The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 41 — NOVEMBER 4, 2026

AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH

A WORD FROM **OUR PASTOR**

ABC Family,

Greetings from Thailand! Thank you for your prayers for our team. We are safe and having a wonderful time partnering with the International Mission Board. I am grateful for the opportunity to have my daughter with me on this trip. I've made it a goal to take each of my children on an international mission trip before they graduate.

I believe it is so important for every Christian to go on a mission trip in their lifetime, and we as parents have a special opportunity to teach the importance of missions to our children. Have you been on a trip with ABC? 2027 might be the opportunity for you to ADVANCE in your faith by going on a mission trip with us. More information on next year's trips is coming soon.

As a reminder, this Sunday is our Veteran's Day weekend. Our Wall of Honor will be on display as we recognize and thank the members of our ABC family who have served or are currently serving in the military. We will honor our veterns during our worship services, but be sure to come early to see the faces and names on the wall. We will also vote to adopt the 2027 Great Commission Fund budget, which is the general fund for our church. I pray you will join me in committing to give to this fund as we ADVANCE the Great Commission forward together as a church.

Have a great week, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER
SENIOR PASTOR





UPCOMING 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 2, 2026



Raman Dewan
512-415-6494



Larry Hart
512-632-1591

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026



Georgia Carlson

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 **NEWS**

NOVEMBER 4, 2026



Hey there Church Family,

I'm writing today to let you know that we've added a new team member to the staff. On November 1st, **Chris Barton** began as our Media Ministry Associate. Chris will be taking on the various aspects of production for our team, including the directing of video during worship services, production of the Citizen ATX podcast, and creation of content for our online resources. Chris is a valuable addition to our team and we're glad to welcome him. Please join us in giving him a warm welcome as he joins the team at ABC.

In Christ's Love,

DR. MATT GILLUM
EXECUTIVE PASTOR



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS









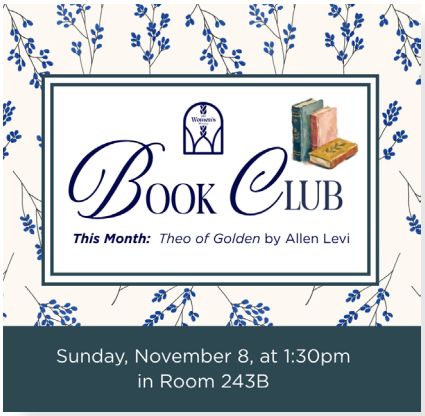
For all event and weekly activity information, please visit
austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS

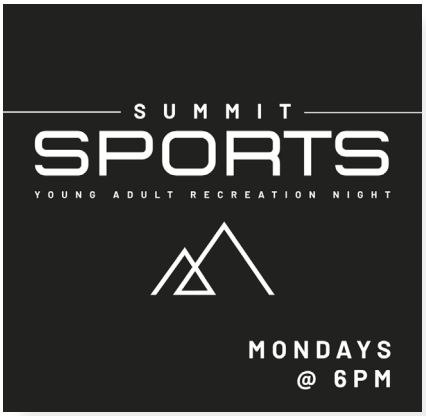
WEEKLY REMINDERS

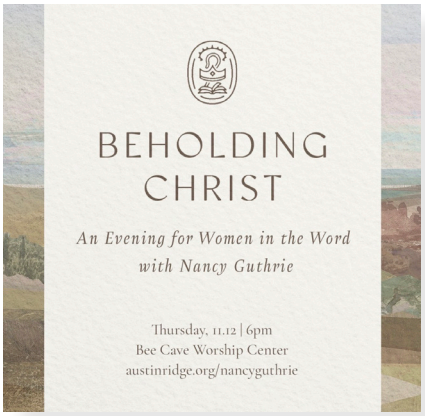












MIDWEEK **MENU**

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
NOVEMBER 11

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

Lasagna, salad, and breadsticks

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

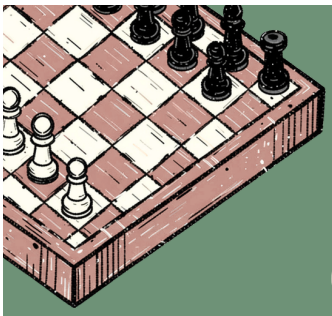
WALL OF HONOR

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, through November 15th.

