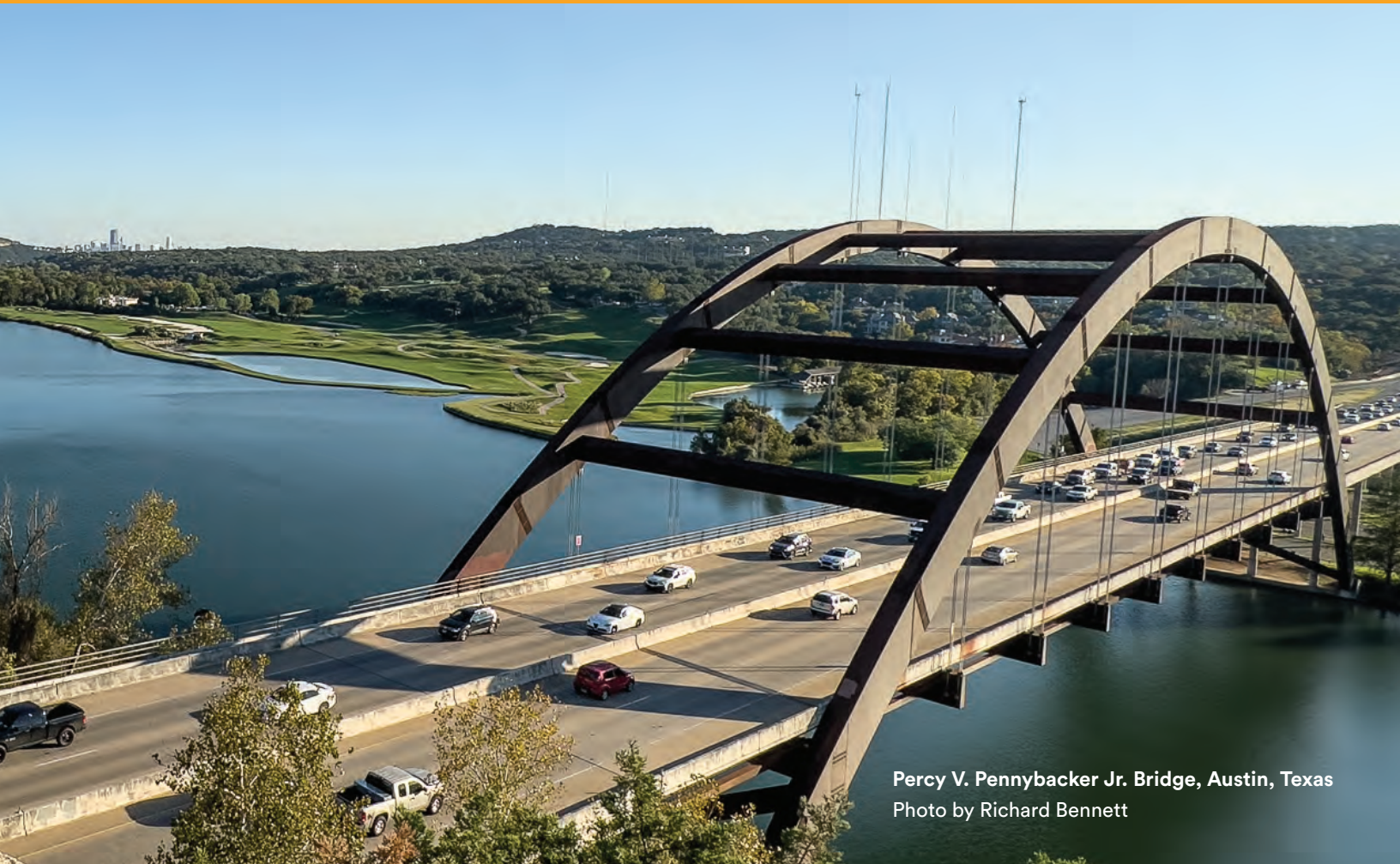


# The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 14

APRIL 15, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

# TABLE of CONTENTS

A Word from Our Pastor	3
Deacons on Call	4
Churchwide Announcements	5-6
- New Members	
-Birth Announcement	
- Staff Spotlight	
Upcoming Events	7
Weekly Reminders	8
Storytellers: Digital Media Volunteer Training	9
Upward Sports: K-3rd Grade	9
ABC Women's Ministry	10
Week in Review	11-12
- Embrace Grace "Me" Day	
- ABC Serves: Mission Possible Austin	
From the Pages of Bill's Notebook	13
ABC Library	14
Our Response to God's Faithfulness	15
- Attendance	
- Financial Report	



# A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

*“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore”* (Psalm 16:11). David contends there is a fullness of joy to be found in the presence of God. The scriptures teach us that we’re made for relationship with our Creator. He desires this relationship so much that He not only created us, but He also redeemed us from our sin through the blood of His Son. God wants you to know Him, and David says there is a path that will lead you to experience this new life.

