The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 42 — NOVEMBER 11, 2026

AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH

A WORD FROM **OUR PASTOR**

ABC Family,

I look forward to being back in the pulpit this Sunday. I want to thank Nathan and Matt for opening our new sermon series, and I cannot wait to pick up where they left off. November is such a special time. We get to slow down a bit and give thanks before everything speeds up in December.

Make plans to join us for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner next week, on November 18th. Purchase your tickets online and join me for a special evening of fantastic food, fellowship, and testimonies. What can you give thanks for this year? I am thankful for my family, my church, my health, and for the opportunity to ADVANCE in my faith next year. Thank you for being a blessing to me, and I look forward to celebrating God's goodness with you.

As I give thanks, I am also thankful that God continues to develop and deploy new leaders in our church. Corbin Smith and Garrett Ullrich are two of our ministers, and both men have served our church faithfully for multiple years. This Sunday at 5pm, we will ordain them to the work of the Gospel ministry in a special ordination service. I hope you will join me for the service and join me in prayer as we set them apart for the Gospel.

I look forward to seeing you at 8:45am or 11:15am.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER
SENIOR PASTOR





CURRENT 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 NOVEMBER 9, 2026



David Lakey

512-663-2669



Matt Cushing

512-206-8000

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026

Jorge & Jessica Escudero

Travis & Alicia Sparkman with Kora Sparkman

LIGHT UP YOUR *Life*

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

STAFF **SPOTLIGHT**

NOVEMBER 11, 2026



Hey there Church Family,

We have two staff anniversaries to recognize this week!

On November 13, **Lisa Campbell** will celebrate her third year on staff as our Ministries Administrator. Lisa is an invaluable part of our team, taking the lead on several important administrative responsibilities, from keeping our office running smoothly and maintaining our church database to coordinating the administrative details for funeral services. We also appreciate her heart for serving beyond her daily responsibilities through her volunteer work with both the Choir Ministry and Kids Choir Ministry. Lisa is such a blessing to our team!

Also on November 13, **Mariah Parker** will celebrate her third year on staff as our Director of Communications. Mariah oversees the design and production of our printed materials and digital assets, along with managing our website and social media platforms. She does a wonderful job using her creativity and talents to communicate effectively and help advance the work of the Kingdom. We are grateful for the gifts she brings to our team and thankful the Lord has placed her here at ABC!



I hope you'll join me in thanking these two wonderful women for their dedication and the many ways they serve our church family. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful staff!

In Christ's Love,

DR. MATT GILLUM
EXECUTIVE PASTOR

UPCOMING EVENTS





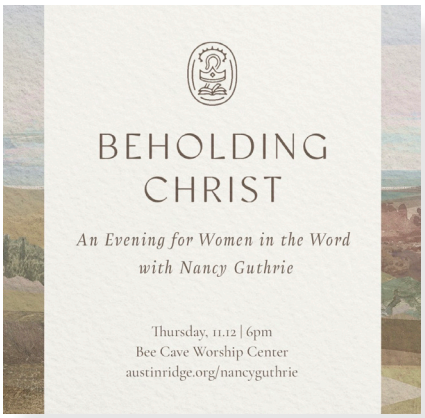


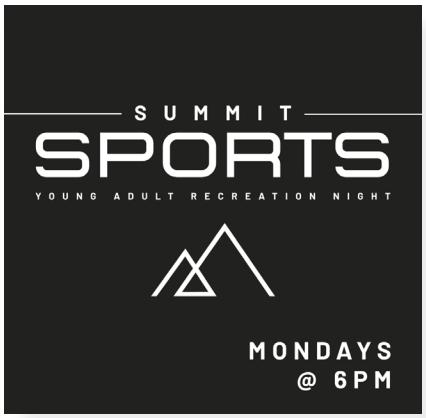


For all event and weekly activity information, please visit
austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS

