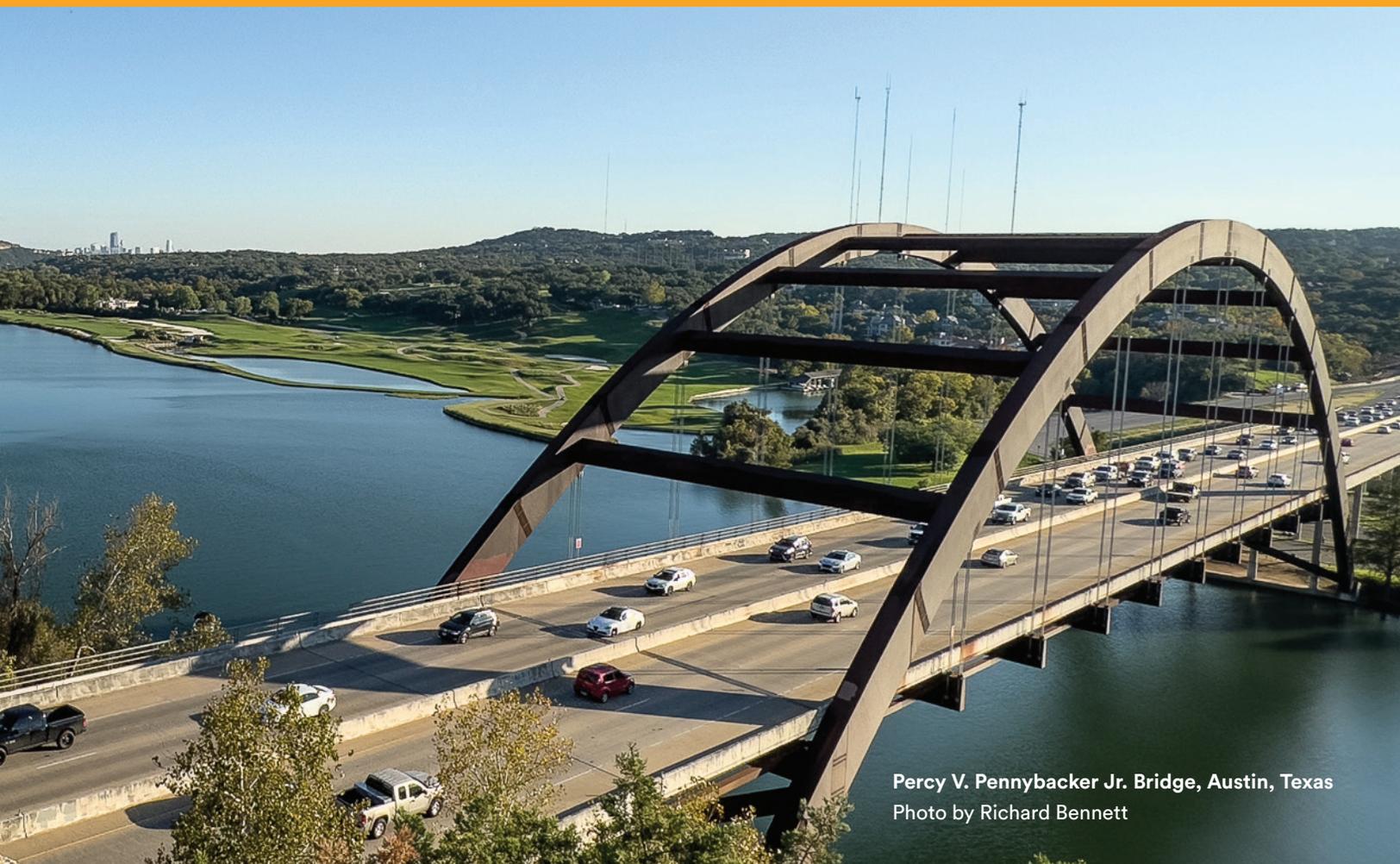


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 8

FEBRUARY 25, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Genesis 2:18 says, “Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.’” Everything God created was good; however man’s initial experience in that creation was not good. God saw it was not good for man to be alone, so he made a helper fit for him.

