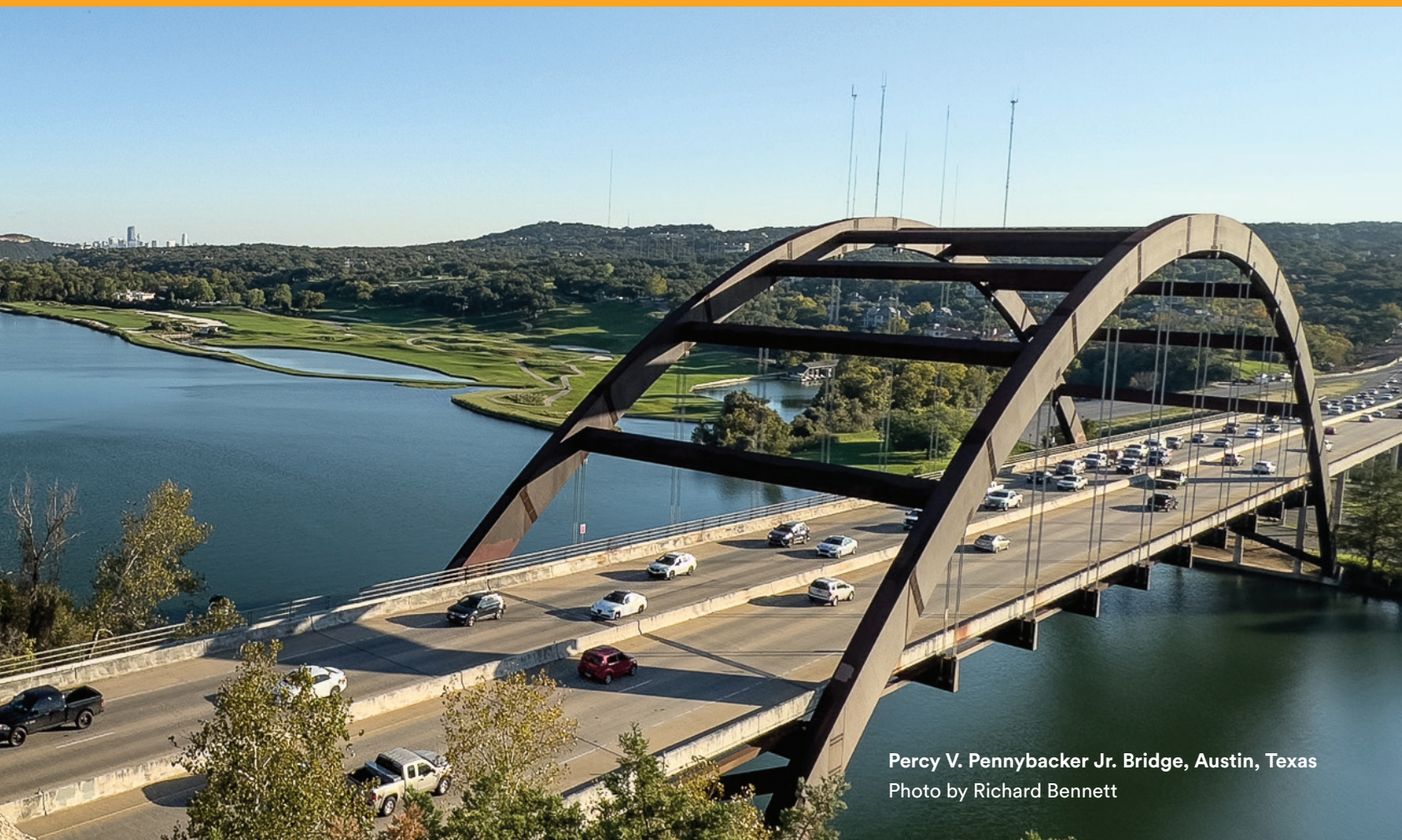


# The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 18 NO. 37 ————— OCTOBER 8, 2025



**AUSTIN BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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# A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

On October 6, 2024, we launched *Light The Way*, a two-year generosity initiative designed to eliminate our debt, expand our mission, and extend the message of Jesus Christ. On that kick-off Sunday, ABC carried around \$4.5 million in debt. Exactly one year later, on October 6, 2025, Austin Baptist Church became DEBT FREE!