Please attach a service photo to the form. If you encounter difficulties, please email the photo to Christina Reese at ***christinar@austinbaptistchurch.com.***
Last day to submit: Thursday, November 5th at 2:00pm

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





LADIES GAME DAY

TUESDAYS @ 11:30AM

ROOM 248 // BRING YOUR LUNCH & A GAME!

LAST TUESDAY FOR 2026 - NOVEMBER 17TH
RETURNING JANUARY 12TH



CONTACT: CINDY ROSENTHAL
carosenthal@att.net
713-303-4993
(No childcare provided)



Grandview Hills Elementary

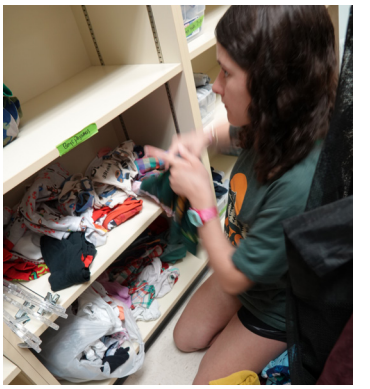
ABC KIDS MINISTRY SERVICE PROJECT

We had the incredible opportunity to serve the children and families of Grandview Hills Elementary, a school located just a few miles from ABC that serves a large population of students in need.

On Tuesday, November 3, a group of ABC Kids from our Next Level Lead Team (4th and 5th graders) spent the morning serving at the school helping organize the school's clothing closet. These students worked diligently sorting clothing, installing tension rods to create hanging racks, organizing shelves, and bringing order to a resource that serves many families in the community.

We are so proud of the compassion and leadership they demonstrated throughout the project. As we continue to partner with Grandview Hills Elementary through future service opportunities, please join us in praying for the students, families, teachers, and staff. Pray that they would be encouraged, supported, and experience the love of Christ through our ongoing partnership and service.








ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE



Last Wednesday, our Women's Bible Study brought the stories of Scripture to life with its very first production, ***The Red Carpet Women of the Bible!*** What a fun and fitting way to wrap up our study of the women of the Bible. When Donna Noble first shared with me a skit she had written years ago, I knew it would be the perfect way to celebrate all we had learned. And there's more! Donna recently shared the story behind the skit on her blog, and I thought you would enjoy reading it too. So enjoy a little behind-the-scenes look at our Red Carpet debut!

FROM DONNA NOBLE // WE'RE BIBLE WOMEN, TOO!

Move over, Hollywood! The red carpet was rolled out last Wednesday night for some VERY special ladies! Mrs. Noah, Sarah, Deborah, Delilah, Martha, Lydia, and the Widow with her two mites made their grand appearances at our Women's Bible Study! And yours truly? I was Kiane Sawyer, reporting on the remarkable lives of these Bible women! Our very own Barbara Wilters (aka Allison D'Alfonso) interviewed each celebrity while our Bible Study leaders became actresses! We laughed, applauded, and even had husbands show up to video our production!

But here's the best part! I wrote this play in 2004 when I was President of Women's Ministries in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Twenty-two years later, God dusted off that script and gave it new life in Austin, Texas! After eight weeks of studying significant women of the Bible, we brought other Bible women's stories to life. Mrs. Noah taught us perseverance. Sarah reminded us that God's promises are worth waiting for. Judge Deborah demonstrated courage. Martha showed us the importance of choosing what matters most. Lydia modeled

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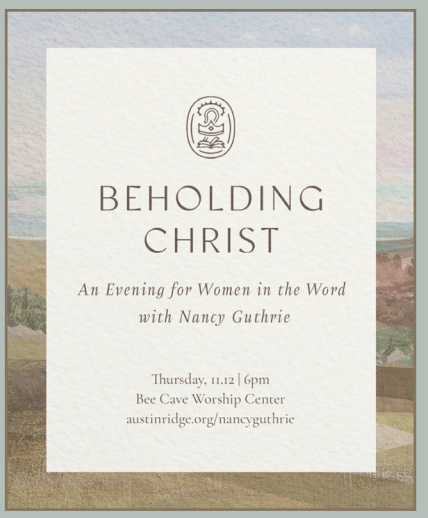
hospitality and generosity. And the poor widow? She gave everything she had! Even Delilah reminded us that our choices have consequences!