This Sunday we are pressing on to week two of our mini-series on marriage. As part of our Foundations series, we are gaining a foundational understanding of the home. Last week, we saw that marriage is God’s idea. We learned what a marriage is according to God’s Word, and this week we will learn how a marriage should function. We are going to study the topic of husbands and wives, and I pray marriages will be strengthened as we embrace God’s design for the home.

I am very aware that the topic of marriage is a sensitive one. Some in our church have painfully walked through divorce. Others were raised in broken homes. Some want to be married, but God has not opened that door yet. And many are walking through painful seasons in their marriages right now. I want to encourage you to not run from these discomforts, but instead lean into God’s Word for direction. “The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes” (Psalm 19:8). God’s Word is good, and marriage becomes good when we joyfully submit our homes under it.

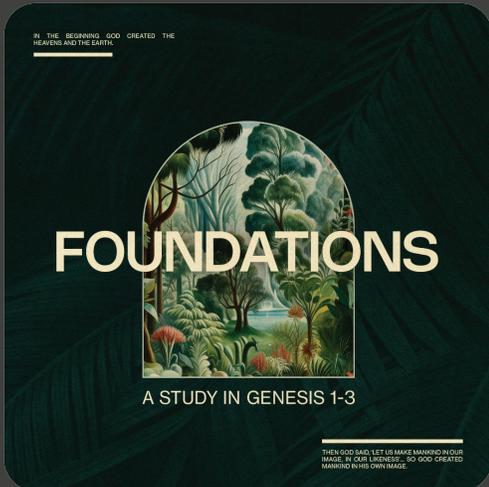
If marriage is a tough topic for you, I want to encourage you with this: you are not alone. Lean into God’s Word and lean into the church. If you need counseling, we host on-site counseling at our church through partnership with a counseling provider (you can book an appointment online). If you need encouragement or prayer support, please speak to a minister or your BFG leaders. God still does miracles, and He can miraculously move in your heart and your home today. Invite a friend and I look forward to seeing you at 8:45am or 11:15am this Sunday.

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.



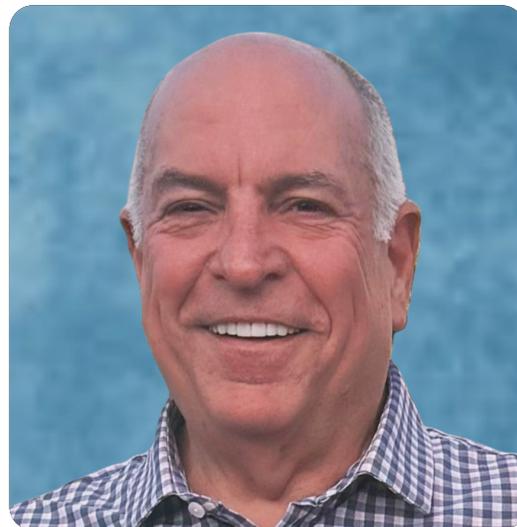
DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24, 2026



Scott Foster

214-763-1106



Chip Graves

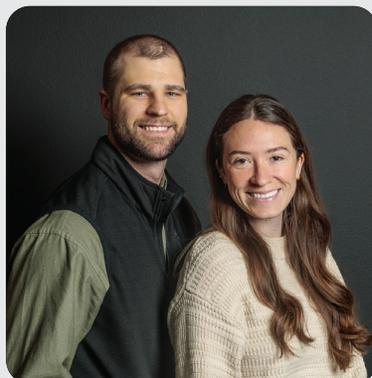
512-750-3939

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026



**Jorge, Jr. & Genny
Garcia**



**Cole & Sydney
Miller**



**Steve & Catherine
Raffaele**

STAFF NEWS

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Church Family,

On behalf of the Personnel Committee, I am pleased to announce that **Jennifer Araujo** has been promoted to the newly created position of **Director of Administration**, effective March 1, 2026.

