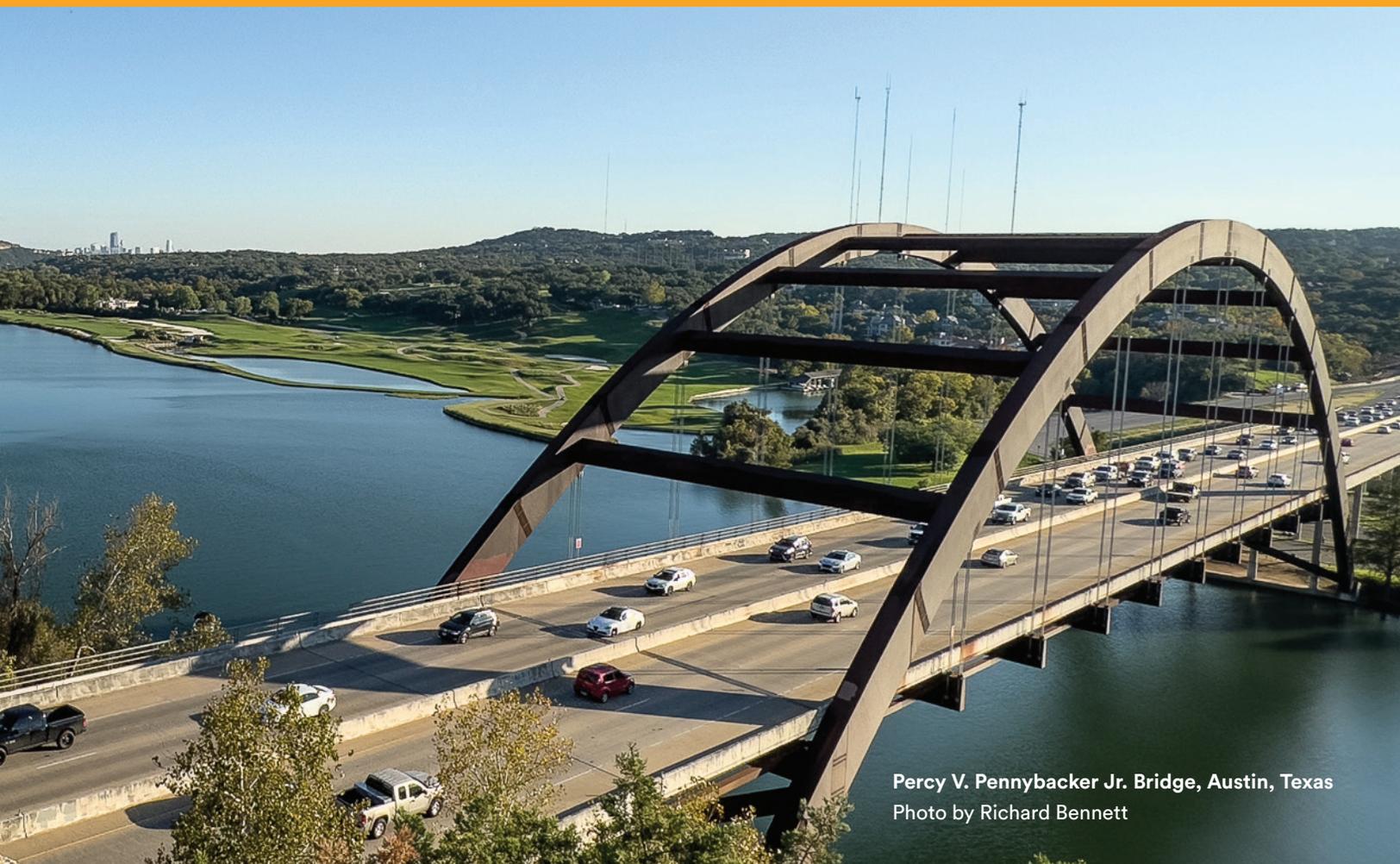


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 6

FEBRUARY 11, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Jesus said, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit”* (John 12:24). Jesus explained that farmers make decisions regarding their seed. They can hold on to their seed and preserve it, but their seed will not bear any fruit. But if they choose to release their seed into the ground, in due time that seed will bring a harvest.

God has given our church a financial seed to steward. *Light The Way* has reminded us of the impact we can make through planting that seed in Gospel fields. As part of the LTW initiative, we set a goal to “expand our mission.” One way we are doing this is through partnership with NAMB’s church planting movement that is happening across southern California. Through your generosity, we are funding a church residency program that provides pastoral training and seminary education for aspiring church planters. Additionally, we have selected one church planter, Pastor Derek Berry, to continue to support through prayer, giving, and sending.

