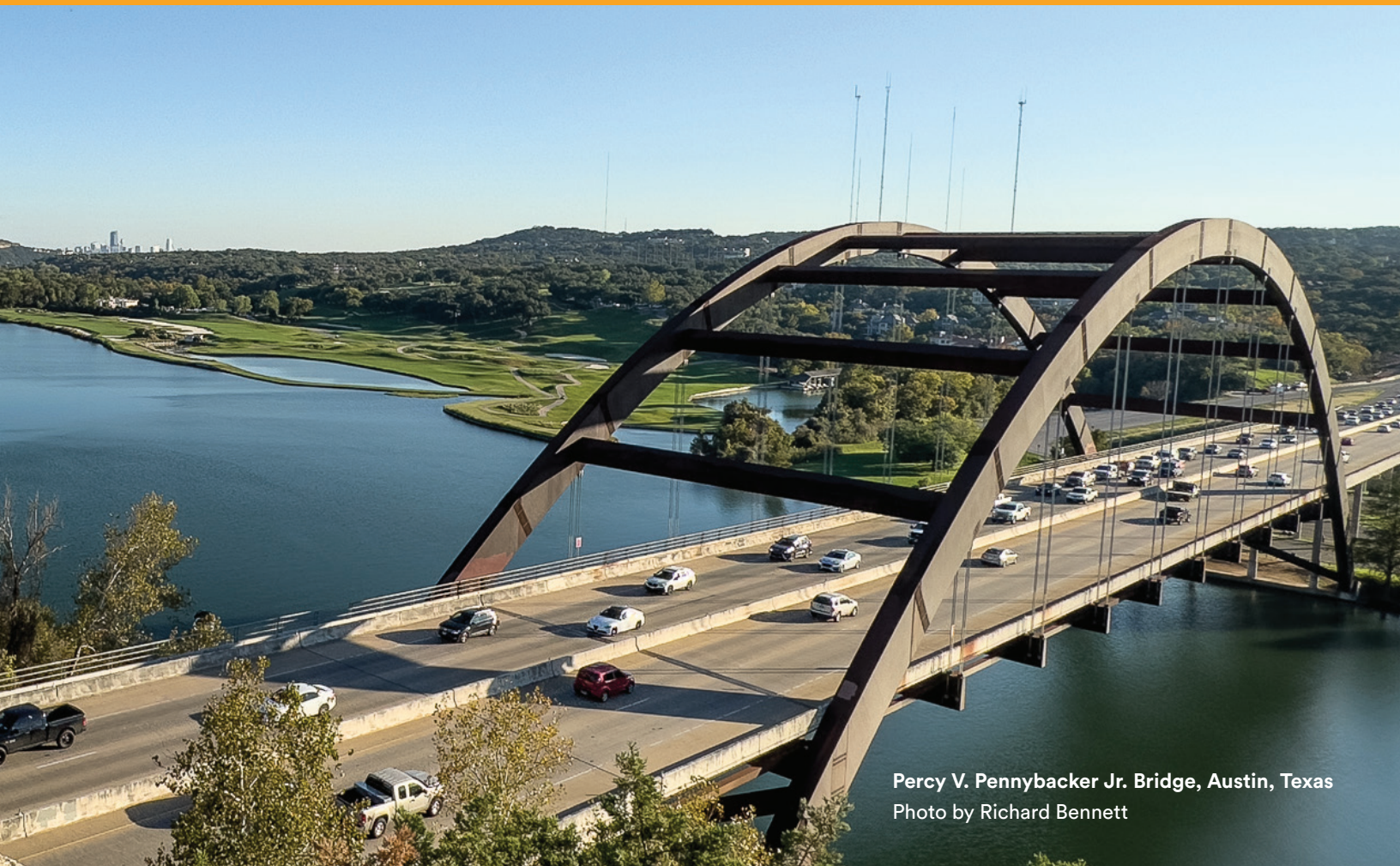


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 18 NO. 42 ————— NOVEMBER 12, 2025



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” We have much to be thankful for here at ABC. God continues to pour out His blessings on our church family. He is growing our church both in width and depth, and He blesses us beyond measure. We are especially grateful that God retired our debt this year, and we look forward to the big plans He has for our future.