This is an incredible testimony of God's grace and your faithfulness to Him. Thank you for being a generous church and worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ through your giving. I'm humbled to serve as your pastor, and I am grateful for what this debt retirement means. The Great Commission will be advanced even farther, and lives will be forever changed because of your generosity.

I'm most excited that we will begin "tithing as a church" within our general fund budget. Ten percent of what comes in, will go out to advance the Gospel through missions locally, nationally, and across the globe. When you give to the church, you will also be giving through the church. A debt-free budget is a game-changer for the Kingdom of God.

Thank you for your partnership in this effort. Today, let's give glory to God for what He has done. I also encourage you to continue in your giving to *Light The Way*, as we still have unfinished business in our missions projects, media improvements, and security enhancements. I am confident, by God's grace, that these remaining objectives can be fully completed in 2026. God bless you and thank you for your partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let's worship this weekend and give thanks to our generous God.

Onward and Upward,

**DR. JONATHAN SPENCER**

**SENIOR PASTOR**







## CURRENT SERIES

### Missions Month: Multiply

How God Advances His Mission Through Us

## DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 6, 2025



**Stanley Wood**

737-309-6938



**Barry Vasek**

512-699-7680



# CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025



**Devin Blose**



**Awilda  
Mercado**



**Christopher  
Kellar**



**Robert Dobbs**



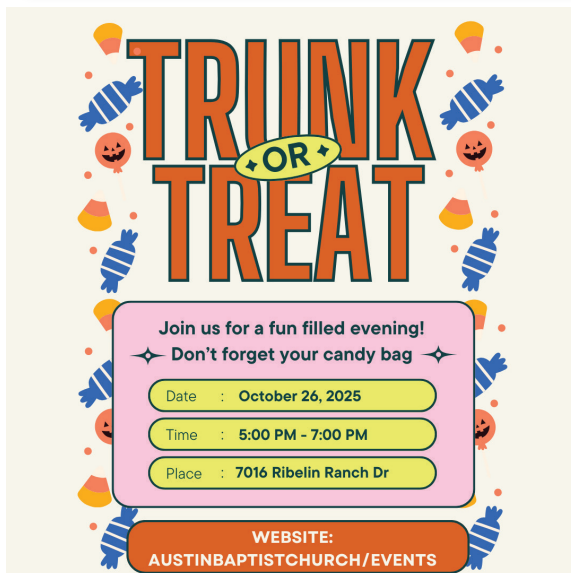
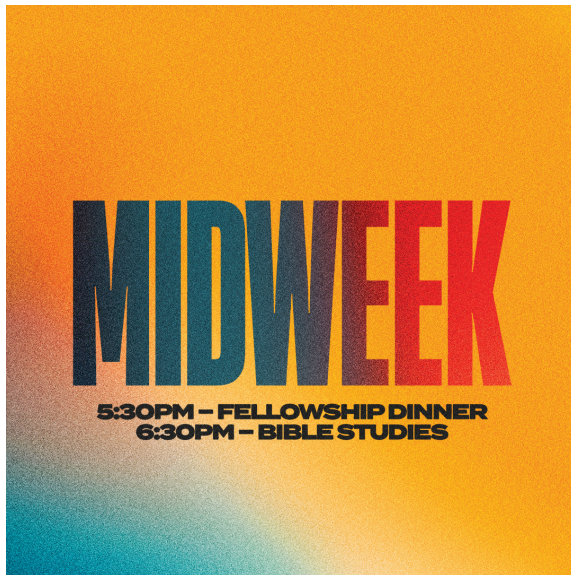
Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows members to connect and get to know each other better!

Simply download the free ***Instant Church Directory*** app from your phone's app store. Enter the email address you provided to ABC and click "Send Secure Sign-In Link." Then find an email from Instant Church Directory in your inbox and click the "Log In" button and follow the directions from there.

