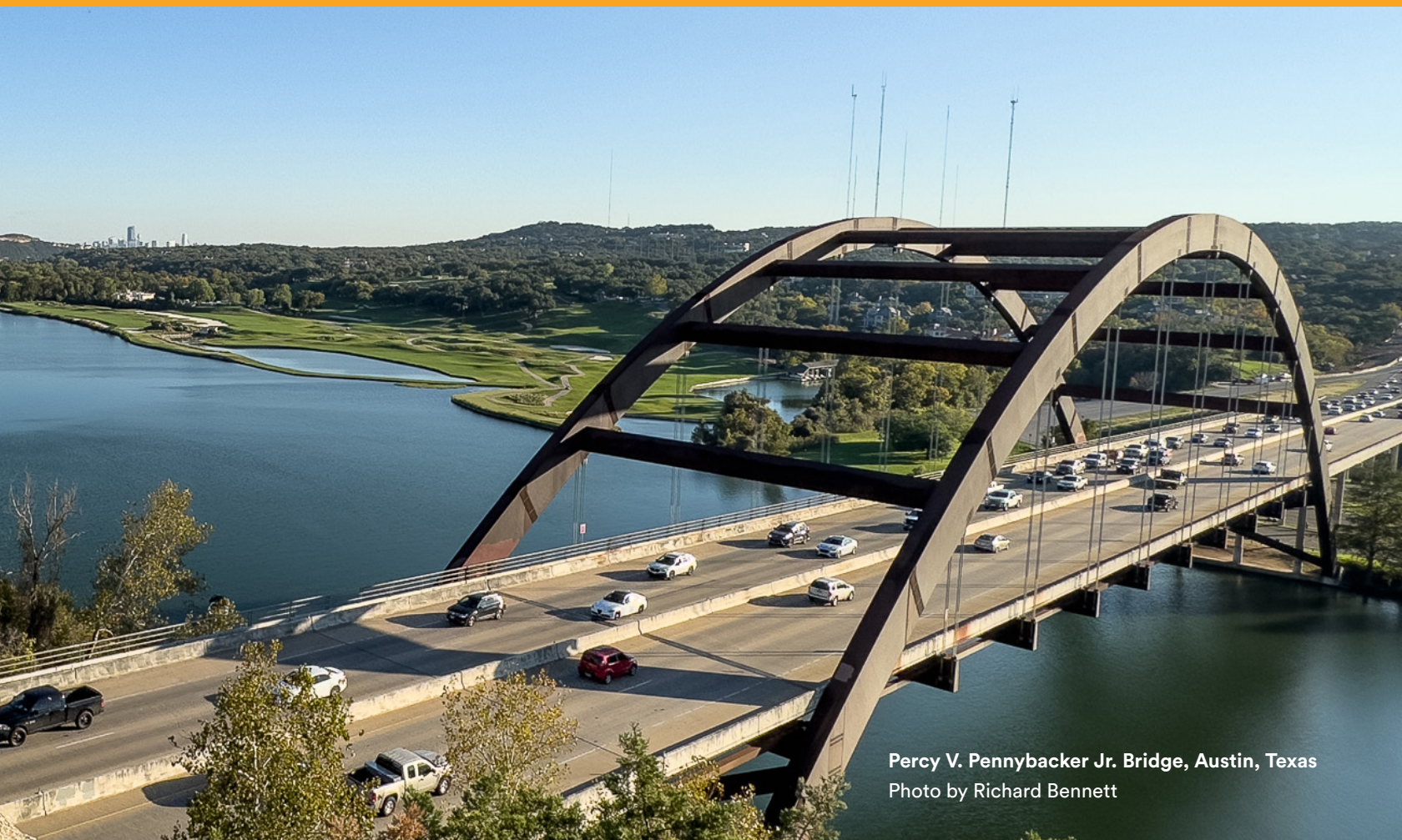


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 37 ————— OCTOBER 7, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Last Sunday we had a great kick off for **ADVANCE!** If you missed the first week of our vision series, I'd encourage you to watch it online [HERE](#) before this weekend. As a reminder, **ADVANCE** is an invitation to join ABC on a discipleship journey in 2027, with biblical engagement at its core. We will discover God through His word, develop as disciples, and deploy on mission for Him.