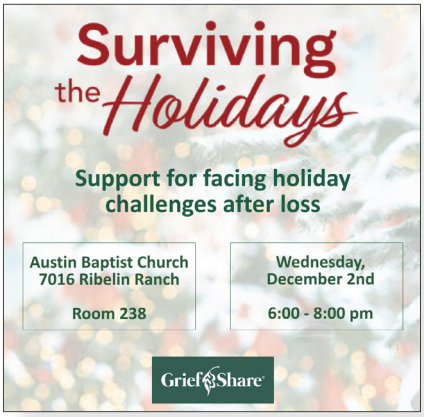
WEEKLY REMINDERS











MIDWEEK **MENU**

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
NOVEMBER 18

COST: $15 per person;
$70 max for families (immediate only)

The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Register online and purchase your ticket at
austinbaptistchurch.com/thanksgiving2026



IT'S TIME TO PACK 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 THIS LINK 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 22nd, at 11am. Boxes are located outside the Worship Center, next to the Skylight Room, in the Children's wing, and in your BFG classroom.

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.org/OCC***.*

*Please note: soap and toothpaste are no longer allowed in shoeboxes.



Grandview Hills Elementary

ABC KIDS NEXT LEVEL TEAM FOOD PACKING PROJECT

Last Wednesday during Midweek, our ABC Kid's Lead Team (4th and 5th graders) began packing Thanksgiving Boxes for 50 families at Grandview Hills Elementary.

This partnership has provided a wonderful opportunity for our children to serve and bless families in need within our community. As they packed each box, the children included handwritten notes of encouragement and a gospel booklet sharing God's plan of salvation.

We pray that God will use these small acts of kindness to plant seeds that He will grow in His perfect timing. Watching the children eagerly serve others and experience the joy of giving has been an incredible blessing. Their excitement and willingness to help those in need have been a beautiful reminder of God's love at work through the next generation.

