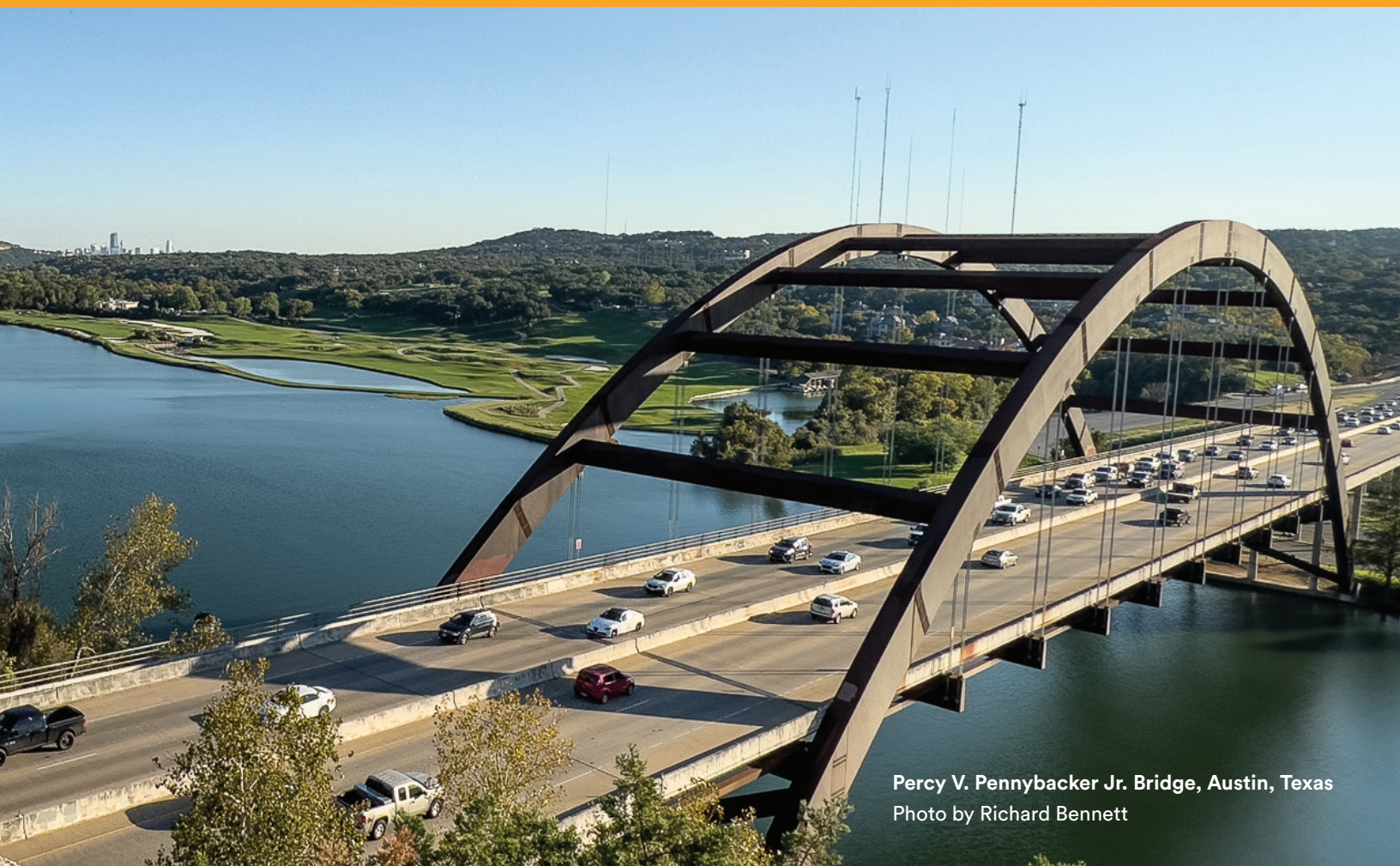


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 16

APRIL 29, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



ABC Family,

Greetings from Egypt! Our group is having an incredible time touring this amazing country and seeing Scripture come alive. We visited the same pyramids that stood when Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Jeremiah, and Jesus came to this ancient land. We walked through Luxor (Thebes), where Moses would have grown up and where 1/6 of the world's monuments stand.