Jennifer has faithfully served our church for many years as Director of Finance. In this expanded role, she will continue to oversee our finance staff while also providing leadership and supervision to our administrative team. This transition reflects both the growing needs of our church and the confidence we have in Jennifer's exceptional leadership.

Jennifer brings tremendous administrative expertise, deep institutional knowledge, and a sincere love for God and for ABC. We are grateful for her faithful service and are confident that God will continue to work through her as she strengthens and equips our administrative staff in the years ahead.

Please join us in congratulating Jennifer on this well-earned promotion and in praying for her as she steps into this important new role.



DR. JONATHAN SPENCER

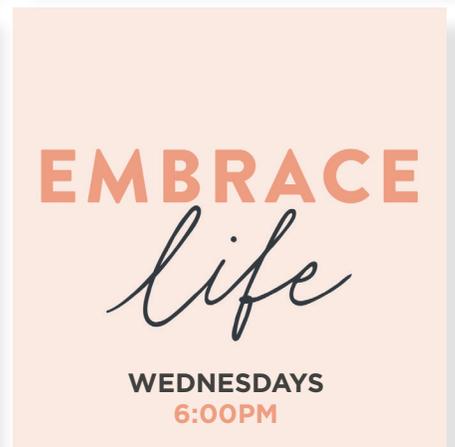
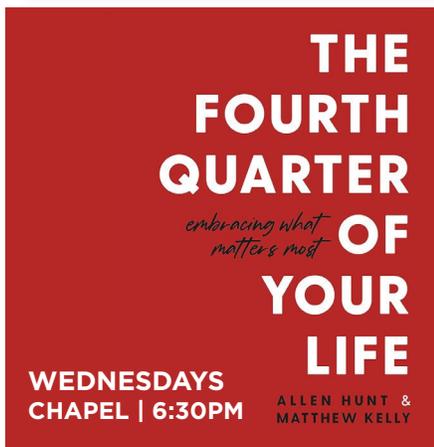
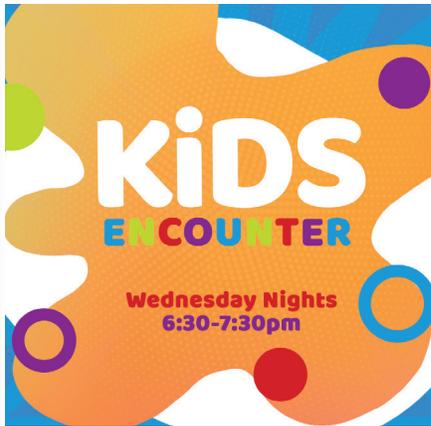
SENIOR PASTOR

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

WEEKLY REMINDERS



MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
MARCH 4

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

Fajitas (chicken or beef), rice, beans, queso, and chips

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

SHINING A LIGHT ON
WHO JESUS REALLY IS

ILLUMINATION STATION

JOHN 8:12

June 22nd-25th
9am-12pm | K-5th Grade



 AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH

IT'S TIME TO SAY YES TO VBS!

This year we are heading to Illumination Station for the brightest week of the year! During VBS, kids will explore all the ways Christ's light brightens, illuminates, reflects, and reveals through Bible study, games, crafts, and more.

This event is for children entering kindergarten through entering 5th grade for the 2026-2027 school year. This event is completely FREE to attend.

REGISTRATION OPENS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

austinbaptistchurch.com/VBS

The ABC Worship Ministry invites kids entering 1st-6th grades to join us for Creative Arts Camp, July 20-24, 2026, from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM each day.

Campers will learn and present the musical "Back to the Beginning," an exciting time-travel adventure back to Creation, where kids discover God's love, power, and victory over sin and death. Invite your family and friends to our special Friday evening performance on July 24th at 6:30pm as we share what we've learned!

