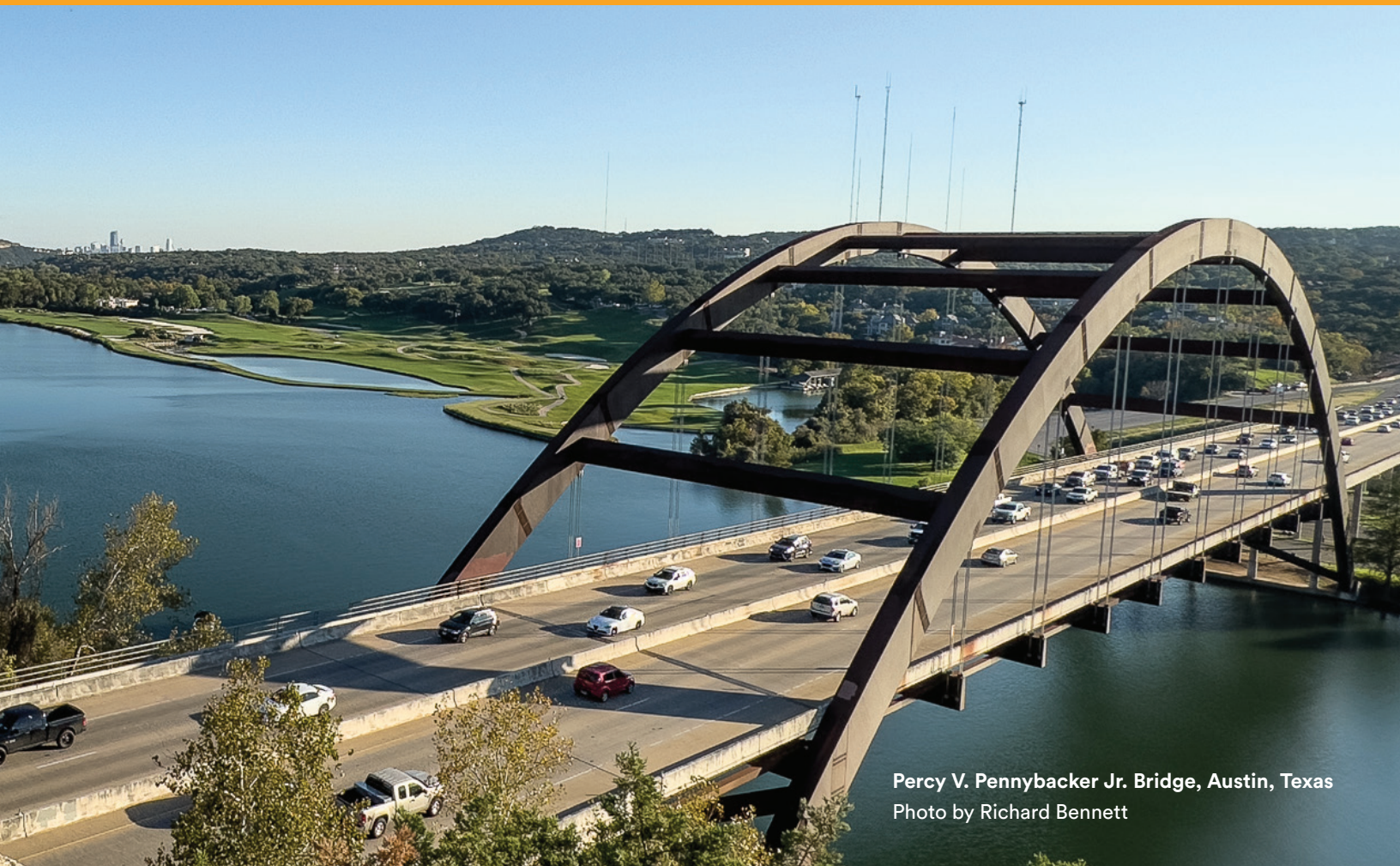


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 5

FEBRUARY 4, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Hebrews 10:24-25 says, *“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

Christians are not called to live their lives in isolation. Because we are made in the image of a relational God, God has also made us for relationships. We were created to have a relationship with Him, and we were created to have relationships with each other. This is why the church is described in the New Testament as a “body” with many parts. We are called to connection with each other, while we are all connected to the head of the body, Jesus Christ.