Pastor Berry sent me an update last week about his new church (see his letter enclosed in this week’s edition of the Bridge). I was so thrilled to see Derek report that his new church just baptized four brand new believers of Jesus Christ! That is a picture of the fruit of the harvest that we seek. Thank you for casting financial seed for the sake of the Gospel. We are just a little over \$300k away from being fully funded to complete all LTW goals. I encourage you to continue in your faithfulness to our general fund, “The Great Commission Fund,” but also consider giving above and beyond to help us *Light The Way* forward together.

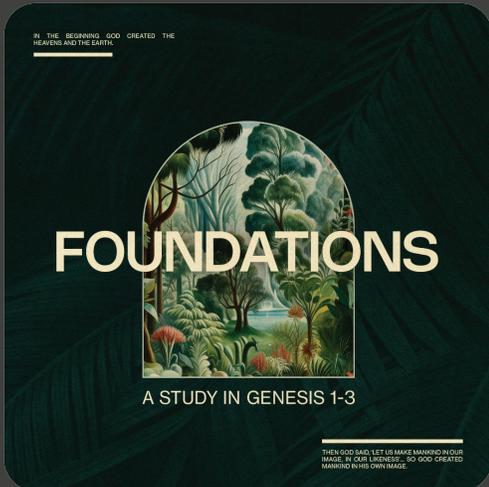
Who can you invite to join us for worship this week? You can be a part of kingdom work right here and right now at ABC simply by inviting your neighbors, classmates, colleagues, and friends. Remember, we are just called to cast the seed, but it is God who makes it grow (1 Corinthians 3:6-7). I’ll see you Sunday at 8:45am or 11:15am.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER

SENIOR PASTOR





CURRENT SERIES

Foundations

A study in Genesis 1-3

GOT GENESIS QUESTIONS?

Submit your questions for Citizen ATX Podcast by scanning or clicking the QR code! New episodes every Wednesday.



DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9, 2026



Cub Root

512-538-4003



Dan Jacobson

512-289-4899

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026



**Blake & Kathy
McDaniel**



Monica Enriquez



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

SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN LOS ANGELES

Dear brothers and sisters at
Austin Baptist Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I wanted to reach out with a warm greeting and an update on how things are going here at Good News Church, and first and foremost to say thank you. We are deeply grateful for your continued financial support and partnership in the gospel. Last night in Bible study, we went over Philippians 1:3-5, and I'm reminded of how Paul thanked the Lord for the partnership in the gospel that he had with the church at Philippi. Your generosity has been a tangible means the Lord has used to sustain and encourage this work, and we do not take that lightly.

By God's grace, we have begun meeting together every Sunday with Good News Church, and it has been a real joy. Our people have been coming together faithfully, and there is a genuine sense of unity and affection growing among us. It truly feels like a family that the Lord is knitting together week by week. On January 15th, we'll be incorporating weekly meals to take place directly after the service.

A few weeks ago, we had the great joy of baptizing four new believers. I have attached the photos on the next page to share. It was a sweet and humbling reminder that the Lord is still saving sinners and adding to His church. We praise God for His faithfulness and kindness in allowing us to witness this.

On Sunday mornings, I am currently preaching through the Gospel of Matthew, and it has been a rich time of sitting under the authority of God's Word and beholding Christ together.

Alongside this, we are seeking to build a relationship with a school just down the street from us by working toward starting a Good News Club. We are hopeful the Lord will use this as an opportunity to serve families in our community and to make the gospel known to children.

We are also seeking to prepare for Easter by getting to know our neighbors so we can have a push to invite people out, along with our hopes of having a VBS this summer. There is a church in Bakersfield that has agreed to send volunteers to help make this possible.

Overall, we are simply thankful for the work the Lord is doing among us—slow, steady, and by His grace. Thank you again for walking alongside us through your prayers, encouragement, and financial support. We are grateful for your partnership and thankful to labor together for the sake of Christ and His kingdom. My family and I are looking forward to joining you all this summer.

Please continue to pray for us, as we pray for you.