In addition to preparing the musical, each child will choose a fun, creative arts elective like Arts & Crafts, Creative Movement, Graphic Design (4th-6th grade), Kids in the Kitchen, Percussion, Photography (4th-6th grade), Puppets, Singing, or Woodworking.

BACK TO THE BEGINNING

Creative Arts Camp

JULY 20-24, 2026

REGISTRATION AND
VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS OPEN

Thursday, Feb. 26th

austinbaptistchurch.com/CreativeArtsCamp

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

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)
- Canned Fruit
- Pop Tarts
- Hamburger Helper
- Jelly
- Shampoo
- Body wash
- Toothpaste

Contact: Jake Ross at jakeross2011@gmail.com



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE



The Twilight Tea is almost here, and I want to be sure I have a seat saved just for you!

This year's tea will be an immersive journey through the countryside of Italy. As you arrive, you'll step into our Italian café for a meet-and-greet with scones and tea. From there, we'll move into an engaging program filled with encouraging worship, a meaningful message, and, of course, a little fun. We'll end the evening gathered around our beautifully catered Italian tea party. This year we are making sure you have more time around the beautifully decorated tables for conversations!

One of our women's team members created the sweetest acronym for **CIAO**: **C**onnect. **I**nvite. **A**bide. **O**bey. You could say we're giving you a little CIAO-llenge!

- **Connect** with women
- **Invite** them to the table
- **Abide** in Christ
- **Obey** that gentle nudge to show up (and maybe even bring someone with you!)

The registration deadline is Monday, March 2nd, and it's coming quickly. Sign up today — whether you'd love to host a table or simply reserve seats for you and your friends. I'll be sure you're seated together... but help a sister out and register soon!

One of our members said it best: "Don't miss the Tea. I didn't come the first two years we were members, and after coming these last two years, I regret missing the other two!"

My prayer is that this will be a joyful, welcoming, and encouraging evening. Where women from our church and community are woven together in God's love, His Word, and sweet fellowship. If you have any questions, please reach out. And if you or someone you know needs a scholarship, let me know, we would love to help.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



[HOSTESS INFORMATION](#)



**ABC Students
Connection Weekend**
February 20-22, 2026



**Pathfinders
BFG Social**
February 20, 2026



WEEK IN REVIEW

Annie
Armstrong
Easter
Offering®

ABC'S GOAL
\$15,000
FOR NATIONAL MISSIONS

YOUR GENEROSITY IS
more than a gift

WEEK OF PRAYER: MARCH 1ST-8TH



AnnieArmstrong.com
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® is a registered trademark of WMU

100% of your gifts
fuel missionaries
and their ministries

WHAT IS THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING?

The **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO)** is the primary way Southern Baptist churches fund missions in North America. One hundred percent of gifts given to AAEO go towards supporting more than 3,000 missionary families serving across the United States and Canada. This year, ABC has the goal of **\$15,000** towards this mission in conjunction with hundreds of SBC churches across North America.

WHAT IS THE WEEK OF PRAYER?

Each year, churches observe the **Week of Prayer for North American Missions** by praying for missionaries, their ministries, and their families. This year, the official dates are *March 1st–8th*. These missionaries and church planters depend on your prayers to open hearts and help them disciple new believers. Visit anniearmstrong.com/week-of-prayer and see how you can be praying specifically each day.