In our current sermon series, we are exploring the spiritual pathways that lead us closer to God. This series is not about religious obligation; it is about spiritual transformation. God wants you to know Him, and He wants to make you more like Him. This can happen through intentional commitment to these pathways. Last week we focused on the pathway of scripture, and this week we will focus on the pathway of worship. I encourage you to walk this pathway by gathering for worship with us at 8:45am or 11:15am this Sunday.

I had lunch this week with a newer member in our church. He was discussing strategies on how he could invite more of his young adult peers around our city to ABC. His ambition was partly infused by recent success from his own outreach. He invited a friend to church months ago who has since been baptized and immersed into the life of our church. He understood how the ministry of the church has changed his own life, and now he has watched it change his friend’s life. He hungered to see more life change in the people around him.

I hope you know that you have the same ability to make a difference. Who can you invite to worship with you this Sunday? I hope to meet them this weekend at ABC

Onward and Upward,

**DR. JONATHAN SPENCER**

**SENIOR PASTOR**





## CURRENT SERIES

### Pathways

Walking with *Jesus* Day by Day

### WEEKLY SERMON CONTENT

Follow us in the YouVersion Bible App and get weekly sermon notes to follow along with every Sunday!



## DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 13, 2026



**Gil Bragg**

512-413-4328



**Steve Rogers**

512-917-2759

# CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026



**Vicky Melby**



**Susan Sakbani**

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Sebastian “Bash” John Hunsberger**

**Born: April 7, 2026**

**Proud Parents: Dennis & Sarah Hunsberger**

**Siblings: Richard & Charles**



**LIGHT UP  
YOUR *Home***

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

APRIL 15, 2026

Hey Church Family,

This week we wanted to recognize two ABC employees who are celebrating work anniversaries with us.

On April 12th, Sylvia Parker celebrated her 2nd anniversary as an Administrative Assistant at ABC. Sylvia brings great joy into her work in the office, encouraging all those around her and helping organize many of the administrative needs that our office has. She is a great member of the team and we're so glad for her skill and grace in the ways that she works.



On April 18th, Tony Mendoza will celebrate his 8th anniversary as Facilities Associate. Tony is involved in the important task of maintaining and operating our facility. Beyond that, Tony helps serve the excellent food we have on Wednesday nights and at other events, helping prepare wonderful meals for the folks of our church. We are always grateful for the smile on his face and the consistency with which he serves on our team.

I hope you'll take time this week to encourage both of these great folks and thank them for their wonderful service to the Lord and to our church family at ABC.

In Christ's Love,  
**DR. MATT GILLUM**  
EXECUTIVE PASTOR

# UPCOMING EVENTS



For all event and weekly activity information, please visit  
[austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS)

# WEEKLY REMINDERS



## MIDWEEK MENU

**NEXT WEEK'S MENU**  
APRIL 22

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

**Fajitas, 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.

# STORYTELLERS

EXTENDING THE MESSAGE THROUGH DIGITAL MEDIA

Come be a part of telling the story of ABC and extending the message of Jesus Christ through digital media at *Storytellers* Volunteer Training Day on **April 25th from 9am-12pm**. Learn how you can make an impact within the communications and media ministry of ABC!

## MEDIA MINISTRY

Stephen Vaughn  
DIRECTOR OF  
MEDIA MINISTRIES

**Contact Stephen:** [stephenv@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:stephenv@austinbaptistchurch.com)  
**Contact Mariah:** [mariahp@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:mariahp@austinbaptistchurch.com)

## COMMUNICATIONS & PHOTOGRAPHY

Mariah Parker  
DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNICATIONS



[austinbaptistchurch.com/STORYTELLERS](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/STORYTELLERS)

# UPWARD SPORTS

[AUSTINBAPTISTCHURCH.COM/SPORTS](http://AUSTINBAPTISTCHURCH.COM/SPORTS)

K-3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

**BEGINNING FALL 2026 • REGISTER ONLINE**



# ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Hello!

What a beautiful gift ABC gave our Embrace Grace mommas on their Me Day! This special day was designed to help these incredible women feel pampered, encouraged, and most importantly, deeply loved by Christ as they were “bestowed with a crown of beauty”—quite literally.

The day began with some of our mommas dropping off their little ones, giving them the rare gift of time just for themselves. They were greeted with delicious snacks, warm smiles, and heartfelt conversation before beginning their pampering journey. From shopping for baby items to getting their hair, nails, and makeup done, to enjoying relaxing massages, the day culminated in a radiant maternity photo shoot capturing their joy and beauty.

