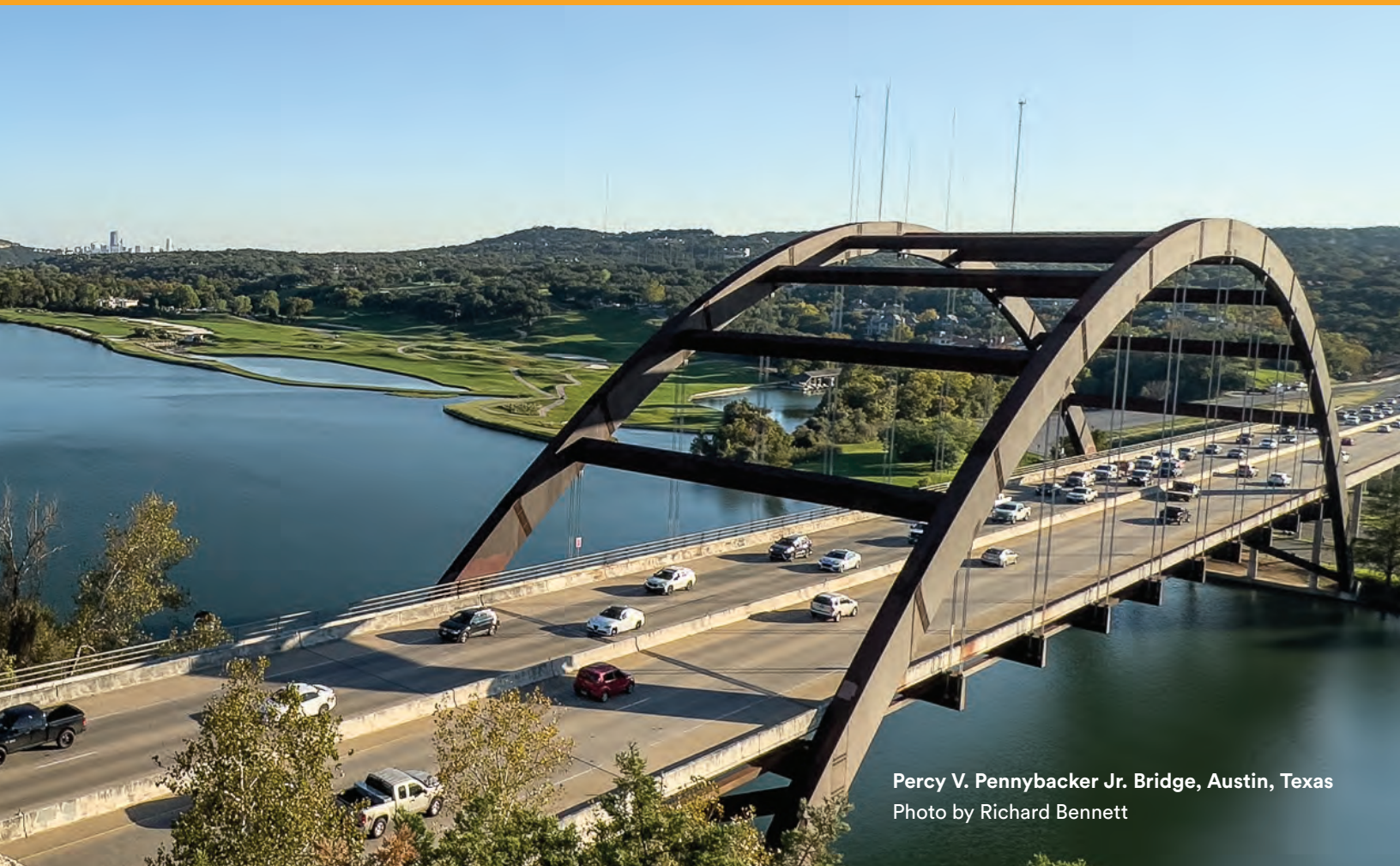


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 18 NO. 44

DECEMBER 3, 2025



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

The Christmas season is upon us at ABC. I cannot wait to see what God is going to do as we set our eyes on the Light of the World this month. I hope you're planning to join us for Light Up Austin, our annual Christmas service day, this Saturday, December 6th. We will take Christmas on the road to local community centers such as the Texas Baptist Children's Home, the Baptist Community Center, and the Cardinal Point Apartments down the street. Staff and volunteers will serve local parents and children and provide a meaningful Christmas celebration. Sign up [HERE](#).