For the next three weeks, I will preach on each of the three pillars of the vision. This Sunday I will start by explaining how we can **discover** God through the scriptures. I look forward to our church spending "a year in the Bible." God tells us, "*My word that comes from my mouth will not return to me empty*" (Isaiah 55:11). Our church will see a spiritual return on the investment we make in God's Word in 2027. I believe that in faith and look forward to seeing it come true.

This Sunday I will speak more on the topic and give you more information about our Bible reading plan. We are encouraging our church to use the Jesus Daily Bible (CSB) for our weekly readings in 2027. We will have hundreds of copies of this Bible available for purchase at a discounted price later this month. This Sunday, I will share a QR code you can use to pre-purchase your copy. Copies will be available for pick up on October 25th.

I encourage you to pray expectantly for our church. Good things happen when God's people commit to His word. God's Word never returns void. Be here this Sunday to learn more, and I encourage you to invite a friend. Now is the time to bring others into our church to invite them in on the transformational journey God has for us in 2027. I look forward to seeing you at 8:45am or 11:15am.

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 5th, 2026



Terry Clodfelter

512-563-5031



Josh Davis

903-563-2486

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Macy Kay Mayfield

Born: September 29, 2026

Proud Parents: Andy & Emily Mayfield

Siblings: Charlie & Mary Claire



**LIGHT UP
YOUR *Home***

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that fully well.

PSALM 139:14

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

OCTOBER 7, 2026



Hey there Church Family,

As we enter October we have several staff anniversaries that we want to bring to your attention.

On October 5th, **Jana Bolin** celebrated her first anniversary on staff as our ABC Kids Associate. Jana brings a confident and organized presence in the ABC Kids Ministry, filling the hallways with joy and care for our kids. Jana brings excellence to her work, and God is definitely blessing it. We're thankful for the work God is doing through Jana at ABC.

On October 16th, **Bill Browne** will celebrate his second anniversary as our Technology Administrator. Bill is the consummate technician, building up our networks, bolstering our security, and enabling great ministry through advancing our technological infrastructure. Bill does a tremendous amount of work to ensure that our media and facility function to the best of their ability for the glory of God. We're grateful for Bill's presence on our team.



On October 21st, **Adam Mendez** will celebrate his sixth year on our Facilities Team. Adam is a cheerful and enthusiastic servant. He consistently finds ways to help others and to look out for their good. Adam ensures an excellent environment at ABC and works tirelessly to take care of others. We are thankful for the joy he brings to the job alongside his commitment to excellent work.

Please join me this week in communicating appreciation for these three great team members on the ABC Staff. He has blessed us with wonderful people, ready to serve and grow together. Together we'll advance!

In Christ's Love,

DR. MATT GILLUM
EXECUTIVE PASTOR

8:45am Heritage Hall Service Livestream

Dear Church Family,

Starting on **October 11th**, *we will cease live-streaming the early worship service in the Heritage Hall*. We know that many of you watch the service from that room, but we feel that this change is necessary. Our reasoning is twofold:

- We recognize that because we livestream in Heritage Hall during the first hour, it creates a squeeze for the media team for the Lamplighters Class. By ceasing the livestream in there, it will enable the Lamplighters Media Team to have enough time to get the media ready for the Lamplighters class.
- As we move forward as a church, it's important for us to worship together. We don't always recognize the positive influence we have just by being present in the room worshipping alongside one another. Our hope is that by moving the 30ish folks that regularly watch in the Heritage Hall to the Worship Center, it will help encourage those who are worshipping together in that service and especially those that are visiting for the first time.

Thank you for your willingness to grow together in our worship service. We are looking forward to what the Lord is ready to do in and 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