You can also access the directory online at [InstantChurchDirectory.com](https://InstantChurchDirectory.com). ***PLEASE NOTE: Only members of Austin Baptist Church are able to access Instant Church Directory.***

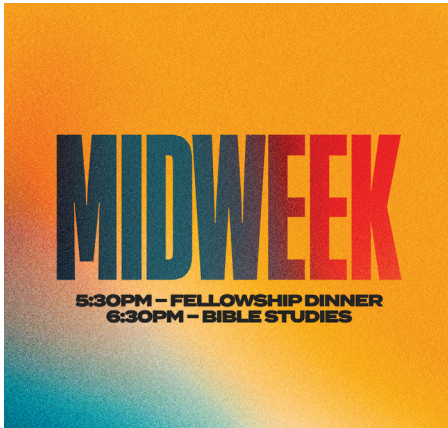
If you have trouble logging in to the app or website, please contact the church office at 512-491-9600.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



For all event and weekly activity information, please visit  
[austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS](https://austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS)

# WEEKLY REMINDERS



## MIDWEEK MENU

**NEXT WEEK'S MENU**  
OCTOBER 15

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

Fajitas, rice, beans, chips, and queso

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





# ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Hello Sisters!

I know life feels full and busy right now, but imagine those first few months of the new year when things slow down and you're longing for something refreshing to look forward to. I've got just the thing—our Women's Retreat: “Woven: Made for Friendship” on February 6–7, 2026!

The best part? It's only 10 minutes from the church, yet it feels like you've slipped away to a Tuscan villa overlooking the lake. It may seem far off, but go ahead and mark your calendar now. In those chilly, quiet months, you'll be so glad you planned for this time away. Find a roommate (or let us help pair you with one) and sign up today!

## Why Vintage Villas?

- A beautiful setting that feels like a true getaway
- Hotel-style villas with room options: single (limited), double, triple, or quad
- Delicious meals that feel straight from a 5-star kitchen—Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, and lunch

## What to Expect:

- Friday afternoon check-in, followed by our first session that evening
- Saturday sessions with unstructured time to relax, connect, and deepen friendships
- Closing session after lunch on Saturday

This year's theme is all about friendship—how God designed it and how we can be woven together in Him. [Here](#) is the link to sign up!

I can't wait to gather with women of every age and stage. Let's step into the new year together, be refreshed, and be woven into lasting friendships.

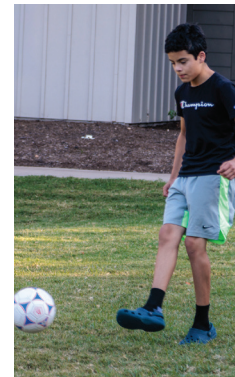
Woven Together,

**ANITA MCGINNIS**  
WOMEN'S MINISTER



## ABC Serves Cardinal Point

Saturday, October 4, 2025



WEEK IN REVIEW



## Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary A Capella Choir Sunday, October 5, 2025



## Discover ABC Lunch Sunday, October 5, 2025





# From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

Years ago, in a church in Austin, God gave us the wonderful opportunity to partner with another congregation to host a Backyard Bible Club in the courtyard of an apartment complex. We wanted to reach out to and connect with some families across town to share the Gospel. A friend and mentor of mine was the pastor of a missional church ministering with families in this community. He and I used to meet each month to talk, share some coffee, and pray together. It was at one of those meetings that God led us to team up together and organize a Backyard Bible Club in one of the government-subsidized apartment complexes he was trying to reach with his church. Several of the young adults in our ministry eagerly jumped in to help. We went door to door in the apartment complex, distributed free Bibles, and invited all the kids to come outside to learn with us, play some games, and enjoy some hot dogs together. It was a great day. Grandparents sat in lawn chairs in front of their doors and watched as the kids had a day of fun and learning in the Texas heat. At one point, Anita and I were teaching some first graders, and things seemed to be going well. We had played a game and ate some Goldfish and began to tell the children a Bible story. In the middle of the story, one of the kids grabbed a glass bottle, smashed it against the curb, and began threatening the other kids and us with it with a wild look in his eyes. Everyone froze — except Anita. The mother bear protector came out in her and she stood up, walked straight toward this broken glass-wielding first grader, pointed at the bottle and said, “In the name of Jesus, you put down that bottle!” The next sound we heard was glass plinking on the asphalt. The kid had dropped the bottle, the wild look in his eyes had been replaced by shame at the realization of what he had just done, and he began to cry. Anita hugged him, told him everything was okay, prayed with him, and sat next to him as we continued with the Bible teaching. We have no idea what that child had experienced in his life that would trigger a fear response so intense. We could not understand why a child would grab a glass bottle, smash the end of it, and use it as a weapon against the other neighbor kids and two adults wearing madras shorts, smiling, and holding Bibles. Something had triggered his fear, but the good news is, something also triggered his release from that fear - the name of Jesus! When we finally arrived home with our own kids later that evening, we hugged them. Once again we called on Jesus, praising His name, because everyone had made it home alive and in one piece. We rejoiced that we all got to experience the power of Jesus’ name, feel the grace of His goodness, and witness His great love!

