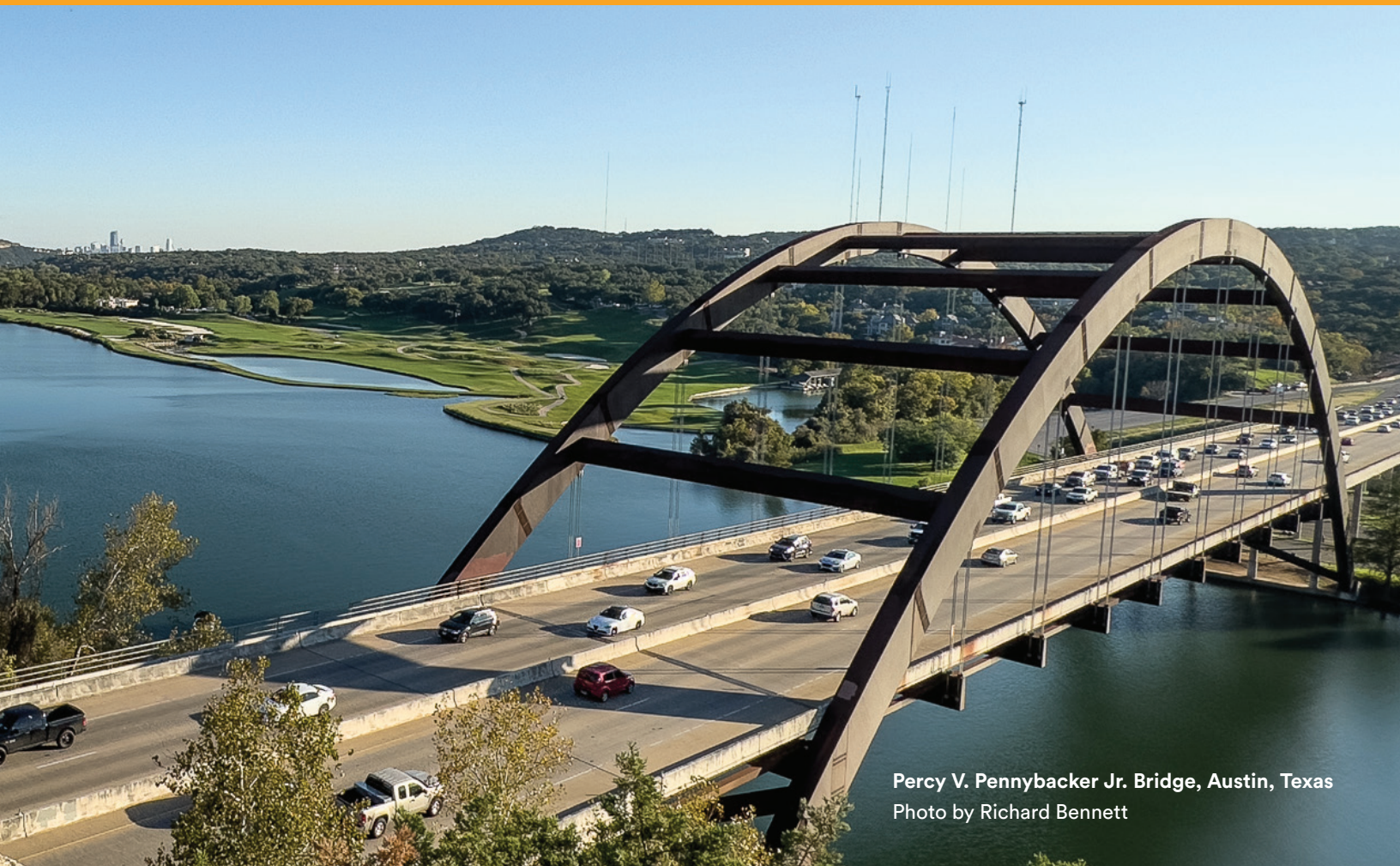


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 18 NO. 41

NOVEMBER 5, 2025



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Romans 12:10 says, “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.” This Sunday is Veterans Day Weekend at ABC. This is a special day where we take time in our church gatherings to give honor where honor is due.

Come early on Sunday to view our “Wall of Honor” display in the Great Hall. This tribute has become one of my favorite traditions at ABC, as it displays the many men and women in our church who have served to protect our freedom. Additionally, we will have a special moment in both worship services where we will recognize our veterans and pray for our nation. It is important for us to remember our religious freedom comes at a great cost. Our freedom is protected by selfless men and women who serve in our armed forces.