I encourage you to get connected at ABC. The primary catalyst for connection is our Bible Fellowship Groups that meet at 10am on Sunday. This is where people come together to study God’s word, pray, and encourage one another. Friendships are formed in these classes that spill over to everyday life. Have you found a group to connect with? If not, we can help you find one this week.

I also encourage parents with teenagers to sign up their students for Connection Weekend on February 20th-22nd. This weekend is designed to facilitate connections for your 6th to 12th grader. These students will connect with God and grow in their relationship with Him through worship, prayer, Bible study, and service. But they will also connect with each other and build meaningful relationships within their own peer groups.

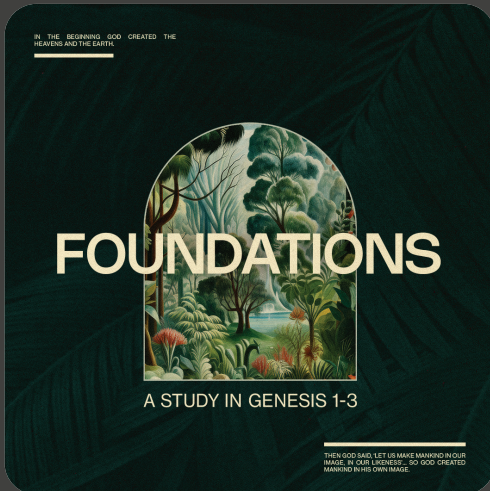
I want to challenge you with this reminder: you cannot connect if you do not show up. Connection requires effort, intentionality, and yes, getting over the initial awkwardness that comes with developing new relationships. But I also want to encourage you with this: that effort is worth it. God wants you to be known, and there is joy that comes through living in real Christian community. Don’t neglect the gathering this weekend. Even better, invite someone to come with you. I look forward to connecting with you 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 2, 2026



John Landwermyer
512-940-2598



Darrell Sargent
512-970-5000

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026



Winter Allan



David Rosas



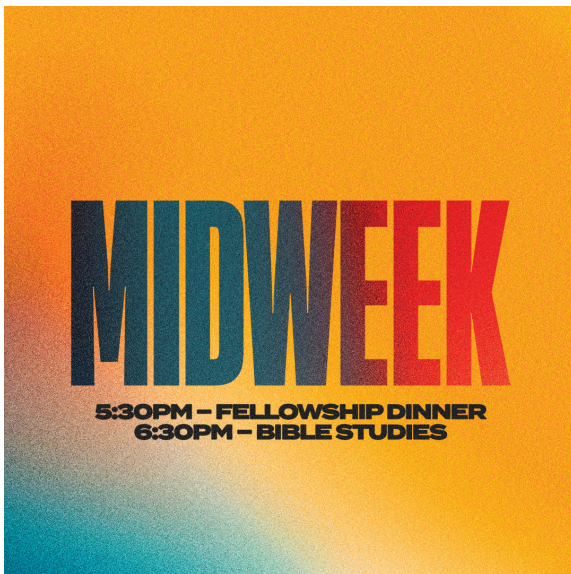
**Jeffrey, Liana,
Gwyneth, Xander &
Annika Palermo**



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.

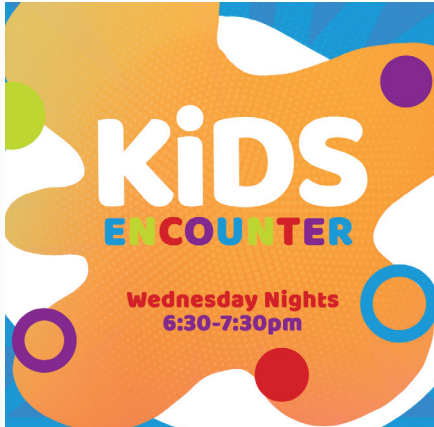
MATTHEW 28:19-20

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

WEEKLY REMINDERS



MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
FEBRUARY 11

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

Beef soft tacos (corn and/or flour tortillas),
rice, beans, and salad bar

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

rachelt@austinbaptistchurch.com

COST: \$20 per family

STUDENTS FOR HIRE!

