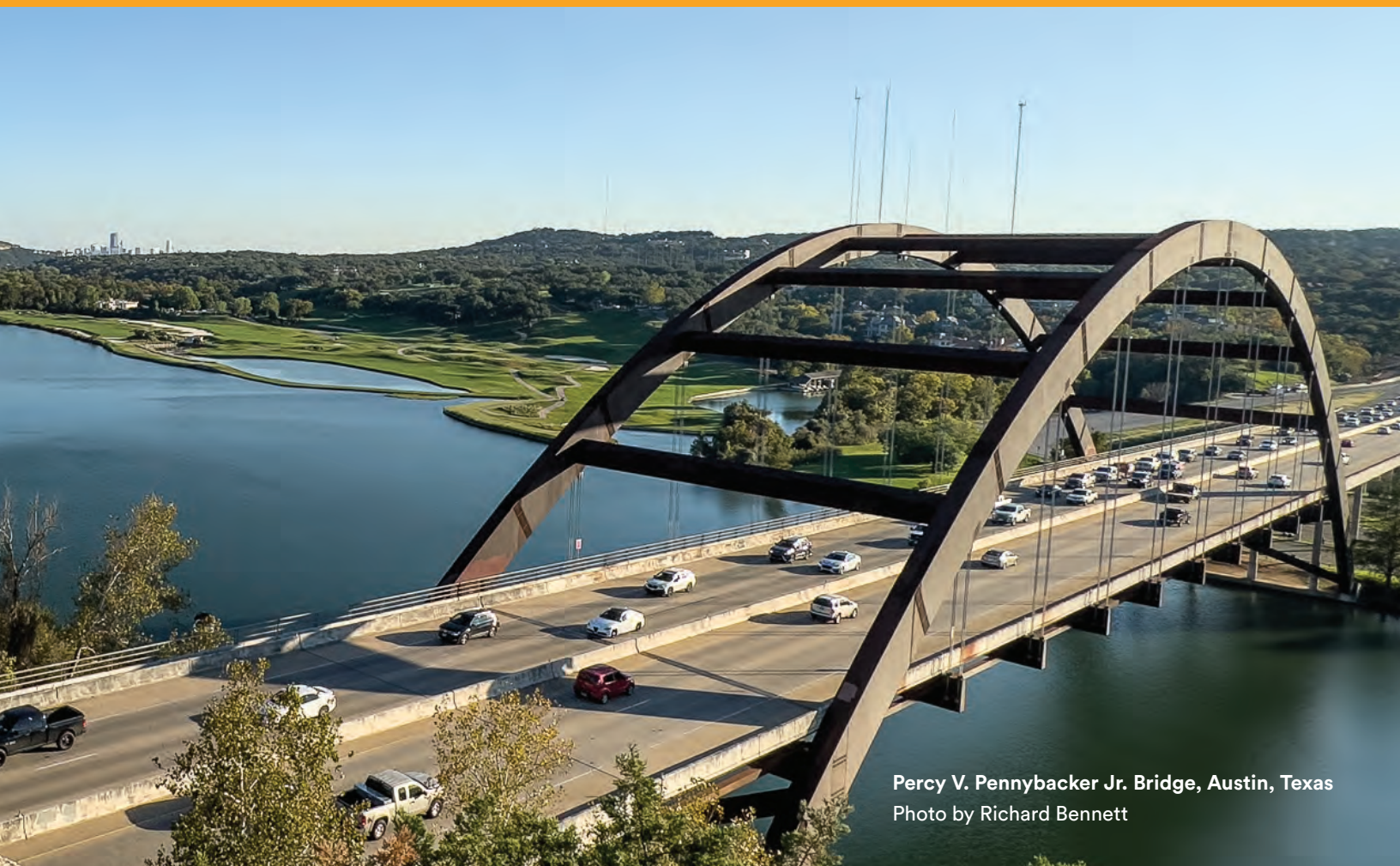


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 15

APRIL 22, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

I hope you are having a great week in Austin, Texas. I am currently having a wonderful time in Egypt exploring God's Word with a group of our church members. As you know, we had a discipleship trip scheduled for early March, but we postponed that trip due to the Iranian conflict that began the day before our departure. Now seven weeks removed, we feel very confident entering Egypt with Signature Tours, and tourism has experienced no halt over this time. In fact, we are currently here with many other churches and having a wonderful time exploring this ancient land together. We will also have a chance to touch base with our ministry partner, tC Egypt, and encourage them while we are in Cairo.

This Sunday, Dr. Matt Gillum will lead us in week three of our *Pathways* series. He will be exploring a pathway most of us struggle to walk on: the pathway of silence and solitude. The Lord tells us to "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). This instruction is simple, but its implementation is complicated. In our always-moving culture, it is hard to step away from the noise. However, it is imperative for us to create this margin because God often speaks the loudest in the quietest places.