RACHEL TOVAR
DIRECTOR OF ABC KIDS



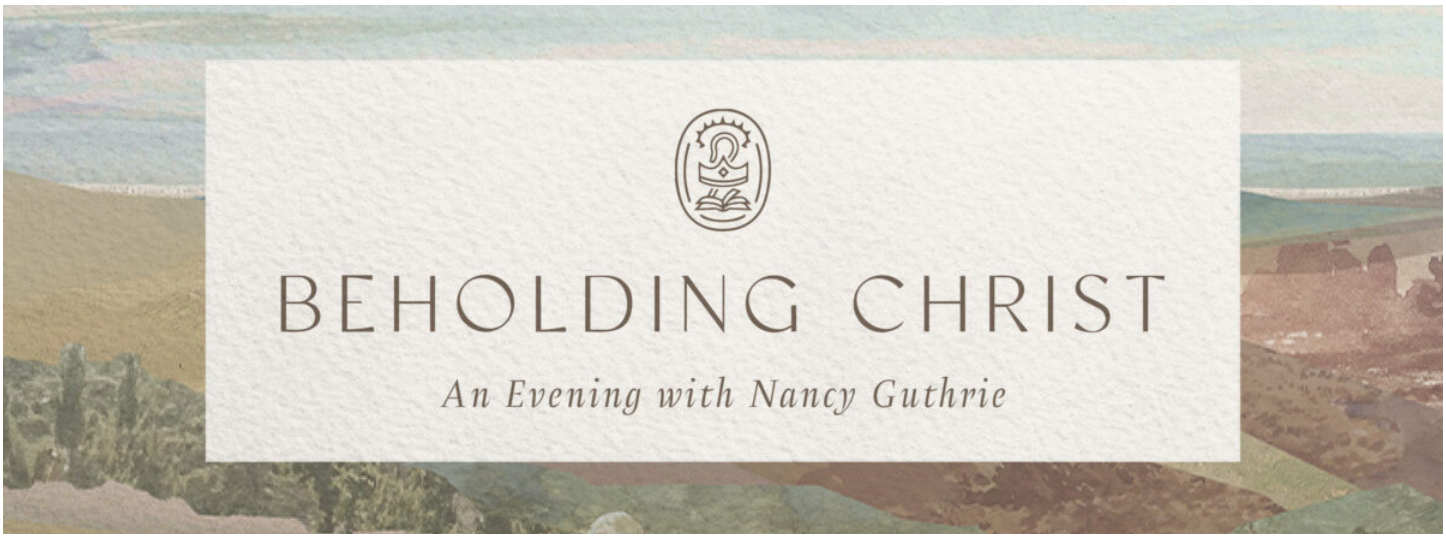


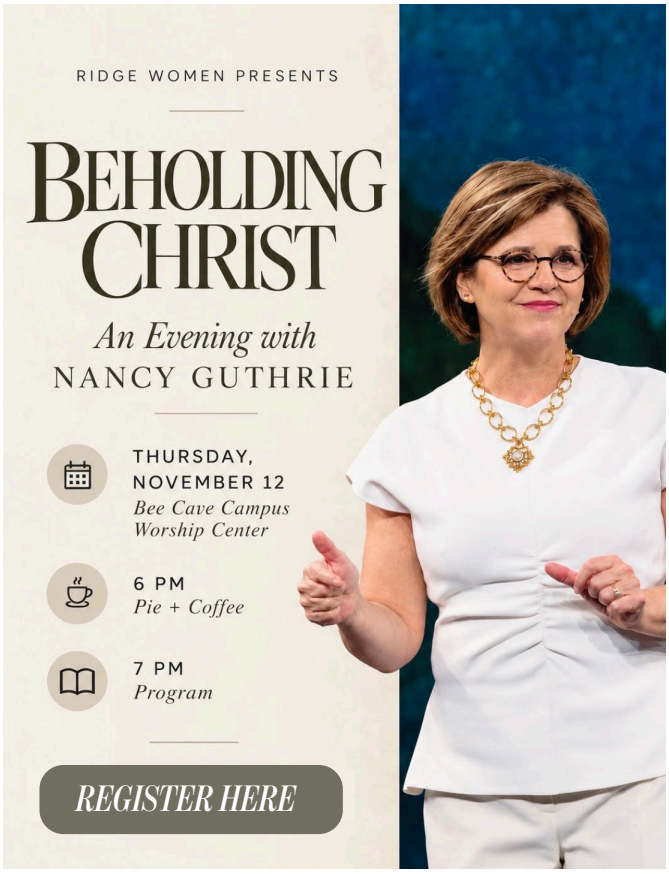




ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE





COME JOIN US!

It's not too late to sign up to join our friends at Austin Ridge for ***Beholding Christ: An Evening for Women in the Word with Nancy Guthrie*** this Thursday, November 12th. You'll have the option to carpool from ABC with friends, or meet everyone at Austin Ridge. The timeline is as follows:

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

Pie and coffee: 6:00–7:00pm at Austin Ridge Bible Church

Program: 7:00–8:30pm at Austin Ridge

Location: Austin Ridge, Bee Cave Campus

Cost: $12 per person

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

Holiday Service Opportunities

GET INVOLVED WITH THE HOSPITALITY TEAM!

Hello everyone!

The holiday season is almost here, and we have two wonderful opportunities to serve our ABC church family! These celebrations are special ways to welcome our church family and guests, and we'd love your help making them warm, beautiful, and memorable! Here are a few ways to serve:

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Wednesday, November 18: Help assemble food platters, serve dinner, or staff dessert and drink stations (please see sign-up link below for available times).

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Friday, November 20 | 10:00 am–3:00 pm: Decorate throughout the building (lunch provided at noon; assignments will be given).

Friday, November 20 | 6:00–9:00 pm: Decorate throughout the building (pizza dinner provided; assignments will be given).

Sunday, November 22 | 12:30–1:30 pm: Help decorate the Worship Center with trees and poinsettias.

Use the sign-up links below to choose the opportunities that work best for you! Whether you can help with one task or several, every helping hand makes a difference. And bring a friend—serving together is even more fun!