If you have some extra work that needs to be done, our students are looking for ways to raise money for this year's Student Ministry Spring Break Mission Trip to Guatemala!

If you'd like to help support this mission and offer a student some work as a scholarship, please reach out to:

Corbin Smith

corbins@austinbaptistchurch.com





You are invited to attend (audit) one (or more) of the following mini-mester classes with Dallas Theological Seminary being hosted here at ABC this spring. **Contact Lisa Campbell at lisac@austinbaptistchurch.com if you are interested.**

BE5104 OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS | FEB. 5-7 (TH 6-8:30, FRI 8-5, SAT 8-3)

DR. CHARLES SAVELLE

An exposition of the preexilic, exilic, and postexilic prophets (Isaiah through Malachi), excluding Jonah but including Lamentations, with emphasis on the biblical theology of these books, their genre, and application.

EML5332 ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT | FEB. 12-14 (TH 6-8:30, FRI 8-5, SAT 8-3)

DR. KEVIN GANDY

This course will provide strategies and practices to help leaders understand the complexities of organizational culture, including how to create, discover, and form/transform their organizational culture. Attention will be given to best practices for practical leadership in a variety of organizational contexts and environments.



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



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Hello Ladies!

It's time to save the date! **Twilight Tea** is coming on **March 8, 2026**, and we cannot wait to gather together once again. This year's Twilight Tea will feature a beautiful Italian theme, along with some new twists designed to be sure there is truly a seat at the table for everyone. More details coming soon!

One of the most meaningful parts of Twilight Tea is *you*. Our table hostesses are the stars of the show, creating space for connection, conversation, and community. Please be praying about hosting a table of friends, from both our church family and the wider community. If you're ready to sign up now (whether as a table hostess or simply to attend), the link is live and open at the QR code below!

We're looking forward to more space, community, connections—and more ciao! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me below!

ANITA MCGINNIS

WOMENS MINISTER

anitam@austinbaptistchurch.com



SCAN OR CLICK
HERE TO REGISTER

SAVE THE DATE FOR

Twilight Tea
MARCH 8, 2026

A Prayer Request for This Weekend

This weekend, our **Made For Friendship** women's retreat is taking place with over 120 ladies attending. Please join us in praying that God would work powerfully through the leaders as they teach, worship, and connect—and that each woman would grow in her understanding of her relationship with God and with one another. We are grateful for each of you and all that God is doing among the women of our church.

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

I was reminiscing with my friend Chad, a co-laborer in Christ. He had joined my adult leadership team in my first ministry out of seminary. I was the student minister; he was a big-hearted and skilled craftsman whose faith had recently been radically revived. The church had an exceptional group of kids and an adult leadership group that was fantastic. On our first mission trip, I took these kids to Cordele, Georgia to help a seminary friend, Ira, who was a church planter. His church was in the government-assisted housing neighborhood he had grown up in with his single mom. The first night of this mission trip, Ira took us to his old neighborhood in our church van towing a trailer and had us park right in the middle of the community. He asked if he could stand on top of the van and borrow our portable sound system to address the crowd. We said, "Sure." We all prayed and he instructed us that when he finished a short sermon, we could go meet the neighbors and invite their kids to our Vacation Bible School. But the moment he climbed on top of the van and people began to come outside their apartments to listen, he said the Lord overwhelmed him and he began to prophesy against some of the people in that community. He called them by name and told them to repent. One man in particular he called by name and told him if he did not repent the Lord would prevent him from sleeping. Ira said, "No sleep will touch your eyes until you turn to the Lord, and repent from your sins." That man and some others yelled back at Ira, telling him to shut up and go away. Once my friend came down from the top of the van we sang a hymn and left quickly. Obviously, after that our VBS plans were changed and we wouldn't be going back to that community. We completed our week helping my friend clean up his church building, hosting a very small VBS, and helping him host a revival night at his church. Several people came to Christ that revival night, but I never knew what came of those he had prophesied against until now, 30 years later. Chad told me that several years after that mission trip, he was at a gas station somewhere in Georgia when a man came up to him saying he needed a little money for an alternator for his car so he could get home. Chad helped the man and as they talked and walked to the auto parts store, Chad discovered that the man was from Cordele. Chad told the man he had been to Cordele on a mission trip several years ago. The man stopped him and asked, "Did you have a preacher on top of a van with a trailer behind it?" Chad said, "Yes!" The man said, "That preacher on top of the van told me I wouldn't sleep until I repented. It was true! I was a drug dealer and a pimp; I was a bad man. I couldn't sleep, no matter what I tried." He said he tried lots of alcohol... no sleep! All kinds of pills... no sleep! He said he became so miserable he tried overdosing, but he didn't die, nor did he sleep! He said he finally went to church and repented from his sins and was saved and blessed with sleep.