GIVE ONLINE AT
AUSTINBAPTISTCHURCH.COM/GIVE

(beginning March 1st)

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

One blistering summer day when my kids were young, we were desperate to go to a pool or a water park. However, it would have cost a small fortune for all six of us to go to a water park. We prayed and looked for a solution to a hot, boring summer day. God provided funds from under seat cushions, the recliner, the car seat, and an honorarium from a recent funeral. I then went to the home improvement store, bought 100 feet of plastic sheeting, and put it on the steep hill of the parsonage backyard. We just added water and a bit of dish soap to “slick the slide.” It was perfectly sloped at the top and provided a fun ride (if you avoided the big rock in the middle). I thought I was a genius, but kids later would know me as a cheapskate. We could slide down a football field of water and plastic fun then run back up and do it again endlessly. There was no waiting in long lines. When the kids got hungry, we had a picnic on the back porch with fruit, whale crackers (the discount version of Goldfish) and an Aldi take-and-bake pizza. No overpriced food and drinks to go to waste. When someone got tired, they went inside the house, dried off, and took a nap. No tired, whining kids waiting for the rest of the family to finish at the water park. The kids had friends over and we all sat on the extra-long picnic table that fit 10 of us. Everyone had a seat at the table. We had a discount store umbrella and some discarded tiki torches from the street. How could life get better? My kids' spouses sometimes listen in bewilderment as my young adult kids now tell these stories and ask, “Why didn't you just go to the water park?” It was for the same reason we went to Sam's club for food and entertainment on Friday nights with the kids piled onto a flat cart, and having a cheap pizza and bottomless soft drinks. You do what you can with what you have at the time. When my kids talk about these experiences as adults, we laugh and joke about my chintziness and their naïveté, but I think we all secretly remember the joyful simplicity of those days. I still need to be reminded now that sometimes simple is better.

The apostle Paul was reminding Timothy and his congregation not to be deceived by the lure of great wealth and all that goes with it. He tells them, “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that” (1 Timothy 6:6-8 NIV). In our opulent and instant culture where we can order whatever we want and receive it in less than 24 hours, contentment can be a challenge. However, simplicity and contentment are a great blessing.

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

In His Joy,

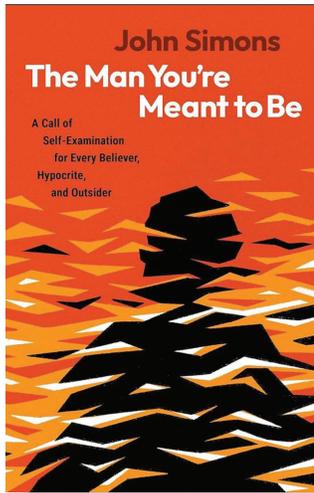
BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



The Man You're Meant to Be: A Call of Self-Examination for Every Believer, Hypocrite, and Outsider by John Simons

Simons graduated from California Baptist University with a BA in political science and from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, with a PhD in Christian Ethics and Public Theology. He has served in men's ministry in Southern California and is the Men's Pastor at Tolling Hills Community Church in Franklin, Tennessee.

The Man You're Meant to Be is written in two parts. Part One is called *Navigating the Cultural Landscape*. Simons says, "the central task of Part One is to help each man grasp what kind of wisdom is currently taking root and influencing our deepest desires and pursuits (because there isn't just one)." Wisdom of the world provides temporary satisfaction but will lead to "downfall, devastation, and death." Part Two is called *The Man You're Called to Be*. Simon says its purpose, "is to meet the call to walk on the narrow path of discipleship." Part Two is meant to help men to develop a deeper relationship with God, to grow in Godly wisdom and character, and to learn to be an example for their wife, children, family, and friends. Each chapter ends with a Reflection and Group Discussion Questions. At the end of the book, Simons presents Lectio Divina, a method to read Scripture and instructions for a prayer of confession and self-examination adapted from Calhoun's ***Spiritual Discipline Handbook***. Simons says, "I've prayed that this book falls into the hands of the addicted, defeated, empty, and lonely." He encourages men to find other brothers who are walking in the same path.

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 02.22.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP	565
11:15 AM WORSHIP	400
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	777

FINANCIAL REPORT 02.22.2026

ACCOUNT	FEB. 22, 2026	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$46,795.44	\$549,791.70
DESIGNATED	\$2,290.00	\$17,633.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$7,733.08	\$227,298.05
TOTAL GIVING	\$56,818.52	\$794,722.75

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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