Did you know one out of seven Christians are persecuted around the world? May we never take for granted the blessing that God has given the church here in America. I look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday and giving thanks to God for our liberty. We will press on to week two of our *Generous Life* sermon series, and we will also vote on our debt-free 2026 Great Commission Fund Budget at the conclusion of both services. Have a wonderful week, 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 3, 2025



Mark Davis

512-970-0747

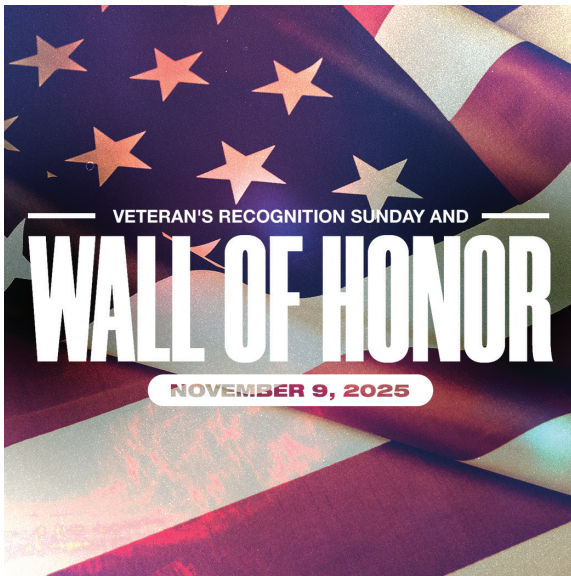


Scott Agthe

512-905-2593

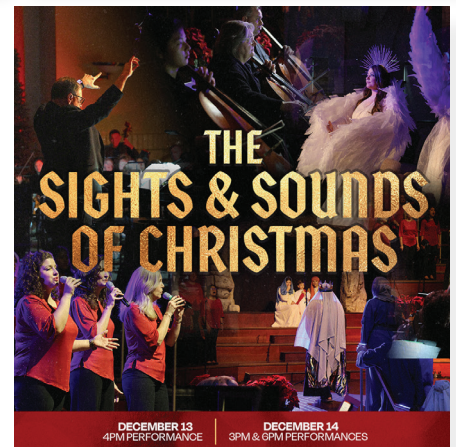
SCOTT AGTHE earned a B.A. degree in Communications from New Mexico State and a J.D. degree from the University of Houston. He is a Labor and Employment Attorney representing employers. He and Debbie are proud parents of daughter Allison. They joined ABC in 2011.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

WEEKLY REMINDERS



MIDWEEK MENU

LAST FALL MIDWEEK MENU
NOVEMBER 12

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

Cheeseburgers and fries

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

PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET

Department Name	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
MISSIONS	239,400	567,508
CHURCH OUTREACH	73,600	79,600
PASTORAL MINISTRIES	26,200	31,200
PERSONNEL	2,793,833	3,002,650
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	15,450	12,750
WOMENS MINISTRY	15,000	17,794
PRESCHOOL MINISTRY	20,645	25,300
CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY	60,150	71,850
ABC PRESCHOOL	(34,450)	(1,552)
STUDENT MINISTRY	85,748	63,039
YOUNG ADULTS	23,150	19,250
SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY	8,900	10,500
FOOD SERVICE	57,940	69,400
HOSPITALITY & EVENTS	27,500	30,200
WORSHIP MINISTRY	58,250	58,250
OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	177,000	171,422
PHOTOGRAPHY	500	500
FACILITIES	794,530	1,113,613
LIBRARY	3,100	2,500
TECHNOLOGY	94,000	91,265
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP	16,950	8,150
SOUND, LIGHTING & VIDEO	50,000	48,500
DEACON MINISTRY	6,700	6,200
TRUSTEES	154,248	155,196
LONG-RANGE PLANNING	2,500	1,000
FINANCE	8,400	8,400
GREETERS/USHERS	1,000	1,000
DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING	5,000	4,000
GUEST & INFORMATION COMMITTEE	4,600	4,600
CAPITAL LOAN SERVICE	84,802	0
MARRIAGE & FAMILY ENRICHMENT	5,000	1,000
CAPITAL LOAN PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS	647,198	0
TOTAL	\$5,526,844	\$5,675,085