The biblical prophet, Jeremiah, tells us that true prophets of God are known by their prophecies coming true (Jeremiah 28:9). When God is speaking to Ezekiel about what he should tell the people, He tells him: "When all this comes true—and it surely will—then they will know that a prophet has been among them" (Ezekiel 33:33). Wow! I hope we listen to God's prophetic reminders of how we are to treat Him and other people when we really love them. God loves us too much to let us continue in sin, so He is gracious to pursue us and give us grace when we repent.

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

In His Joy,

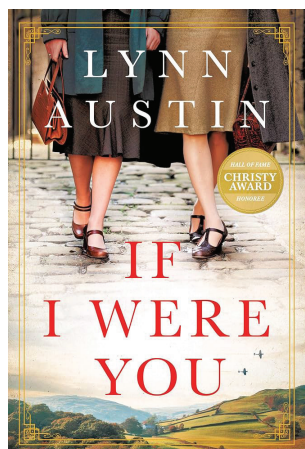
BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



If I Were You by Lynn Austin

Lynn Austin is an author of Christian fiction. She was a teacher before she became a writer and studied how to write fiction for eleven years. She has written over 25 novels and one non-fiction book. Austin has written stand-alone novels and several book series, and she is known as a writer of historical fiction. Eight of Austin's novels have won Christy Awards for excellence in Christian fiction, and she was named to the Christy Award Hall of Fame in 2003. Her novel, *Hidden Places*, was made into a Hallmark Channel movie. Austin's novels have many different themes, but most are about women who find their strength in God.

If I Were You is a Christy Award Honoree book. The chapters span the years from the 1930s to the 1950s. This story is about the unlikely friendship of two women, Audrey and Eve, that started during their childhood. Eve's mother was a lady's maid for Audrey's mother at Wellingford Hall in England. The differences in their social positions created challenges for the two friends until England was threatened by Nazi invasion during World War II. Because of the bombings in London, the friendship of the young women strengthened when they both became ambulance drivers. Audrey meets an American soldier, which gives her hope for a bright future. The war causes the social system in England to collapse which allows Eve to have hope for a future with Audrey's brother. After the war, a widowed Audrey moves to America with her son to live with her in-laws. When she arrives in America, she discovers that Eve has been impersonating her for four years. The deception will reveal the secrets and the complications of their friendship through the years. This book exposes you to the cruelty and hardships of war and life, but it also presents Biblical lessons on envy, repentance, forgiveness, and redemption.

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

ATTENDANCE02.01.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP	617
11:15 AM WORSHIP	296
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	760

FINANCIAL REPORT02.01.2026

ACCOUNT	FEB. 01, 2026	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$105,028.39	\$340,630.05
DESIGNATED	\$450.00	\$11,505.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$45,248.08	\$173,326.64
TOTAL GIVING	\$150,726.47	\$525,461.69

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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