We visited churches that go back to the 4th century when Helena visited Egypt to preserve sacred sites. We toured the Church of Abu Serga in Old Cairo, built where tradition says Joseph, Mary, and Jesus lived. We visited St. Catherine's Monastery, built where Moses met with God through a burning bush. We saw Jabal Musa (Mount of Moses), the traditional site of Mount Sinai, and we took in the incredible beauty of the Red Sea. We had an amazing time fellowshiping and connecting the dots of Scripture together. We've even gotten to spend some time with our friends and ministry partners at tC Egypt while we're here.

I look forward to leading more discipleship tours in the future and hope to take you with me sometime. Our group is looking forward to returning home later this week and seeing you this Sunday at ABC. I'm thrilled to be back in time for Student Weekend, which is one of my favorite Sundays of the year! Do not miss this Sunday and come prepared to be encouraged and challenged by our Student Ministry as they lead the way. Students will be serving across our campus, and you will hear a couple testimonies during our worship services.

Our students will also be hosting their annual camp fundraiser lunch this Sunday. They will be serving meals at 11am (for those attending our first worship service) and 12:15pm (for those attending our second worship service). Both meals will take place in the Heritage Hall. The meal requires no RSVP, but we do request you make a donation at the lunch. 100% of your gift will go towards their camp experience this June in Colorado. I look forward to seeing you this Sunday 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 27, 2026



Brandon Timberlake

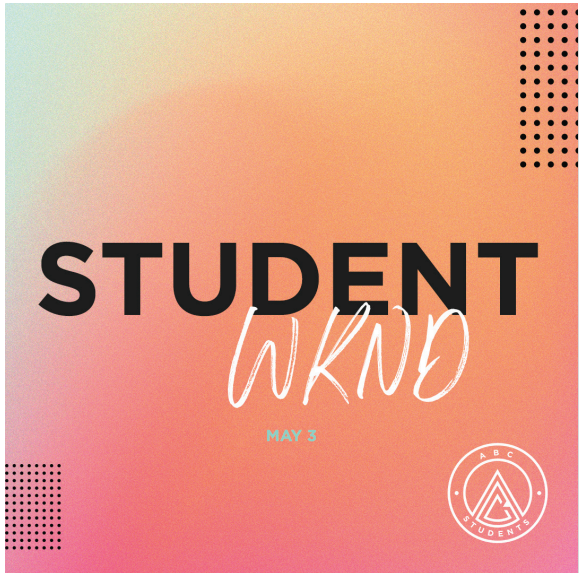
512-565-7168



Troy Sharp

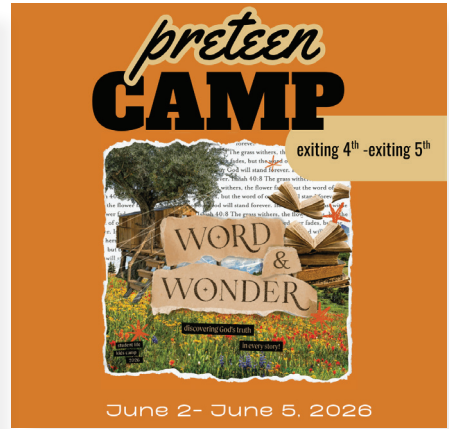
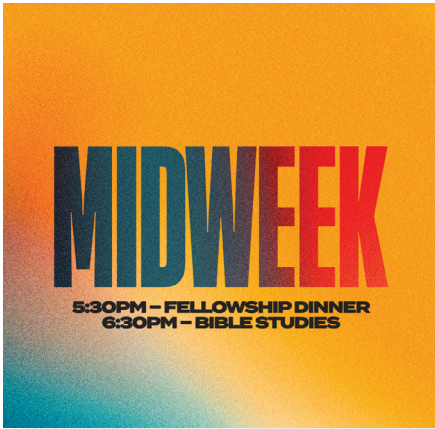
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UPCOMING EVENTS



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

WEEKLY REMINDERS



MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
MAY 6

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

Pork chop, baked sweet potato, broccoli cheese casserole, 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.