**PERCENT INCREASE
FROM 2025 BUDGET**

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER 26

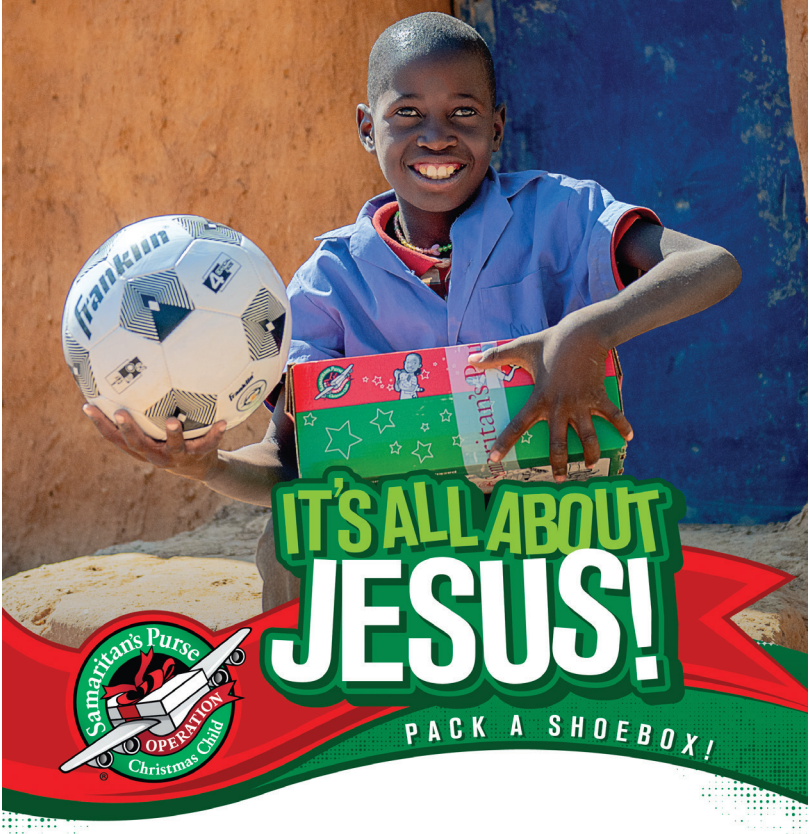
**Great Commission
Reports Distributed**
*(print and digital
copies available)*

**OCTOBER 29 &
NOVEMBER 5**

**Proposed 2026 Budget
available to view in
The Bridge**

NOVEMBER 9

**Church vote for
Proposed 2026 Budget
in both services**



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.samaritanspurse.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



November 9th-16th, we will honor veterans and active-duty service members. We will have a special time of prayer and recognition in both Sunday services on the 9th. ABC’s Wall of Honor will display photos of these individuals in the Great Hall.

If you or a loved one has served in the United States Military, you may submit an entry to display on the wall. **Please fill out this form by Friday, November 7th, at 3pm** to recognize a veteran or current service member.

PLEASE NOTE: If you submitted an entry last year, you **do not** have to resubmit your entry **unless** you have updates or another entry you’d like to include. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to **Christina Reese** at christinar@austinbaptistchurch.com.



SCAN/CLICK HERE TO
SUBMIT YOUR VETERAN OR
SERVICE MEMBER

VETERAN’S RECOGNITION SUNDAY AND
WALL OF HONOR
NOVEMBER 9, 2025



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Sweet Sunday was a night of fashion, fun, and fellowship! Our runway featured models ranging in age from 12 to 80, each shining with confidence and joy in festive holiday wear before a crowd of over 100 women. A huge thank you to Vanessa Pischer, co-owner of Posh Mercantile, for sharing her fabulous collection—from casual chic, elevated elegance, and cozy loungewear. We loved every moment!

Beyond fashion trends, we also learned about the 8-Point Rule of Fashion—a creative styling guide that helps bring balance to any outfit. Even more inspiring was the reminder from God's Word about His ultimate 8-point "wardrobe" checklist in Colossians 3:12–14:

"Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

When we "put on" each of these qualities and tie them together with love, we become clothed in something far more beautiful than fashion—we are clothed in Christ. This week, I encourage and challenge you to follow God's wardrobe design—put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, and forgiveness, all tied together with love. When we do, we reflect Christ beautifully to everyone He places in our path.

~Anita McGinnis

UPCOMING EVENTS

EMBRACE GRACE BABY SHOWER

Sunday, Nov. 16th | 12:45-3:00pm

Let's continue to show love in action by blessing our first Embrace Grace moms and babies!

- Purchase a gift from the registry [HERE](#)
- Sign up to bring food [HERE](#)

Thank you, ABC family, for showering these young women with Christ's love in such a tangible way!

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](#)