However, I believe the most beautiful picture captured in my heart was ALL the women gathered around tables in conversations, along with others helping and holding children. This is what organic discipleship looks like.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible leadership of Kelsey Dramberger and the many women who served so generously through their gifts.

## Here's a glimpse of the ABC women serving in their callings:

- **Kelsey Dramberger:** Leader / Organizer / Encourager
- **Julie Christianson:** Co-Leader / Organizer / Encourager
- **Dawn Crouch:** Co-Leader / Organizer / Encourager
- **Faith McCoppin:** Co-Leader / Organizer / Encourager

- **Emma Johnson:** Glamorous nails
- **Michelle Kattawar:** Gentle massages
- **Carolyn Bourne:** Makeup artist
- **Pauline Hernandez:** Hair stylist
- **Carolyn Brown:** Handmade flower crowns
- **Gina Danks:** Set up / Boutique / Encourager
- **Connie Lundgren:** Gift Bags
- **Emily Ross:** Photographer / Set up / Encourager
- **Vicki Rogers:** Set up / Clean Up / Encourager
- **Naomi Wilson:** Set Up
- **Kristen Kepler :** Run event
- **Sydney Miller:** Set Up
- **Bethany Spencer:** Childcare / Encourager
- **Emma Spencer:** Childcare / Encourager
- **Corrie Tung:** Childcare / Encourager

As I watched Kelsey gently place the flower crowns on each woman's head, I was reminded of Isaiah 61:3:

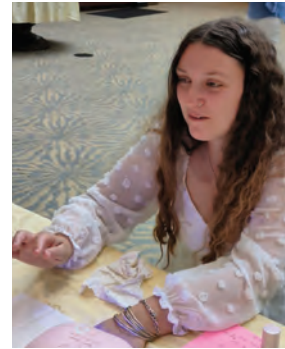
*“I will bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.”*

By the end of the day, these women stood taller, their hearts filled and their faces radiant—not just from outward beauty, but from the love of Christ shining within.

Thank you, Austin Baptist Church, for making a lasting difference in the lives of these mommas and their babies.

Woven Together,  
**ANITA MCGINNIS**  
WOMEN'S MINISTER

**Embrace Grace "Me" Day**  
Sunday, April 12, 2026



**WEEK IN REVIEW**

# ABC Serves: Mission Possible Austin

Saturday, April 11, 2026



# From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

One Sunday afternoon six years ago in Columbus, Ohio, Anita and I had enjoyed a good day at church and had picked up a few things at the grocery. We had come back home and decided to cook some dinner when the phone rang and it was my daughter's (now) mother-in-law. She was very upset and we heard the words "horrible accident, ambulances, police cars, and firetrucks." Then she added hesitantly, "They are okay." She wanted to give us an accurate description of the seriousness of the situation, but her sweet nature wanted to try to bring some comfort. At that moment our instant reaction was "Get to Memphis ASAP!" We assured her mother-in-law we were praying for both of our kids, and all those involved. She said she would call us back with more details as they were available. We put away the food and quickly packed as we prayed and tried to make the best plans we could with a panicked brain. We threw some clothes in a bag and jumped in the car for the 10-hour drive. No flights would get us there sooner and we needed a car when we got there. As we traveled, we learned more details. A car going over 50mph lost control and crossed the center line and hit them head on. The driver of the speeding car had left a child in the car and fled the scene. We learned my daughter had been unresponsive for 10 minutes. Her eyes were dilated and her lips were blue. She finally woke up screaming and in shock. We then received pictures of the cars from the scene. It was horrific. We struggled to keep our worst fears in check. After four hours of driving and a lot of praying, we were able to speak to our daughter in the hospital ER. She sounded weak, but had not yet gotten her X-rays or CT scans. She said she had seatbelt burns and bruises, her chest and head hurt, and her leg hurt so badly she could not walk on it without excruciating pain. When we finally received news that they found no internal injuries and they were sending her home, we took a sigh of relief, praised God, and evaluated our own physical state since we had been hyperfocused on the situation for about six hours. By this time it was after midnight. When we found out she was safely resting at her fiance's family's home, we decided to stop in Nashville at Anita's parent's house rather than risk having an accident of our own from the exhaustion that came from the adrenaline charged sprint towards Memphis. Anita's parents gave lots of prayers and encouragement and gave us a good breakfast to get us on our way the next morning. Miraculously, our daughter had gotten an appointment with an orthopedic surgeon that morning and we made it just in time to see her limping out on crutches with her fiance helping. They were ALIVE and we got to see the two of them and hug them (very gently, because they were all stove up). The doctor had determined from X-rays that she had "dashboard knee" from hitting the dash and rupturing her PCL. As we had a few moments to reflect, we realized that this could have turned out very differently for everyone. We were very thankful to God to have these loved ones alive and able to interact with us.