The Apostle Paul told the church he loved that because of Jesus’ humility to come to the earth and save us, His name would be powerful and above every name. He says, “For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow — in heaven and on earth and under the earth — and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” Philippians 2:9-11  
CSB. What’s in a name? When we are fearful, we can call on the name of Jesus! When we are blessed, we can praise the name of Jesus! His name is powerful and wonderful; above all names!

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

In His Joy,

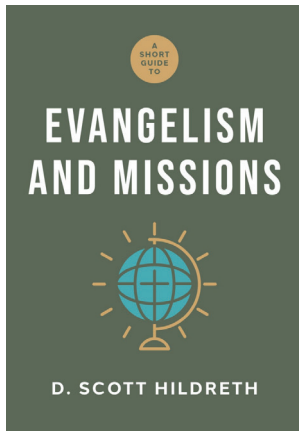
**BILL MCGINNIS**

**PASTOR OF CARE**





# ABC Library



## ***A Short Guide to Evangelism and Missions*** by D. Scott Hildreth

This month at ABC, we are emphasizing missions. The highlighted book this week is ***A Short Guide to Evangelism and Missions*** by D. Scott Hildreth. Scott has been in Christian ministry for over thirty years. He and his family served with the International Mission Board (IMB) in Western Europe and Central Asia. He has also served as a pastor, interim pastor, and has written several books on missions, spiritual formation, and theology. Scott is currently an Associate Professor of Missiology, Director of the Lewis A. Drummond Center for Great Commission Studies, and Assistant Professor of Global Studies at Southeastern Baptist Theology Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

In the book's introduction, Hildreth says, "The goal of this book is to provide motivation as well as practical tools for you to embrace God's mission as your frame for life." This is a concise and short book of only five chapters which takes you through the final words of Jesus to His disciples found in Matthew 28:18-20, which are the center of Christian evangelism and missions. The introduction gives a brief history of how the meaning of missions has evolved through the years. Each chapter breaks down the meaning of Jesus' words in Matthew and provides answers to the following questions: Am I Really Responsible for the Whole World?; By What Authority Do We Go?; Who in the World Are We Trying to Reach?; What about Other Gods?; and What is the Missionary Task? Each chapter ends with a Discuss and Reflect section. It is Scott's "... desire to encourage and equip more Christians to follow God's call to the mission field." Those who read this book will learn that obedience to Jesus' command is not an option. It is our responsibility and privilege; we are all called to be missionaries. Hildreth says, "My hope is that you will begin to think about your entire life as a response to God's will."

### **CONTACT: Rita Ervin**

Email [library@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:library@austinbaptistchurch.com)

or visit us online at [austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY)

### **LIBRARY HOURS**

**SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM**

**WEDNESDAYS - 5:00PM-7:30PM**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM:** [austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH)

**BIBLE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS:** [austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG)

**ABC PODCASTS:** [austinbaptistchurch.com/PODCASTS](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/PODCASTS)

# OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE10.05.2025

8:45 AM WORSHIP	.....	663
11:15 AM WORSHIP	.....	404
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	.....	769

FINANCIAL REPORT10.05.2025

ACCOUNT	OCT. 05, 2025	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$86,662.51	\$4,119,767.01
DESIGNATED	\$2,750.00	\$120,852.40
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$23,820.05	\$1,615,003.87
TOTAL GIVING	\$113,232.56	\$5,855,623.28

## 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](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/TEAM)**

### **ABC PRAYER TEAM**

Email Bill McGinnis at **[billm@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:billm@austinbaptistchurch.com)**

### **FOR PUBLICATION CONSIDERATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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- **CALL:** **512.334.8247**

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



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