Sweet Sunday

Sunday, November 2, 2025



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

When I was a Senior pastor at a church in East Nashville, I was getting ready to preach on a Wednesday night after our church family had a meal together. A church member came to find me and said there was someone standing in the stairwell who was lost. This was nothing new, people frequently got lost in our neighborhood because our church was on McGavock Pike. The Opryland Hotel, Grand Ol' Opry, Opry Mills shopping center, as well as some other restaurants and hotels were also located on McGavock Pike, but they were on the other side of the river. To remedy the problem, we had printed up some maps that showed people how they could get to the bridge that would take them to the country music mecca, a huge indoor shopping mall, and a fancy hotel that featured nine acres of beautiful indoor gardens. As I walked across our fellowship hall and up the steps, I was wondering to myself, "Why didn't that church member just give him directions?" As I walked up to him, I introduced myself as the pastor and asked him if he was lost. He answered, "Yes, I'm lost." I said, "Hold on, I have a map in my office that will get you where you need to go." I quickly started up the next set of stairs because I was supposed to preach in just a few minutes. The sweaty man with a painter's hat, dressed in a t-shirt and jorts with paint on them, began to take large steps to catch up to me with a pained look on his face. He exclaimed once again, "Pastor, I'm lost." I responded again, "Don't worry, I have a map that will help." He grabbed my arm and said, "You don't understand, I am lost and going to hell, and I need Jesus!" I was speechless and chuckled out loud at my own spiritual insensitivity, but it finally registered and I said, "Ooooh! Well, let's get you saved right now!" He told me that he had been painting the second story of his house and God told him that he was lost and he needed to get off that ladder right then and go to the church on the corner and get saved. And that's what he did. A few moments later, when I had given a very simple presentation of the Gospel story, that man prayed a prayer asking Jesus to save him. I invited him to dinner, but he was embarrassed by his sweat and paint-covered clothes. However, he went home as a man who had been found by Jesus. Though I was late to our Wednesday night service, I definitely had a story to tell my congregation. How silly of me to offer something so second-rate like a map to hear some of the best country music, shop in some of the best retail space at the time, or stay in a four-star hotel, when the man wanted to know how to get to heaven. I still get chill bumps when I think that I was in the presence of the Holy Spirit in those moments and that God had involved me in the eternal salvation of someone, even when I was so clueless. There were 25 other churches in a three-mile radius of ours, one of which I could reach with a well-thrown rock, but somehow God sent him to our church for that divine intervention.

Jesus had just saved a little lost man up in a tree in Jericho named Zacchaeus when... "Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost'" (Luke 19:9-10 NIV). After that incident in Nashville, I was reminded that we should always be expecting Jesus to be saving lost people around us and He may even use us to be a part of His lifesaving work.

In His Joy,

BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE

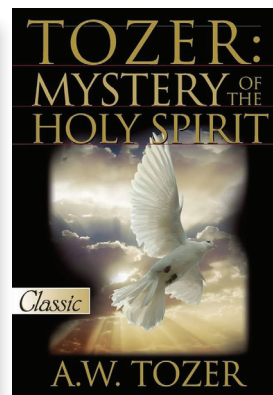
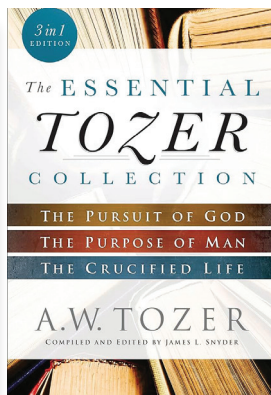
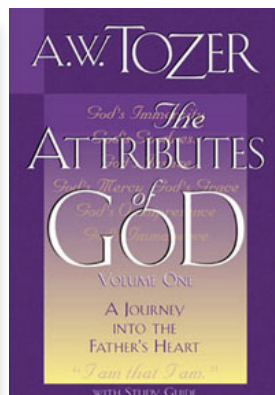
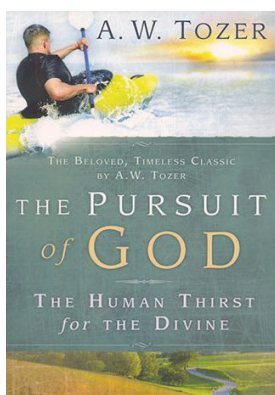




ABC Library

This week's featured author is **A.W. Tozer**. Born in 1897, Tozer did not attend high school or college, but went on to receive two honorary doctorates and was a self-taught theologian. He became an ordained minister, and he served in ministry until his death in 1963. Tozer asked God to give him a vision and the courage to be faithful so that others could recognize and follow God. He believed that God gave him three tasks: prayer, study, and proclamation. His audio sermons, which are available online, and his books point Christians toward a deeper reverence for God and His majesty and holiness. They "... challenge believers to reject shallow religion and press into true intimacy with God." Some of his books are considered spiritual classics. One of Tozer's most famous quotes is, "The only sin Jesus ever had was ours, and the only righteousness we can ever have is His."

Below are some of Tozer's books that have been added to the 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

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM: austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS: austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG

ABC PODCASTS: austinbaptistchurch.com/PODCASTS

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE11.02.2025

8:45 AM WORSHIP		641
11:15 AM WORSHIP		306
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		782

FINANCIAL REPORT11.02.2025

ACCOUNT	NOV. 2, 2025	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$1,119,590.80	\$5,472,417.93
DESIGNATED	\$3,225.00	\$127,943.40
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$132,513.09	\$2,216,738.56
TOTAL GIVING	\$1,255,328.89	\$7,829,599.89

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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