The Apostle Paul knew how fleeting life can be and warns us to continue walking with God as He walks with us. He encourages us to make the most of the time we have, because there are no guarantees. He doesn't say this so we walk around scared all the time, fearing the worst, but so we will continue to live in God's will loving people and bringing joy to them for as long as we are able. I like the New King James version that says it this way, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is (Ephesians 5:15-17 NKJV)." The word "circumspectly" comes from a Latin word meaning "to look around" and carries a meaning also of prudence, and cautious, careful consideration. These types of incidents, like car crashes and near death moments, make us realize how fragile this life really is. Let us all walk wisely, cautiously, and circumspectly.

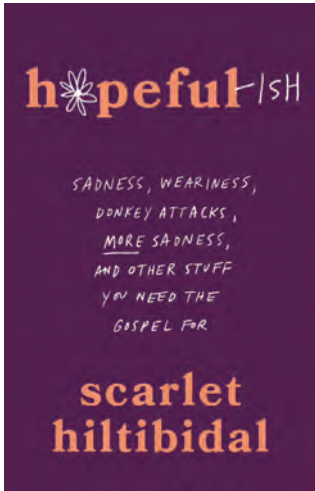
Hang in there people! God is glad to be with us! I'm praying for us all!

In His Joy,  
**BILL MCGINNIS**  
PASTOR OF CARE





# ABC Library



## ***Hopeful-ish: Sadness, Weariness, Donkey Attacks, More Sadness, and Other Stuff You Need the Gospel For*** by Scarlet Hiltibidal

Hiltibidal is the author of *Afraid of All Things, You're the Worst Person in the World*, and *He Numbered the Pores on My Face*. She also has written two Bible studies, *Anxious* for adults and *Ashamed* for teen girls. Scarlet has had some unusual life circumstances such as spending a lot of her childhood in the green room of Saturday Night Live, where her mother was a cast member, having a biological dad who was a fire eater, adopting a deaf child from China, and other life experiences that caused her to live in fear. She learned that Jesus was the only one who could protect and rescue her and cast out her fears. From her website, "Scarlet's mission is to help people experience the peace and joy of knowing that Jesus loves them, not because of anything they have done right, but because He is merciful and faithful and good."

Hiltibidal wrote *Hopeful-ish* to be a book of hope for people who are suffering from broken relationships, disappointments, skepticism, sadness, and tiredness plus many more negative situations. The book is written in three sections: Section one is titled *Sadness is Natural, Hope in Sadness is Supernatural*, with reference to 1 Peter 1:3. Section two is titled *Weariness is Inevitable, But Overcomable*, with reference to Matthew 11:28-29. Section three is titled *Hope is for Today and Forever*, with reference to Romans 15:13. Hiltibidal is funny and vulnerable, using hilarious and heartbreaking stories. One of the questions she asks in this book, "Is hope possible only if life returns to the way it was? Or is hope something you can experience no matter what?" She shows, "The gospel proves that hope is possible and radiant, even here. Even in messes, heartaches, disillusionments and losses." If you need fresh hope, this is the book for you. "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13)."

**CONTACT: Rita Ervin**

Email [library@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:library@austinbaptistchurch.com)

or visit us online at [austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY)

### **LIBRARY HOURS**

**SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM**

**WEDNESDAYS - 5:00PM-7:30PM**

# OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

**ATTENDANCE** 04.12.2026

<b>8:45 AM WORSHIP</b> .....	<b>573</b>
<b>11:15 AM WORSHIP</b> .....	<b>380</b>
<b>BIBLE FELLOWSHIP</b> .....	<b>816</b>

**FINANCIAL REPORT** 04.12.2026

<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>APR. 12, 2026</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$95,369.88</b>	<b>\$1,584,690.79</b>
<b>DESIGNATED</b>	<b>\$2,910.00</b>	<b>\$61,533.00</b>
<b>LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED</b>	<b>\$26,913.00</b>	<b>\$332,694.66</b>
<b>TOTAL GIVING</b>	<b>\$125,192.88</b>	<b>\$1,978,918.45</b>

## 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](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/TEAM)**

### **ABC PRAYER TEAM**

Email Bill McGinnis at **[billm@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:billm@austinbaptistchurch.com)**

### **FOR PUBLICATION CONSIDERATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Mariah Parker, Director of Communications

- **EMAIL:** [mariahp@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto: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**