FALL 2026 SCHEDULE

5:55 PM

ABC Kids Choir
Room 126, 201
& The Chapel

6:00 PM

Divorce Care
Room 227

GriefShare
Room 238

6:30 PM

Encounter: Kids
and Preschool
Elevate/Uplift Rooms

AXIS for Students
Student Ministry Suite

A Men's Bible Study
with Matt Cushing
Room 240

6:30 PM

The Stories of Women:
A Women's Bible Study
with Anita McGinnis
Room 243A/B

MomQ with Kay Leitch
(*Working Moms*)
Room 242

Embrace Grace/Life
Room 247 / 248

*Experiencing God in
Everyday Life* with Bill
McGinnis
Room 239

Date Night: Couples Bible
Study with Matt Gillum
and Nathan Wood
Room 246

Enviados:
Spanish Bible Study with
Jorge and Ivonne Garcia
Room 244

6:30 PM

Becoming a World Christian
with Blake McDaniel
Room 245

Choir Rehearsal
Worship Ministry Suite

7:30 PM

Orchestra Rehearsal
The Worship Center

MIDWEEK

MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
OCTOBER 14

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

Chicken fried chicken, mashed potatoes,
green beans, and salad bar

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

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**](mailto:christinar@austinbaptistchurch.com).

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



YOUR GIFTS EQUIP THE NEXT GENERATION TO **SPEAK JESUS!**

Thank you church family for your generosity! Because of your faithful giving, ABC was able to give **\$12,551** to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions!

 I am TEXAS Missions
MARY HILL DAVIS OFFERING
FOR TEXAS MISSIONS
WMU of Texas



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Hello ladies!

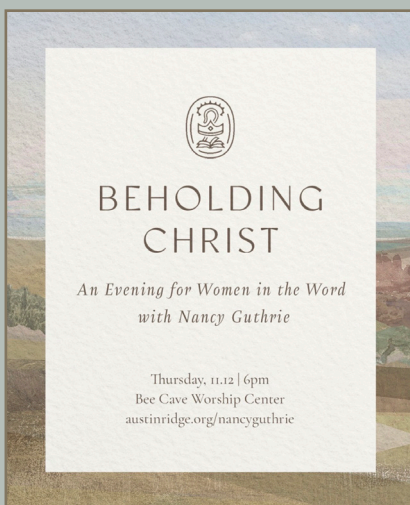
What a great first Sweet Sunday of the semester! We loved joining together with our Girls Ministry as we stepped into the story of ***Anne of Green Gables*** and explored the beauty, wisdom, and differences found across generations.

In keeping with our theme, “Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story,” we had the opportunity to hear two very different stories. **Nancy Crane** shared from the perspective of the Boomer generation, while **Anna Watson** gave us a glimpse into life as part of Generation Alpha. Both women invited us into their personal experiences and shared what it is like to live in their generation today. While there were certainly some differences, we were reminded of just how much we have in common!

During our devotional time, we looked at the relationship between Ruth and Naomi and were reminded that God uses every generation to teach, encourage, and strengthen one another. Just as Ruth and Naomi had much to give and receive from each other, each generation has something valuable to offer and something valuable to receive. What a beautiful picture of how God weaves our stories together!

With joy!

ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER



COMING UP NEXT

Our next women's event is an exciting off-campus opportunity to join our friends at Austin Ridge for ***Beholding Christ: An Evening for Women in the Word*** with Nancy Guthrie on **Thursday, November 12th**. The cost is \$12, and you'll have the option to carpool from ABC with friends, or meet everyone at Austin Ridge. More details, including how to purchase your ticket, will be coming soon!