The following weekend, we will host our annual Christmas production, "The Sights & Sounds of Christmas." This year we are expanding to three identical performances: Saturday, December 13th, at 4pm and Sunday, December 14th, at 3pm and 6pm. We will have a family-friendly Christmas reception following each of the presentations featuring hot chocolate, cookie and ornament decorating, photo spots, and more.

I encourage you to invest in our Christmas experiences. All of our service projects, special events, and Sunday services are prayerfully designed to stir our hearts for Jesus Christ during this special season. However, these events and services are not just for you. I also encourage you to invite others to join you. There is no better time to invite someone to church than the Christmas season. Who can you invite to be with you this Sunday? Who can you bring with you to one of our Sights & Sounds performances? Don't miss the opportunity God has given you to share the joy of Christmas.

The angel in the shepherds' field reminds us Christmas is a message of "good news of great joy for ALL people" (Luke 2:10). Invite a friend, and I look forward to seeing you this Sunday. I'll be kicking off our Christmas sermon series, "The Promise of Christmas," as we look to the Old Testament promises fulfilled through the birth of Jesus. I'll see you at 8:45am or 11:15am.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER

SENIOR PASTOR





UPCOMING SERIES

The Promise of Christmas

Unwrapping the Christmas Prophecies

DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, 2025



Frank Griffith

512-296-8288



Dan Jacobson

512-289-4899

DAN JACOBSON earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He is a registered architect and co-owner of Griffin + Jacobson, LLC. He and Linda are proud parents of daughter Miranda. They are charter members of ABC.

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025



Dale Stobaugh



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

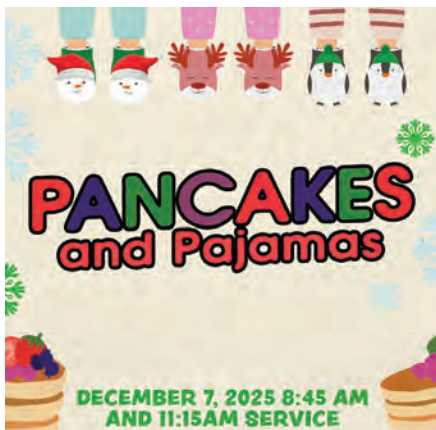


For all event and weekly activity information, please visit
austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS

WEEKLY REMINDERS

Christmas Events

KIDS EVENTS



STUDENT EVENTS





THE SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 13
4PM PERFORMANCE

DECEMBER 14
3PM & 6PM PERFORMANCE



Come and join us for ABC's annual Christmas production: ***The Sights & Sounds of Christmas!*** Our three identical presentations will feature ABC's Choir and Orchestra, Kid's Choirs, special guests Kirk and Julianne Kirkland, and a live nativity! Presentations will be ***December 13th at 4pm***, and ***December 14th at 3pm and 6pm***.

After each performance, we will have holiday fun for the whole family with hot chocolate, cookie and ornament decorating, photo spots, and more! This event is completely **FREE** and open to all ages.

한글
ENSEMBLE
JUNTOS
함께
JUNTO
ZUSAMMEN
BMECTE
一起
معاً
TOGETHER



Together, we find the lost, give help to the hurting,
share the hope of Christ, and witness God grow His Church
around the world. Your generosity today changes lives.



INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD

GIVE TODAY AT
austinbaptistchurch.com/GIVE

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is a registered trademark of WMU®.



LIGHT UP AUSTIN CHRISTMAS 2025

SAT. DECEMBER 6TH
3 Opportunities to Serve

SCAN HERE
TO SIGN UP



Angel TREE FOR THE FAMILIES OF CARDINAL POINT

In the spirit of the Christmas season, we are excited to have another Angel Tree this year to bless the families at Cardinal Point Apartments. You can pick up a gift tag for a child this Sunday in the lobby.

We ask that you spend **\$50 minimum** per child. Please return all gifts, with the nametag attached, by **Wednesday, December 17th**. Thank you for helping us spread joy to our neighbors at Cardinal Point this Christmas season!



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Hello ladies!

Still searching for the perfect Christmas gift—for yourself or someone else? How about a **connecting weekend getaway** just for the girls! The best part? No travel stress, no cooking, and no cleaning—just time to connect with one another in God's Word as we refresh and have fun together.

The Women's Ministry Retreat is happening February 6–7 at Vintage Villas, conveniently located only 10 minutes from the church. During our time together, we'll explore what Biblical Friendship truly means, while enjoying meaningful conversations, laughter, and new connections. This retreat is open to women of all ages and life stages—everyone is welcome!

Click the link below for more details and to reserve your spot!