I will be praying for you this weekend, and I ask for you to continue to pray for our group. I look forward to sharing pictures and stories with you when we return home.

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 20, 2026



Dan Baker

512-496-0324



Troy Wappler

512-750-9264

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026



**Jerry & Glenda
Woods**



Andrew Kopecky

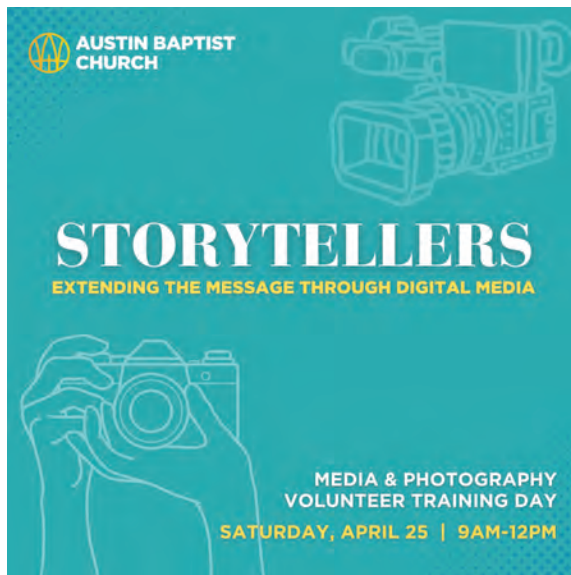


**LIGHT UP
YOUR *Life***

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.

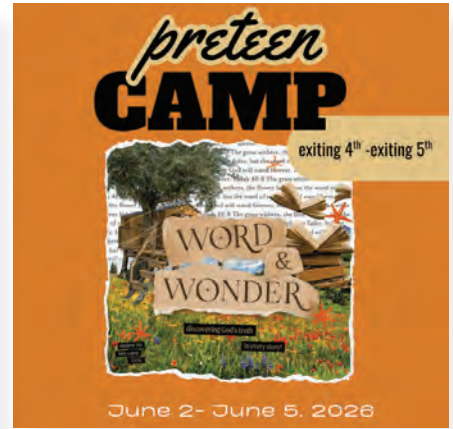
MATTHEW 28:19-20

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

WEEKLY REMINDERS



MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
APRIL 29

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

Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread roll, and salad bar

Please note that Midweek dinner is served in the Café. Seating for dinner is in the *Heritage 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
Contact Mariah: mariahp@austinbaptistchurch.com

COMMUNICATIONS & PHOTOGRAPHY

Mariah Parker
DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS



austinbaptistchurch.com/STORYTELLERS

UPWARD SPORTS

K-3RD GRADE

ABC is excited to partner with Upward Sports to host Flag Football and Cheerleading for kids in Kindergarten through 3rd grade here on our campus this fall!

Want to jump in and help? We are always in need of coaches and referees for our different leagues. Find a sport to serve with today and register as a volunteer at the link below.

LEARN MORE AT AUSTINBAPTISTCHURCH.COM/SPORTS

BEGINNING FALL 2026 - REGISTER ONLINE

S P R I N G C L E A N I N G

CLOTHING DRIVE

B E N E F I T T I N G T H E B C C



Collecting **MAY** 3rd-17th

Most Needed Items:

- Gently used men's clothes
- **NEW** socks and underwear

Cleaning out your closet this spring?

We're collecting gently used clothes for our friends at the Baptist Community Center. If you have clothes you are looking to donate (for all ages), then please consider donating to this year's clothing drive!



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE



A P R I L 2 6 | G R E A T H A L L | 4 P M - 6 P M

It's been a little while, but Sweet Sunday is almost here!

You are invited to join us this Sunday, April 26, from 4pm-6pm in the Great Hall for Sweet Sunday!

You may get tired of me saying it, but I'll say it again - this is a sweet, fun, and meaningful time of fellowship and encouragement for women of all ages and stages. There is something truly special about watching generations connect, share, and find common ground that lifts and strengthens one another.

This Sweet Sunday will be especially impactful as we hear from one of our own, Marcia Furrow. She'll share in real and tangible ways why it's so important for us to be fed by the Good Shepherd. And of course, there will be plenty of fun, along with treats and sweets to enjoy together.

Sweet Sunday is even sweeter when you invite a friend. I can't wait to see you—and those you bring with you. No registration needed...just come and be a part!