I hope you are planning to join us for our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, November 19th (buy tickets [HERE](#)). Our food services team will serve a delicious Thanksgiving feast, and we will have a meaningful time of worship and reflection as a church family. I look forward to hearing testimonies of God’s faithfulness, and I hope you can join us for this special celebration.

This Sunday I’ll wrap up our series, *The Generous Life*. I’ll be speaking about the topic of “Generous Impact.” We will give thanks to God for what He is doing through the generosity of Light The Way, and we’ll look ahead to what He has for us in the future. Invite a friend, and I look forward to seeing you at 8:45am or 11:15am.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER

SENIOR PASTOR





CURRENT SERIES

The Generous Life

The qualities of a generous life

DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 10, 2025



Brandon Timberlake

512-565-7168



Hank Anawaty

512-497-7395

HANK ANAWATY was educated at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a custom home and commercial builder, real estate broker, and manager. He and Kim have three married children: Ryan, Rachel, and Jonathon, as well as grandsons, Vonn and Trevor. They joined ABC in 2021.

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025



**Mike, Celeste, Dixon,
Charlie & Margo
Luxeder**



**Alex and Lindsey Werner
with Gwen and Greyson**



Narei Mareko



Nancy Stobaugh



Pat Wilson



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

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING MEAL
NOVEMBER 19

COST: \$15 per person;
\$70 max per family unit
(immediate family only)

Join us next week for a Thanksgiving meal,
fellowship, and a time of prayer and reflection.

Register for your ticket online at
austinbaptistchurch.com/thanksgiving2025



THANK YOU, CHURCH FAMILY, FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!

Bill Glass Behind the Walls would like to thank the ABC family for use of the Great Hall on Friday evening, October 31st, for Equip and Ignite Training. On Saturday, November 1st, the team visited the Travis County State Jail. We had 375 Gospel conversations inside the facility. Sixty-nine inmates began relationships with Jesus and another 149 repented and returned to Him! We were also able to train 152 inmates to share the Good News. This evangelism ministry would not be possible without the support of local churches like ABC. We can't thank you enough for your prayers and partnership in Christ. We can praise God with you for brothers that are now members of the family of God!



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 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.samaritanaspurse.com/OCC.

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

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.

**SCAN/CLICK HERE TO
LEARN HOW TO PACK
A SHOEBOX**





ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

A Wonderful Kick-Off for the C.O.R.D. Ministry!

It was a beautiful beginning for our new *Connecting Others Relationally through Discipleship (C.O.R.D.) Ministry*! Recently, many of the women who signed up to be encouragers gathered at the home of our team lead, Kim Anawaty, for an evening of prayer, discussion, and encouragement—seeking how God will use this ministry to impact lives.

We're thrilled to share that six new connections have already been made between encouragers and encouragees! Our mission for C.O.R.D. is simple yet powerful:

- C** - *Connect* with other women through genuine, Christ-centered relationships.
- O** - *Offer* encouragement, wisdom, and grace through every season of life.
- R** - *Reflect* Christ's love by living as an example of faith and obedience.
- D** - *Disciple* intentionally, walking alongside others in truth, grace, and love.

The heart of C.O.R.D. is to create community within ABC where one woman (the encourager) walks alongside another (the encouragee), sharing her story, experience, and faith in ways that help both women grow spiritually. Our encouragers may have navigated life's challenges and now desire to use what God has taught them to guide others—applying biblical truth and practical wisdom in everyday situations. But this ministry isn't only for those facing hard seasons. Some women simply need a little encouragement, a friend to walk beside them, or someone to help them take the next step in their faith journey. There are countless ways to both give and receive encouragement!