In Christ Alone,

DR. DEREK BERRY

**PASTOR OF GOOD NEWS CHURCH,
PASADENA, CA**

SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN **LOS ANGELES**



UPCOMING EVENTS

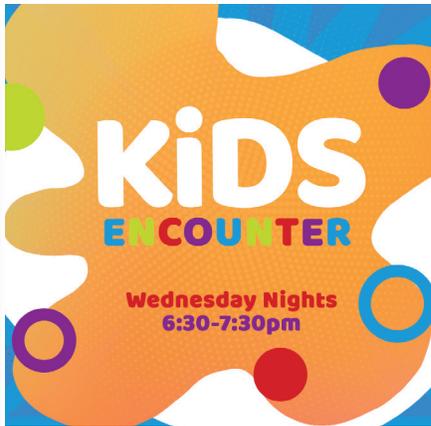


For all event and weekly activity information, please visit
austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS

WEEKLY REMINDERS



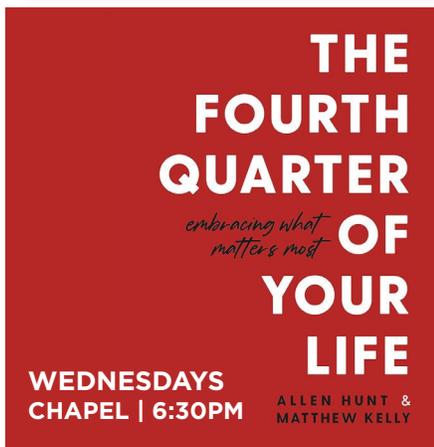
**ABC
Kids Choir**
WEDNESDAYS
5:55-6:25



**KiDS
ENCOUNTER**
Wednesday Nights
6:30-7:30pm



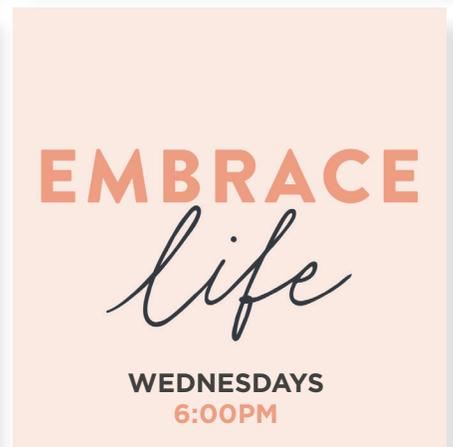
AXIS
WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM



**THE
FOURTH
QUARTER
OF
YOUR
LIFE**
*embracing what
matters most*
WEDNESDAYS
CHAPEL | 6:30PM
ALLEN HUNT &
MATTHEW KELLY



**EMBRACE
Grace**
WEDNESDAYS
6:00PM



**EMBRACE
life**
WEDNESDAYS
6:00PM

MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
FEBRUARY 18

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

Cheeseburgers and french fries

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

FEBRUARY 27, 2026

FAMILY FUN FEST

6:00-9:00PM



SCAN OR CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP

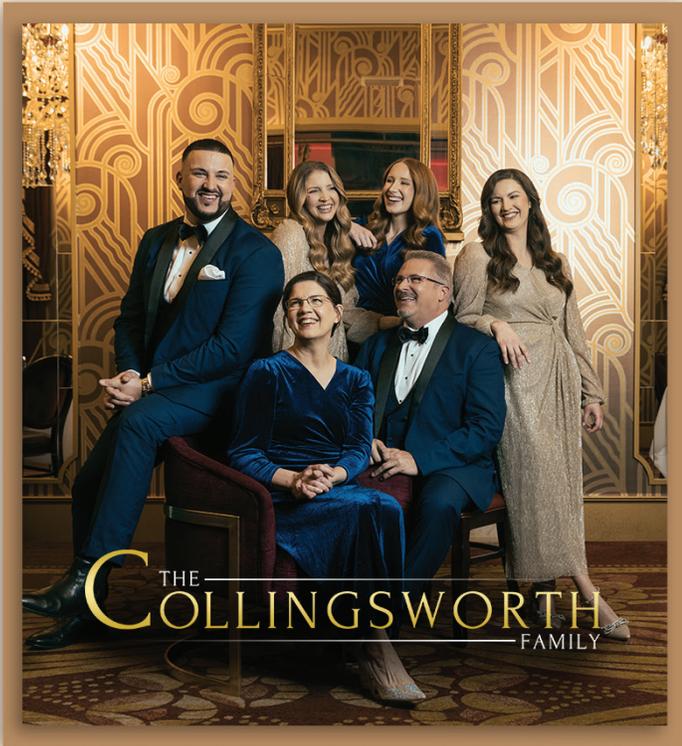
FAMILY FUN FEST is a time for the whole family to get together for a great night of games and competition! You will compete alongside your kids in activities such as: recreation, gameshow games, a church-wide scavenger hunt, and more!