Advance Initiative Kickoff

October 4, 2026



WEEK IN REVIEW

WEEK IN REVIEW

Sweet Sunday October 4, 2026



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

My day started as usual: quiet solitude with God, which usually includes a cup of Jehovah Java (aka coffee), prayer, and the Word of God. This day was a little different though. I was in Thailand with a mission team that was not yet awake. My mind and body had awakened early trying to figure out the 12 hour jet-lag from ATX. The rest of the team would be going for the next couple of days to encourage, teach, and bless a group of 70 ladies in an International Women's Retreat and I would be spending time with a local missionary. As God would have it, the ABC church staff has been reading through the Bible together this year since January. We are reading Genesis to Revelation in Biblical order. This particular day of reading, I was in the 11th chapter of Acts. As I read, I found that it had been prophesied that there would be a severe famine in the Roman world. Picking up in verse 29, I read: *"Each of the disciples, according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brothers and sisters who lived in Judea"* (Acts 11:29 CSB). As only God can do, later that morning, I received a call from the missionary I was to spend the day with. He said there had been a change of plans, that we would now be spending the day with another missionary who leads SendRelief in that area. SendRelief is a mission agency of the Southern Baptist Convention that provides food, water, medical care, rescue, and many other resources in major crises worldwide, like flooding, tsunamis, earthquakes, drought, wars, and famines, all in the name of Jesus. If you have heard of a crisis in the news the last 30+ years, SendRelief has been there on the ground ministering in real ways to hurting people in devastated communities. The agency also helps underserved communities around the world, even when there has not been a recent major crisis. On this day we would be giving out 2000 pounds of rice and going to check on a youth hostel, one of about 40 that the SendRelief office in that area helps on a regular basis to provide food and safe lodging. The hostel we visited housed 36 young students whose families lived in the remote hill country, hours from the city. They were living in the hostels so they could attend government schools to get an education and learn language and skills that are not available in their remote villages. With this education their parents hope they can escape poverty and protect themselves from ending up in the human trafficking industry. The three of us drove about an hour, hearing stories from the director of his missions of rescue and mercy around the world that he has led for the last three decades. He was a kind, brilliant, God-and-people-loving man with a thick Louisiana accent. We arrived and found a godly house mother and her staff in a covered outdoor kitchen preparing to feed the 36 kids aged 6-18 after they arrived back from school. She offered us some really good tea and smiled and talked excitedly about the kids and staff the whole time. We prayed with her and went to look at the boy's "dorm", which was a large one room building with open windows and doors. Each of the boys had a locker with three school outfits and one towel. They all slept on a large wooden platform on their own bed roll. The bathrooms out back had ramshackle doors that were falling apart. I learned that the missionary's home church in Louisiana would be coming to paint, build some doors, and help improve the living conditions for these boys, who were all just happy to be there.

After a long day of observing God's amazing work in the lives of so many people, I couldn't help but think of how much He loves us all. He sees each of us and loves us and cares for us in the ways we need it most. When we belong to Jesus we are encouraged to do the same thing for others. James tells us, *"Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world"* (James 1:27 MESSAGE).

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

In His Joy,

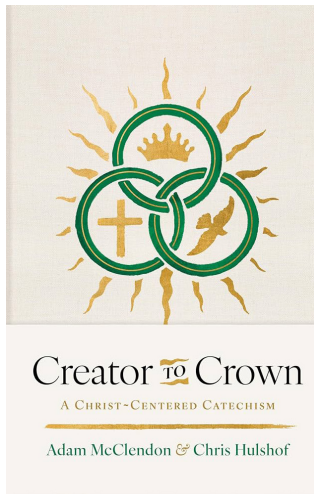
BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



Creator to Crown: A Christ-Centered Catechism

by Adam McClendon and Christ Hulshof

Adam McClendon serves as a Teaching Elder of Bedrock Church Forest in Forest, Virginia. He is the Associate Dean of Residential Programs at Liberty University's John W. Rawlings School of Divinity in Lynchburg, Virginia. Chris Hulshof is an Associate Professor for Liberty University's School of Divinity. Some of his current research interests are, "related to disability, suffering, neuroscience, and academic storytelling related to the Biblical Narratives."

In ***Creator To Crown***, McClendon and Hulshof use Keach's Catechism as the basis of this catechism, but they update and reorder the "classic" questions. Hulshof states in the introduction of the book that his family devotional time during his childhood, "... involved learning a series of catechism questions and answers." He has found it perplexing that in his denomination the catechism was not widely used as a way of Christian education. Hulshof explains what catechism is, why we need it, why they used a form of Keach's Catechism for this book, the structure of this catechism, and how to use it as individuals, and at school, home, and church. One hundred questions are asked about the seven "C" word topics: Creator, Creation, Crisis, Covenants, Christ, Church, and Crown. At the beginning of each section there is a page of beautiful artwork by Caleb Faires. The book includes an appendix of Biblical Covenants, a Glossary, a Bibliography, Notes, a General Index and a Scripture Index. This resource helps, ".... the church not just memorize the truth but truly understand, articulate, and embody the Christian faith. This catechism invites Christians into richer spiritual formation and deeper communion with 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

ATTENDANCE10.04.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP		582
11:15 AM WORSHIP		371
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		803

FINANCIAL REPORT10.04.2026

ACCOUNT	OCT. 4, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND (GENERAL)	\$119,704.42	\$3,745,275.99
DESIGNATED		\$175,814.05
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED		\$729,608.68
TOTAL GIVING	\$128,785.42	\$4,658,959.72

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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