Woven Together,
ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER



ABC WOMEN'S RETREAT

February 6-7, 2026
Vintage Villas
Austin, TX

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
Wednesday, November 19, 2025



WEEK IN REVIEW

Christmas Memorial Service

November 30, 2025



First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 30, 2025



WEEK IN REVIEW

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

Are you up and gone to Carolina? We had a group of family friends that would take an annual trek to the Carolina coast when I was a child. Those times were filled with beach days, crabbing, mini-golf, and lots of fried shrimp. The place made it fun, but the people made it special. Family time was uninterrupted by all the work, school and activities of home and we had many fun times making memories with family and friends in the sun, surf and sand. As the song says, "love's the finest thing around." From the time Anita and I started dating, the Carolina coast has been special to us too. Her aunt, who lived on the Isle of Palms, used to host a reunion every other year. Everyone would gather for a week-long celebration of all the birthdays, anniversaries, and milestones we had missed together. She made every person feel special and made matching T-shirts for everyone who belonged to our family crew (blood relatives and friends so close they were like cousins). Kind, encouraging words were spoken, many coastal meals were shared shoulder to shoulder, and laughter was only a moment away. The Carolina cousins have tried to keep the tradition going since their aunt's passing. Once again, the place is wonderful, but the people are what make it special because "love's the finest thing around." Of course, one of our favorite songs is "Carolina in My Mind." James Taylor apparently wrote the song from a faraway place, homesick for the people he loved and belonged to. The love of the people who spoke gentle and kind words to him and the familiarity of the place seemed to call out to him. I love the lines he sings:

"There ain't no doubt in no one's mind
That love's the finest thing around
Whisper something soft and kind
And hey babe, the sky's on fire
I'm dying, ain't I?
Gone to Carolina in my mind."

Paul, the Apostle, was writing to some people he loved, who had apparently forgotten how to treat the people to whom they belonged. He writes to them from a faraway place reminding them, "love's the finest thing around." He says, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails... And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love" 1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13 (NIV). For a few years now the Carolina reunion has been postponed, but memories of the love and laughter of those to whom we belong are calling out to us, reminding us that "love's the finest thing around!" We all need to let Jesus whisper words soft and kind to us, and then we can pass them along to those we love whether we are close to them or far away.

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

In His Joy,

BILL MCGINNIS

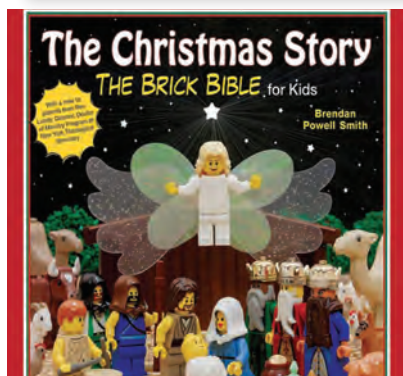
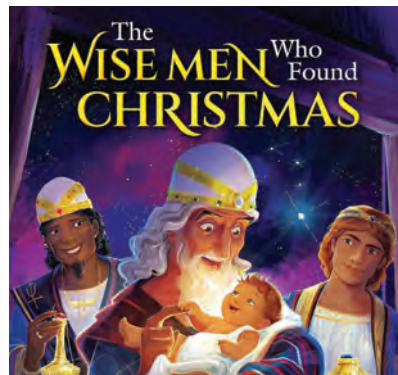
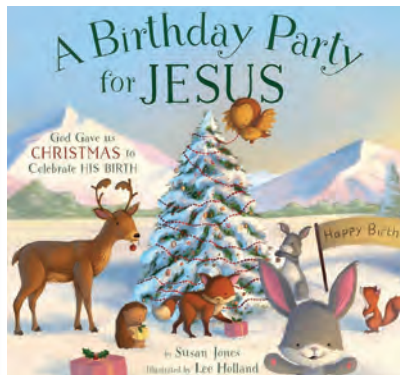
PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library

Below are some of the Christmas books for children available in the ABC library. We also have great Christmas books for adults, too. Come and check out a book for yourself, or your children, for the Christmas season.



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

ATTENDANCE11.30.2025

8:45 AM WORSHIP	608
11:15 AM WORSHIP	254
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	699

FINANCIAL REPORT11.30.2025

ACCOUNT	NOV. 30, 2025	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$107,795.93	\$6,000,364.96
DESIGNATED	\$3,690.00	\$149,799.40
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$25,088.00	\$2,528,754.89
TOTAL GIVING	\$236,573.93	\$8,791,419.25

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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