UPWARD SPORTS

K-3RD GRADE

REGISTER

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! Register at the link below.

VOLUNTEER

Want to jump in and help? We are always in need of coaches and referees for our different leagues. Come join us for an **Interest Meeting on Wed. May 6 @ 6:45pm**

LEARN MORE AT [AUSTINBAPTISTCHURCH.COM/SPORTS](https://austinbaptistchurch.com/sports)

little lights preschool

AT FOUR POINTS

Austin Baptist Church

HIRING TEACHERS FOR 2026-2027!

Little Lights Preschool is looking to hire teachers for the 2026-2027 school year! If you have an interest or know of someone who would be interested in investing in the lives of our preschoolers, then contact Little Lights Director Eby Whatley for more information.

Eby Whatley

DIRECTOR OF LITTLE LIGHTS PRESCHOOL

ebyw@austinbaptistchurch.com



COME JOIN THE CHOIR FOR
PATRIOTIC SUNDAY

JUNE 28, 2026 @ 8:45AM SERVICE

Now is a great time to join the choir at ABC!

Since this year is the 250th anniversary of the United States (Semiquincentennial), the Choir and Orchestra are learning new patriotic music for our annual Patriotic worship service at 8:45am on June 28th.

Our new arrangements include:

“God Bless the U.S.A.”

“The Star-Spangled Banner”

“Let Freedom Ring”

“Battle Hymn of the Republic”

“Armed Forces Medley”

You will love the new musical arrangements for these songs! Our rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm in the Choir Room behind the Worship Center. If you have questions or are interested in joining us, you can simply show up for rehearsals or you can contact Dr. Todd Stearns via email at todds@austinbaptistchurch.com for information.

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

CLOTHING DRIVE

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



CONTACT

Jake Ross

jakeross2011@gmail.com

Collecting **MAY** 3rd-17th

Most Needed: Men's Clothing

- Gently used Men's clothes
- **NEW** socks and underwear
- Men's shoes, hats, and belts

Cleaning out your closet this spring?

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



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Hello ladies!

It was an especially meaningful Sweet Sunday as Marcia Furrow, one of our own, shared from her book, *Feeding Jesus' Sheep*. Through the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000, we were reminded of the importance of continually going to Him to be filled so that we can then pour out and serve others.

It was also a joy to welcome 12 new ladies, both members and guests, who joined us for the first time! Just when I start to wonder if Sweet Sunday might be getting old, God gently reminds me that He is still using it in powerful ways. It continues to be a simple on-ramp to invite friends and be a space for women of all generations to gather in fellowship and truth.

There's something special about that kind of connection. Long before studies confirmed it, God's Word modeled it—intergenerational relationships that foster belonging, strengthen faith, and encourage women at every stage of life. It really does come down to belonging, not just programming.

Speaking of multi-generational connection, I'd love for you to join us for the final three weeks of our Midweek Women's Bible Study. No registration or book needed—just come! We'll be exploring how our personalities shape every area of our lives, including our spiritual walk, using insights from the book *Wired That Way* by Florence Littauer and Maria Littauer.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our Embrace Grace Baby Shower on Sunday, May 24, from 1:00–3:00 pm. If you'd like to support these moms, you can do so through their gift links [HERE](#). This is truly what pro-love in action looks like.