But here's what struck my heart: we are Bible women too. No, our names aren't written in Genesis, Judges, or Acts, but we're writing our own faith stories every single day! We're praying grandmothers, serving mothers, faithful friends, encouragers, caregivers, givers, and women who keep showing up when life gets hard! Hebrews 12:1 reminds us we're surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Those faithful women who walked before us are cheering us on! And the same God who equipped, noticed, and blessed the women of sacred scriptures, notices, sees, and loves you and me.

Our red carpet may be a grocery aisle, hospital hallway, church kitchen, or a neighbor's doorstep. But wherever God places us, we can walk in faith, love, and purpose! The Bible women had their stories. We're still writing ours! And oh, what a story God is writing through YOU, too. So thankful for those who went before us to show us ways to live our lives with true grit, determination, and all-out service for our Lord! Carry on, good and faithful servants!



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 next *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.

Please sign up at the link ***HERE*** or email Anita at ***anitam@austinbaptistchurch.com*** to let us know you're coming!

The Red Carpet Women of the Bible

October 28, 2026

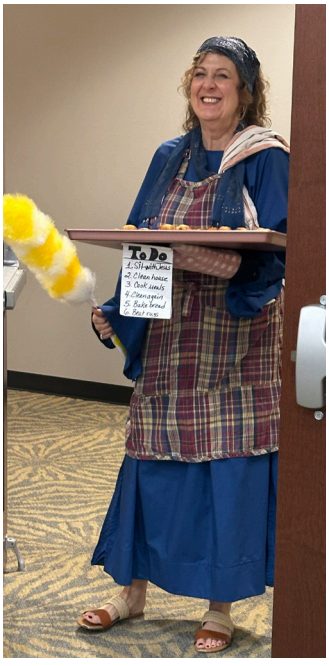














WEEK IN REVIEW

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

What to say after election day? One year in middle school there was a great presidential election. Our teachers decided that it would be a good exercise for the students to participate in our own campaign and voting process the week before the national election to gain perspective and insight into the way democracy works. This apparently was a good exercise for me, because I only knew one viewpoint, one perspective, one candidate whom I knew would make the best president. I thought "Who could possibly vote for the other candidate?" My friends on my bus were all aligned on the side of my favorite candidate, and so I assumed every other kid on every other bus would vote the way I did. I thought it would be a landslide victory. When the day came to vote, we all voted, and I was shocked to learn, at the end of the day, that the other guy had won my school's mock election. Not only did he win, it was not even close. Classroom friends whose candidate had won learned how I had voted and taunted me and others who voted as I did. The winners even sang the old elementary school playground victory song, "I'm better than you, nanny nanny boo boo, stick your head in doo doo!" Our bus ride home was relatively quiet that day except for one emotionally charged kid who refused to believe that it was a fair election. His rant included name calling, questioning the teachers who ran the election and demanding a recount. We all knew that this kind of landslide victory was not a simple miscount, unless, as he argued, that it was a system corrupt from the core. The same candidate, by the way, did win the real election the next week. In my middle school mind, when I wasn't trying to figure out girls, remember to brush my teeth, and hide the stench of my smelly vinyl tennis shoes by sitting on them, I thought that president was a total disaster for our country. There were some really good things that happened, too, but I can't remember them because they didn't fit my narrative on what I thought our country should look like.

It wasn't until later, when I was learning about other oppressive forms of government in the world, that I realized, "Wow, what an amazing gift we have to be able to vote for our own leadership." Sure, it has its own challenges and ways it can be manipulated, but what a wonderful concept: to trust people to make wise choices about whom they choose to lead them. I pray that democracy will continue so that people are valued and that we have a voice and a vote in how things happen. Ultimately, there is a Divine Hand in what happens in our world. God always led His people, when they followed Him or when they rebelled. He is always in control, even when His people have been overrun or taken into captivity and persecuted, all so that they would seek His face and return to Him from their rebellion.