In his recent message about bearing one another's burdens, Dr. Spencer reminded us that "your burden becomes a blessing for those helping you." What a beautiful reminder that both the encourager and the encouragee are blessed through this kind of relationship. Many of us are where we are today because someone once poured into our lives—discipling, praying, and encouraging us in our walk with Christ.

"What wonders a bit of encouragement can do! It's one of the most awesome treasures God has given us—the ability to inspire, motivate, and reassure others. Gather little pieces of love, grace, strength, and hope... see what happens when you shower those gifts on someone else. It's like spiritual confetti—the ultimate encouragement." Barbara Johnson / Nicole Johnson

If you're in need of encouragement or would like to offer some, we'd love to connect with you! Contact anitam@austinbaptistchurch.com or Kim Anawaty at kanawaty@gmail.com.

~Anita McGinnis



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

C.O.R.D. Ministry Encouragers Meeting



UPCOMING EVENTS

LINK UP WITH LIGHT UP

Wednesday, Dec. 3 | 6pm-7:45pm

The ABC Women's Ministry is excited to partner once again on mission to help prepare crafts, activities, and decorations for **Light Up Austin** on December 6th.

Bring a friend and come help *light the way* for our Austin neighbors during this holiday season!

WOMEN'S RETREAT "BIBLICAL FRIENDSHIP"

February 6-7 | Vintage Villas

Before the holiday rush begins, take a moment to register and set aside time to grow in faith and community at our Women's Retreat in 2026!

[CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER](#)

Wall of Honor

Sunday, November 9, 2025



WEEK IN REVIEW

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

In fifth grade I changed schools and it was a traumatic experience. I had moved from a small, safe setting designed for kids who had learning differences. The new school had large open classrooms (a nightmare for ADHD learners). One of my teachers didn't even know my name six weeks into the school year. There also happened to be an extra-large, almost full-grown young man named Raymond who was a student in my fifth grade class. I had never heard the kind of language that came out of his mouth, and I had never experienced my head being shoved into a water fountain, until I met Raymond. I was undersized for fifth grade, so as I saw it, my options were few. I now recognize that the world he grew up in probably had few tools to cope with life other than physical strength, harsh language, and whatever strong-arm tactics would ensure "survival of the fittest." I also recognized that my coping toolbox had little more than silent, numbing, and hiding behaviors that included eating a half a loaf of cinnamon toast smothered in butter and powdered sugar, and then going to bed all afternoon on the hard days so I could dull the pain.

There seems to be three basic ways we can deal with our pain. Two of them are more common, but we tend to handle them in harmful ways. The first way is by projecting our pain outward on others. The second way is attempting to protect ourselves by numbing and escaping inward. Either way, we harm healthy relationships. There is, however, a relationally healthy third way of handling our pain: we can process it. Jerrod Justice tells us, "Our pain is either transmitted or transformed." When we project our pain, we hurt other people. It can be someone who hurt us, as we exact revenge, or it could just be someone around us, unrelated to the hurt, who happens to be weaker and convenient. We can gossip, berate, or belittle others. We can also intentionally ignore, exclude, or abandon these people, or even physically harm them. We can become the worst version of ourselves. When we protect ourselves from pain, we hide from other people. We try any way we can to escape the pain because we just want it to stop. We do need to protect ourselves from further harm, but there are some really unhealthy ways to do it, which diminish who we are. We can numb ourselves with food, drugs, other chemicals, porn, alcohol, and unhealthy relationships. We can even convince ourselves that excessive exercise, religion, work, or sleep is a good option here. We may hide behind an armored persona, never showing who we really are for fear we will be hurt again. When we hide our true self, we have cheated the world out of experiencing the very relationships to which we are meant to bring life. Processing our pain with the Wonderful Counselor, Jesus Christ, is the best option. It allows us to connect with other people instead of hiding from them or hurting them. We need to process our pain with the God who sees us, hears us, and cares about us. We do this by praying and seeking some comfort from His presence, His Word, and His people (and maybe a trained counselor).