Woven Together,
ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER



Sweet Sunday

Sunday, April 26, 2026



Other Weekly Spotlights

April 19th & April 28th



Abundant Living BFG
Franklin Hunt's 92nd Birthday Celebration



ABC Serves: Cardinal Point
250 gift bags and baby supplies
packed by ABC Students

WEEK IN REVIEW

ABC Serves: Healing with Horses

Saturday, April 25, 2026



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook



It's a wonder I didn't "put my eye out." When you are out of firecrackers from the Fourth of July, you get creative, and apparently, a little reckless. Not sure what my dad was thinking when he showed me what happened when you trimmed off the matchheads of strike-anywhere matches and put them between two bolts connected together by a nut, then dropped it vertically onto a hard surface. The loud bang and powerful energy that sent the bolt skyward was too great a temptation for a pre-teen boy not to do over and over again. The occasional explosion in my hands when the bolts were just a little too tight

was not enough to deter me from trying again. And why I would try this on the back porch in front of a bank of floor-to-ceiling windows is beyond me. I was not thinking what could possibly go wrong. I was just enjoying the satisfaction of making a loud noise and the feeling of excited fear you get when the aimless projectile possibly launched in your direction. One day when my mother got tired of the noise somehow the bolt-banger disappeared, as did the matches. Perhaps these tendencies could be a clue as to why my college friends and I would later enjoy aiming roman candles at each other at 20 paces.

Dr. Luke reminds us of the powerful work of the Holy Spirit and its impact on the church. Luke tells us the words of Jesus before His ascension. He says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8 NIV). The Greek word for "power" is *dunamis*. We get the word dynamite from this root. I can recall the excited moments of a call to respond to the Gospel message at a youth camp one night. Powerfully, the Spirit was at work in the hearts and lives of several students. There was an excited reverence in the auditorium. About 30 kids responded one at a time. As an intern, I was called by the preacher to speak with three or four of them about their response. The thrill greatly surpassed the moment the bolt-cracker exploded, because this was an eternally changed life, a life launched into a relationship with God-Almighty, a life that would one day be rocketed to heaven. I could not sleep that night having watched God's Spirit at work in several teenagers' lives. I watched as this power changed their lives that night and continued to change their lives and behaviors over the next several years. Oh to see a little bit of that Holy Spirit revival *dunamis* in our world today.

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

In His Joy,

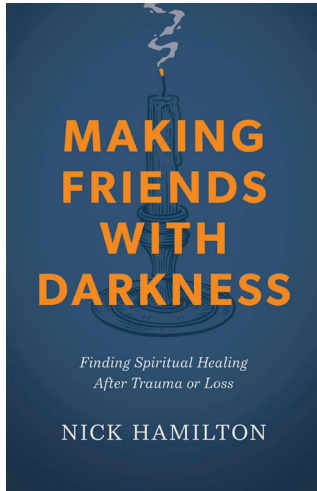
BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



Making Friends with Darkness: Finding Spiritual Healing After Trauma or Loss by Nick Hamilton

Nick Hamilton has a Doctor of Ministry from Gateway Seminary. He has served twenty-five years as a chaplain in health care and in the military. Nick was a Navy chaplain on an aircraft carrier on 9/11, deployed to Iraq with Marine ground forces, and also in the Guantanamo Bay detention center. He currently serves at a hospital in Oklahoma City.

Making Friends With Darkness is drawn from Hamilton's experiences while counseling others for thirty years. During his teens and early twenties, Nick suffered from bouts of depression that were never diagnosed, and he left his faith during those years. When Nick reconnected with his faith, his life changed. Hamilton uses the Psalms and other Scriptures to help people heal from trauma, pain, fear, sadness, depression, PTSD, and anger. He says that most people want to avoid experiencing these things, but darkness is a part of life. Printed on the back cover is the statement, "Trauma often disrupts a person's faith in God. At times, it even causes people to feel as though they have lost their faith in God altogether." Hamilton focuses on emotional and spiritual counsel, but he will use clinical terms when he thinks it is necessary. Hamilton says, "... I hope you will be able to find God in the middle of whatever darkness in which you find yourself."

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 **04.26.2026**

8:45 AM WORSHIP	583
11:15 AM WORSHIP	328
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	736

FINANCIAL REPORT **04.26.2026**

ACCOUNT	APR. 26, 2026	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$48,532.29	\$1,700,857.16
DESIGNATED	\$2,540.00	\$68,273.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$4,045.62	\$343,553.86
TOTAL GIVING	\$55,117.91	\$2,112,684.02

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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