Our God, who is the creator of the universe, has a plan for all people, bigger than any country or government. Daniel, who was in exile when God's people were taken captive to Babylon because of their rebellion, was in the service of King Nebuchadnezzar. King Neb had a disturbing dream about the future not only of his reign, but the future of the world. Daniel asked God to show him the dream and the interpretation. When God had given Daniel Neb's dream and the answer, he responded to Nebuchadnezzar with praise for God and the meaning of his dream. Part of his answer is an encouragement to all of us as we navigate any election season. We read, *"Daniel praised the God of heaven and said: 'Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning'"* Daniel 2:19-21 (NIV). Anita is always quick to remind me of this passage when I get all worked up over politics: that all "wisdom and power are (God's)" and that "(our God) sets up kings (and presidents, senators, congressmen, etc...) and deposes them." Regardless of the outcome of this or any other election, we have to remember the FIRST thing to do, according to Paul, is to pray for *"everyone... and ALL those in authority,"* even if we do not agree with them. Paul says to young Timothy and the Ephesian church, *"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone; for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time"* 1 Timothy 2:1-6 (NIV). So, the best thing to say on election day is "God has a plan and I'm praying."

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

In His Joy,

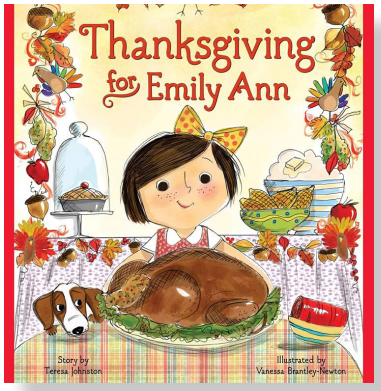
BILL MCGINNIS

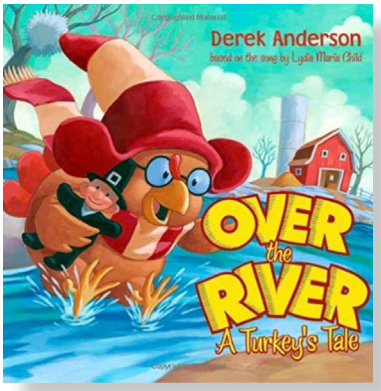
PASTOR OF CARE

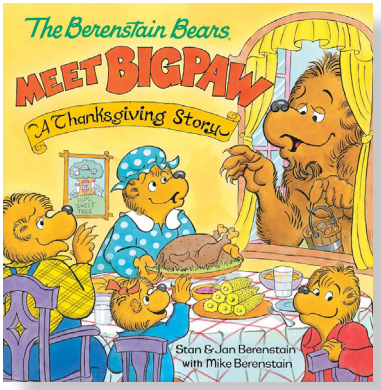


ABC Library

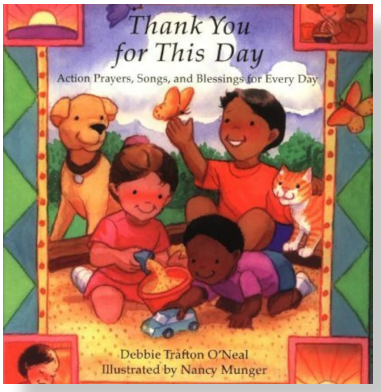
Below are some fall and Thanksgiving books that can be found in the Children's section of the ABC library!

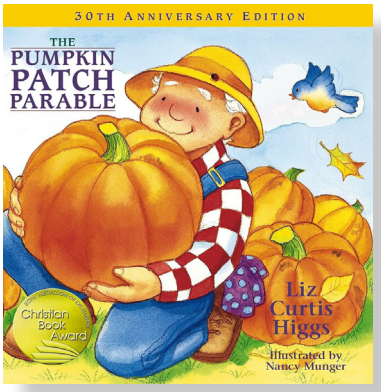












CONTACT: Rita Ervin

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**

ATTENDANCE	11.01.2026
8:45 AM WORSHIP	560
11:15 AM WORSHIP	371
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	769

FINANCIAL REPORT	11.01.2026	
ACCOUNT	NOV. 01, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND *(GENERAL)*	$240,487.33	$4,157,045.00
DESIGNATED		$238,662.44
TOTAL GIVING	$303,761.31	$5,144,468.12

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

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