Woven Together,
ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER



Men's Steak Dinner

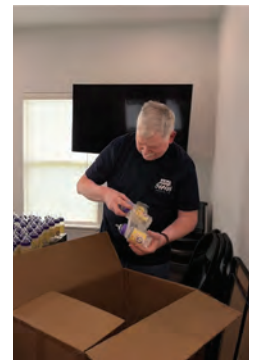
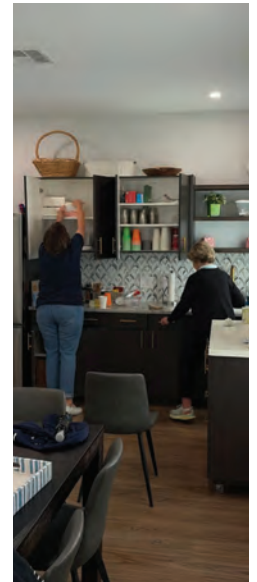
Thursday, April 16, 2026



WEEK IN REVIEW

ABC Serves

Saturday, April 18, 2026



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

At my church in Chattanooga, the ministry staff enjoyed lunch together pretty much every week. We would pick a place like Rain (the local Thai place), or the Chop House, but we frequently ate at Firehouse Subs. Usually there was a competition of sorts at many of these places to see who could handle the spiciest food. The Thai place would prepare the food “Thai Hot” as the hottest rating. All but one of us would ask for Thai Hot. We would all sit and eat, laugh, eyes watering, noses running, and sweat would break out on our foreheads. Our mouths sometimes got so hot we couldn't taste our food... but the hotter the better. On our trips to Firehouse Subs the M.O. was to order our sandwich and grab a bottle of hot sauce at the hot sauce bar. One day the pastor was feeling especially adventurous so he decided to try the hottest offering. It had scorpion peppers, habaneros, and other flavors. If you are familiar with the Scoville pepper scale, the Scorpion pepper has a rating of up to 2M heat units and the Habanero has a rating of up to 350K. By way of reference, a typical jalapeno only has up to 8K. So, from the first bite, the pastor actually stopped chewing, his eyes got big, and then started watering. He finished the bite and drank a huge gulp of tea. We had never seen him even act like something was too spicy before. We were all fearful to try it. But one by one, as we put one drop on a toothpick and stuck it on our tongues, all of us felt the instant regret. Our tongues were on fire! I don't know why we did this, but we enjoyed the bonding moments of being Spice-bros for Christ. By the way, a little known hack to reduce the burn is to lick a handful of salt (though some debate this).

James, the brother of Jesus, knows that one of the ways we are known is by our tongues. He warns the early church and us about the power of the tongue. He says, “If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless” (James 1:26 NIV). He picks back up several verses later warning us, “... the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell” (James 3:5-6 NIV). Wow, he is trying to tell us that when we belong to Jesus, it changes what comes out of our mouths. If we forget that we belong to Jesus, our mouths speak words that can burn up our relationships and make us act like the devil. Using our words to do harm to others or boast about ourselves ruins our witness for Christ.

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



Saving Our Children in a World Gone Crazy: Why We Must Give Our Children a Biblical Worldview by Jeff Keaton

Jeff Keaton is the founder, President, and CEO of the RenewaNation, which is dedicated to helping children to develop a Biblical Worldview. From the RenewaNation website, “RenewaNation spreads awareness about the crucial importance of biblical worldview discipleship that is family-centered, church-supported, and school-enriched. We produce numerous quality resources that assist families, churches, and schools in cultivating biblical worldview.” Keaton has also pastored two churches, planted churches, and written one other book. He has a passion for seeing lost people come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Saving Our Children In A World Gone Crazy is divided into four sections. Section 1 is *Biblical Worldview Discipleship In a World Gone Crazy*. Section 2 is *Six Reasons Why We Must Give Our Children and Grandchildren a Biblical Worldview*. Section 3 is *The Fundamental Differences Between Biblical Worldview Education and Secular Worldview Education*. Section 4 is *Five Reasons Noah Was Able to Save His Family In a World Gone Crazy*. Many Christians have watched as children that were raised in the church have left Christianity. This book presents Biblical principles and steps that can help you to raise children who will develop into the people God wants them to be. Keaton helps you to learn, “...why intentional Biblical worldview discipleship is important and the critical role education plays in worldview development.” The last three pages of the book list additional resources for many of the topics covered.

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

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE 04.19.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP	648
11:15 AM WORSHIP	320
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	788

FINANCIAL REPORT 04.19.2026

ACCOUNT	APR. 19, 2026	YTD
GENERAL FUND	65,624.26	\$1,652,324.87
DESIGNATED	\$4,200.00	\$65,733.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$6,813.58	\$339,508.24
TOTAL GIVING	\$76,637.84	\$2,057,566.11

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**

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Please submit articles and items for The Bridge by the Friday BEFORE publication.



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