THANKSGIVING DINNER SIGN UP
CLICK HERE



CHRISTMAS DECORATING SIGN UP
CLICK HERE

Wall of Honor: Veterans Sunday

November 8, 2026

















WEEK IN REVIEW

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

When I was in Seminary in Fort Worth, my wife and I took a weekend trip to visit one of her Texas cousins. We stayed at a ranch house and for some strange reason slept with our heads at the foot of the bed. Supposedly, there was more air moving in the middle of the room back before there was air conditioning in the old ranch house. The tradition continued even when central air and ceiling fans were installed in the new house. So, "When in Rome… sleep at the other end of the bed." The following morning, we also weren't ready for a wake-up call from a cow mooing right next to our window. While breakfast was being prepared, we decided to walk down the dirt road in front of Anita's cousin's house. It was a beautiful sunrise over the ranch. As we walked, enjoying the sun on our faces, we got an eerie feeling of being followed. We turned around to see a jackrabbit hopping along behind us. This rabbit was not like the small ones that I grew up with. He was as tall as my knees and his ears were even taller. We thought it was interesting that this "jackalope" was not scared of us at all. We chuckled and turned back around to walk and talk some more, thinking this small deer with giant rabbit ears would run off into the field. But no, every few steps we would take this majestic hare would hop along behind us closing the gap between us with each hop. Weirdly, as we walked faster the thing did, too. "It's just a harmless little bunny" echoed in my head as we picked up the pace, but this giant-eared, big-eyed bunny, with large incisors, continued toward us. At this point, I was ready to defend my new bride and turned around to confront this oversized, over-aggressive Thumper. I wasn't sure what I was going to do, because I was unarmed and there were no big rocks to throw or sticks to swing, but I was ready for "hand-to-hare" combat if necessary. Anita, the animal lover said, "Let's just go to the other side of the road and walk back to the ranch house." So, as we turned around and passed by him on the road, Señor Conejo Macho (Mr. Macho Rabbit) continued his journey straight down the road not bothered by these two city slickers at all. We still laugh about this strange incident, but the brave rabbit had set a determined course and was not going to take a rabbit trail because someone was in his way.

As Joshua was commissioned by God to take the Promised Land, God had encouraged him saying, *"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do"* (Joshua 1:7 NLT). Sometimes we are lured away from our walk with Jesus to chase rabbits spiritually, but we know The Way, and His name is Jesus. As we follow Him, the other things we are chasing will be revealed as foolishness. Let's not turn to the right or left, but head straight toward God's plan for us by staying connected to Christ and following Him. He will provide for all we need.

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

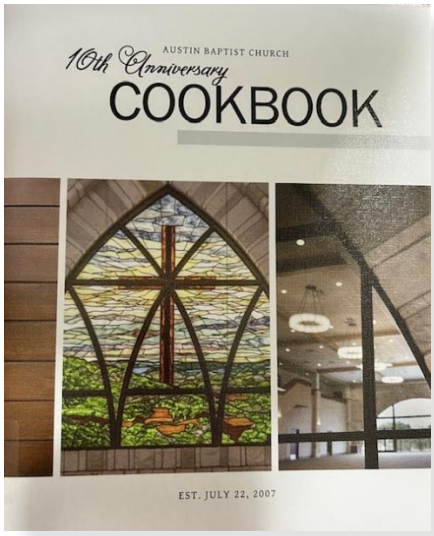


ABC Library

Highlighted Book

Austin Baptist Church 10th Anniversary Cookbook

If you are looking for a new recipe for the upcoming holiday season (Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year's Eve), you should check out the ***Austin Baptist Church 10th Anniversary Cookbook***. This cookbook is loaded with recipes submitted by members of Austin Baptist Church. The book is divided into 15 sections, and each section covers a different category of food. There is also an index listing specific recipes. The *This and That* section contains a variety of recipes that do not fit into one of the categories. The last section, *Then and Now*, gives a brief history of how Austin Baptist Church came to be. Each section divider is a page of colorful pictures of events at the Church from its beginning. The library also has a few other recipe books that can be checked out for recipe ideas.



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**

ATTENDANCE	11.08.2026
8:45 AM WORSHIP	516
11:15 AM WORSHIP	307
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	701

FINANCIAL REPORT	11.08.2026	
ACCOUNT	NOV. 08, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND *(GENERAL)*	$60,289.59	$4,217,334.59
DESIGNATED		$240,572.44
TOTAL GIVING	$62,249.59	$5,206,717.71

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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