This will be a fantastic opportunity to bond with your family while having some fun, spirited competition in the process!

There will also be an award for the best dressed family and dinner will be provided. Dress up, limber up, and come prepared to win it all as a family!

CONTACT: Rachel Tovar
rachel.t@austinbaptistchurch.com

COST: \$20 per family



THE COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY PRESENTS
CLASSICS & HYMNS
SPRING TOUR 2026

AUSTIN, TX

AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH
7016 RIBELIN RANCH DR AUSTIN, TX 78750

THURSDAY, FEB 26, 2026

CONCERT AT 7PM
AGES 14 AND UNDER ARE FREE

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!
ITickets
OFFICIAL TICKET PROVIDER



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are excited to host The Collingsworth Family for their CLASSICS & HYMNS Spring Tour at ABC on Thursday, February 26th!

We are in need of volunteers to assist on that day. All volunteers will receive a FREE TICKET to the show!

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

FOOD DRIVE

FEBRUARY 15TH
TO
MARCH 1ST

In support of the Baptist
Community Center food pantry.
Donate at various locations
throughout the church



SUGGESTED ITEMS:

- Spam
- Pancake Mix/Syrup
- Chili (with no beans)
- Can Fruit
- Pop Tarts
- Hamburger Helper
- Jelly
- Shampoo
- Body wash
- Toothpaste

CONTACT: Jake Ross at jakeross2011@gmail.com

Come join us Sunday Mornings at

MOSAIC BFG

Room 241 (Next to the Skylight Room)

If you are a woman looking to deepen her faith, grow in biblical community, and study the Bible in depth, then you are invited to visit *Mosaic Bible Fellowship Group* on Sunday mornings at 10am in Room 241.

Women of all ages and stages of life are welcome to join as we begin our new study in the book of Ephesians this Sunday, February 15th, walking through John MacArthur's inductive study of the book.

Come find community and in-depth Bible study with us in Mosaic!

Learn more about all of our BFGs on our website!
austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG





ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

To sum up this past weekend's women's retreat, I'll borrow the perfect words of one of our attendees who described the weekend as being "Refreshed and Friendened." That truly captures it all. There was refreshment in being together in a beautiful place with beautiful women, enjoying wonderful food, gracious service, and the gift of unhurried time. And there was friending—new friendships formed across generations, from age 23 all the way to 91!

Our sessions were filled with joy and depth. We were once again entertained by the beloved "Sisters," this time in cozy PJ style, complete with fun and meaningful skits. Worship was offered with excellence as Lindsey and Alex Werner led us in heartfelt praise. Teaching times invited us to go deeper as we explored friendship with God, the obstacles and threats to biblical friendship, and how to intentionally cultivate Christ-centered friendships—all grounded in the book of Colossians.

And of course, there was plenty of fun! From sweets and friendship bracelets to laughter and creativity,

hearts and threads were woven together in beautiful ways. Built-in free time allowed conversations to unfold naturally, especially as Polaroids came out to capture moments and memories of new friendships taking shape.

I believe we all walked away with a renewed perspective—seeing our friendships through the lens of bringing glory to God and advancing His gospel.

A heartfelt thank you to the women's team who made all of this possible. Your love, joyful service, and commitment to excellence were evident in every detail. Thank you for serving and showing up so faithfully for the 126 women who attended—you truly made this weekend an unforgettable one.