The Apostle Paul reminds us that it is because of Who we belong to that we can process our pain in a good way. He says in 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8b (CEV), "You belong to the light and live in the day. We don't live in the night or belong to the dark. Others may sleep, but we should stay awake and be alert. People sleep during the night, and some even get drunk. But we belong to the day. So we must stay sober and let our faith and love be like a suit of armor." The next time we find ourselves projecting our pain onto others or doing everything we can to protect ourselves from it, we need to remember that we belong to the One who will help us process it so we can bring our best self to those around us.

In His Joy,

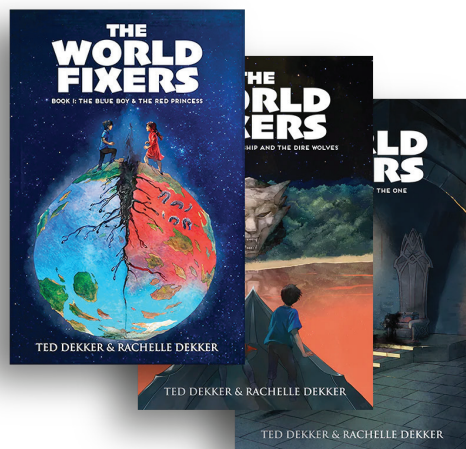
BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



The highlighted books this week are from the Ted Dekker and Rachelle Dekker series, ***The World Fixers***. Ted Dekker is an American author, born in the jungle of Indonesia to missionary parents. After returning to the United States, he studied philosophy and religion, but ended up working in the corporate world. In the 90s, Dekker decided to pursue his lifelong interest, writing. He has written over 40 books, including Christian fiction, mystery, fantasy, and nonfiction titles. Dekker is known for plot twists, unforgettable characters, and stories of good versus evil. His oldest daughter, Rachelle Dekker, discovered that she also has a passion for writing. She is a full-time writer and lives in Nashville with her family. Rachelle's book, ***The Choosing***, is a Young Adult Christy Award winner. Rachelle is best known for young adult dystopian fantasy novels. She and her father have written several books for children and young adults together. Both Ted and Rachelle are devoted to using stories to tell the truth.

The World Fixers is a fast-paced, allegorical adventure about courage, unity, and the danger of division. A tale for our time, it invites readers to see beyond the labels that divide us, "...and discover what it really takes to fix a world falling apart" (*from the Dekker website*). In John 13:35, Jesus told us that it would be our love for each other that will show the world that we follow Him. Dekker says that the "primary theme we find in all of my books is an exploration of that love in stories..." In these three books, Andrew and Heidi, two young heroes who should hate one another, learn to see "with new eyes and find the truth that can set their world free." They discover the only way to true healing is a deeper understanding of what it means to love with a love that includes loving your enemy, and how they can be a part of that healing in the world. This series is filled with action, laughter, and spiritual insight. These books are for ages eight and up.

BOOKS IN THIS SERIES

**THE BLUE BOY AND
THE RED PRINCESS**

Book 1

**THE DIRE WOLVES
AND THE BLACK SHIP**

Book 2

**THE LIGHT OF
THE ONE**

Book 3

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

ATTENDANCE11.09.2025

8:45 AM WORSHIP		621
11:15 AM WORSHIP		273
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		894

FINANCIAL REPORT11.09.2025

ACCOUNT	NOV. 9, 2025	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$133,138.82	\$5,606,181.75
DESIGNATED	\$15,864.00	\$143,409.40
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$273,040.00	\$2,489,778.56
TOTAL GIVING	\$422,042.82	\$8,251,869.71

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.



7016 RIBELIN RANCH DR. AUSTIN, TX, 78750