Woven Together,
ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER

ABC WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Twilight Tea

SUNDAY

MARCH 8th

2026

4:15PM

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

Women's Ministry Retreat: Made for Friendship

February 6-7, 2026



WEEK IN REVIEW

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

When I was ten years old, we moved to a house that was next to a church. This church had a softball field, an outdoor lined basketball half court, tennis courts, and an extra large playground. This provided hours and hours of fun, unsupervised play. Most days there were enough friends there to keep the peace when one of us preteens/teenagers lost our temper for any number of reasons (bad day at home or school, a crazy hormone spike, or some hypoglycemia from our school lunch running out). We had no major injuries, but sometimes had some hurt feelings when one of our teams lost. But the next day was a whole new day, injuries were scabbed over, relationships got a do-over, and redemption for yesterday's loss was possible. One day it was just me and a new friend. All that we found on the playground was a rubber playground ball that we usually played kickball or four-square with. As per usual, a lack of other players didn't stop us from making up a game. We played a simple version of wallball, only we did it down a set of stairs. We would throw it and scramble for it when it bounced off the wall and back up the stairs. This new friend was from another part of the neighborhood and a couple of years older than me. Somehow, this game grew very competitive quickly, which was probably inevitable with one teenager and one preteen boy with turf to defend, and something to prove with a new acquaintance. He soon went from a new friend to a rival. I was a little smaller and quicker, so I used this to my advantage when possible. He was larger and stronger which he used to muscle me out of the way. We played for several minutes, sweating, breathing hard from running up and down the steps, and probably dehydrated (this was back in the day when we didn't run around with water bottles). The ball bounced off the wall, hit a step, and headed back for the wall. We both ran down the steps, jumped the last three and headed for the ball. All four collided at once... and three of us bounced off the wall. We scrambled for the ball that continued bouncing around. I held my own for a moment but my quickness was no help in what became a test of strength. He eventually put me in a headlock and yanked the ball away. My pride and feelings were hurt, so I did what middle-schoolers do; I jumped on my bike and rode home to lick my wounds. There was no attempt at reconciliation, no "see you tomorrow," no "let's play again!" Just "game over" and some brick wounds with salty sweat in them. No more playing together, just competing and survival of the playground fittest. Then it was just awkward whenever he came to our side of the neighborhood again. No love lost between us.

How is it that what is supposed to be a community can so easily turn into "us" versus "them"? This happened at the church building, mind you, a place built to gather in Christ. This still happens in church communities around the world. Instead of us having fun and enjoying connection with our Christian brothers and sisters in Christ, feelings get hurt, isolation happens, it becomes "us" against "them" and community is lost. We begin acting like immature preteens, sacrificing community for our own wounded pride or a turf war. I am sure this is not what Jesus had in mind when He created the Church.

The Apostle Peter, who was familiar with church conflict and hurt feelings, reminds the Church, "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8 ESV). He may have been remembering the words that Jesus had told His disciples, "You will be known as one of My people because of your love for one another." We are not known as Jesus' disciples because we are the apex alpha who always wins the debate, disagreement, skirmish, or kerfuffle. God's Word reminds us to "grow up," give each other a do-over, and keep community.

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

In His Joy,

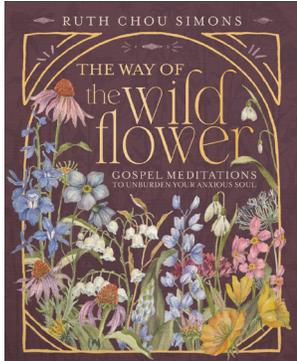
BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



The Way of the Wildflower: Gospel Meditations to Unburden Your Anxious Soul by Ruth Chou Simons

The highlighted book this week is ***The Way Of the Wildflower: Gospel Meditations To Unburden Your Anxious Soul*** by Ruth Chou Simons. She was born in Taiwan and did not speak English until first grade. Simons majored in art but, “secretly delighted in writing and creating.” She is the founder of GraceLaced, an art and lifestyle brand. On the website, you can find her products such as calendars, Bible resources, and books that are adorned in her beautiful artwork. Simons is also a podcaster and public speaker. From her website, “Simons uses each of these platforms to spiritually sow the Word of God into people’s hearts...” Simons and her husband Troy live in Colorado and are the parents of six sons.

The Way of the Wildflower is illustrated with Simons’ beautifully hand-painted wildflowers. Simons uses Luke 12:22-28, when Jesus tells us to consider the wildflowers, as an example of how we should trust God. Wildflowers are, “Dependent yet free, Unhurried and still productive. And so deeply beloved.” She says in the introduction, “As I’ve sat down to write and think through all the ways I struggle to live in the way of wildflowers, I’ve kept coming back to the same refrain – because of Jesus.” This book presents thirty gospel meditations, which are divided into five sections: The Way Of Dependency, The Way Of Freedom, The Way Of Resilience, The Way Of the Unhurried, and The Way Of Belovedness. Some examples of the content include fearing the future, dealing with unexpected turns in life, facing a big decision, accepting your calling, wanting what you do not have, feeling chaos in and around you, and feeling alone. Throughout this book Simons inserts information about the wildflowers she has painted, their scientific names, the meaning of their names, and ties each of them to a Biblical truth or lesson.

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 02.08.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP	641
11:15 AM WORSHIP	337
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	774

FINANCIAL REPORT 02.08.2026

ACCOUNT	FEB. 08, 2026	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$102,964.28	\$443,594.33
DESIGNATED	\$813.00	\$12,318.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$13,904.00	\$187,230.64
TOTAL GIVING	\$117,681.28	\$643,142.97

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