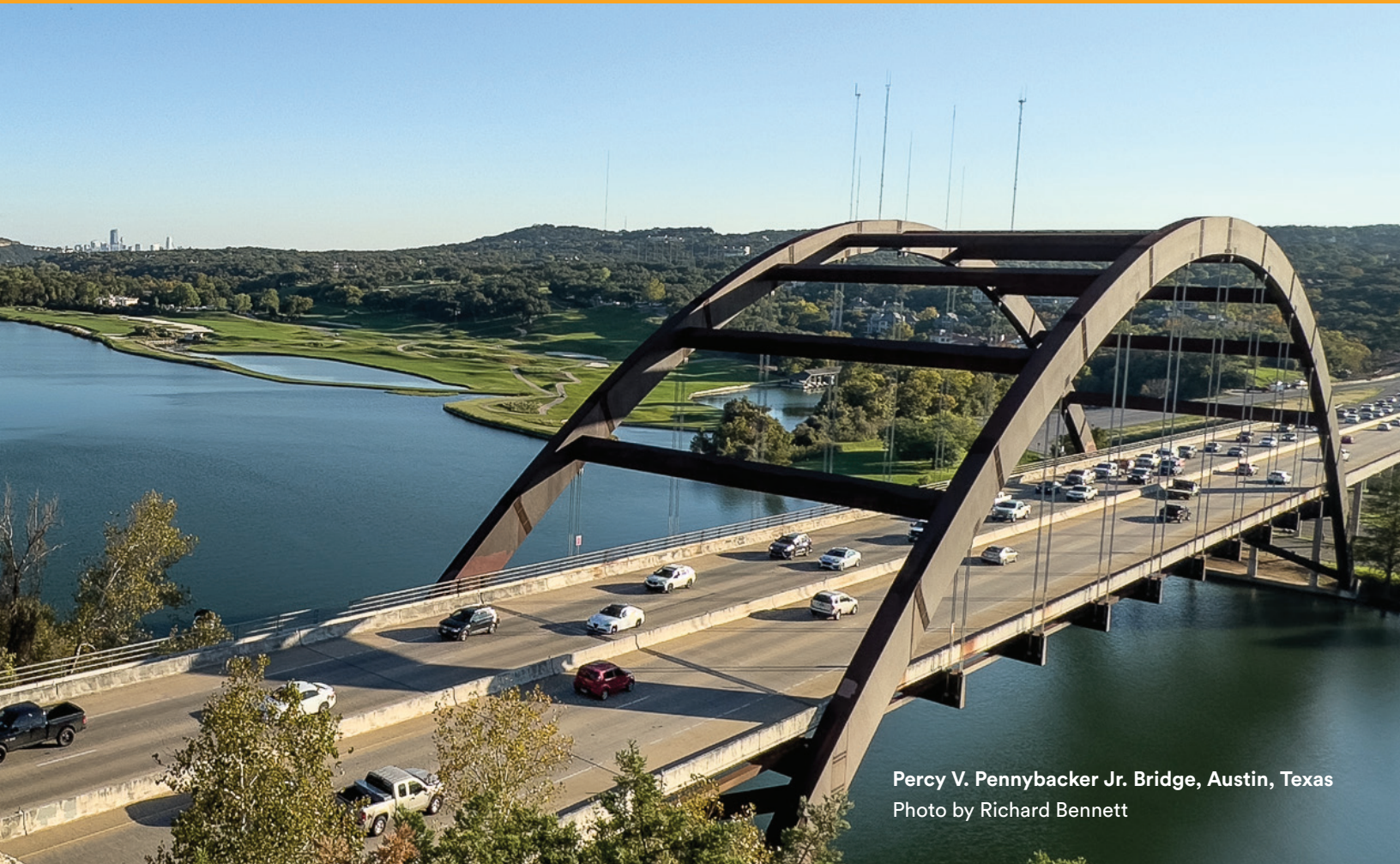


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 13

APRIL 8, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

TABLE of CONTENTS

A Word from Our Pastor	3
Deacons on Call	4
New Members	5
Upcoming Events	6
Weekly Reminders	7
Storytellers: Digital Media Volunteer Training	8
ABC Serves	8
Men's Steak Dinner	9
ABC Women's Ministry	10
Week in Review	11-12
- Good Friday	
- Easter Sunday	
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,

We had a remarkable Easter Sunday at ABC! Thank you to everyone who invited their friends on Easter. It was a record setting day, as we welcomed 2,160 people to our three Easter worship services. An additional 675 people joined us on Good Friday. Special thanks to our amazing staff and volunteers who made it all possible.

This Sunday I'll begin a new sermon series titled *Pathways: Walking with Jesus Day by Day*. Easter Sunday focuses on the reality that Jesus lives, but now I want us to focus on HOW we can live with Him day by day. God desires a relationship with each of us through His Son. But how do we cultivate a personal relationship with an invisible God?

For the next few weeks, we will study some of the spiritual pathways that draw us closer to God. We will learn how to experience Him in our lives through the spiritual disciplines of scripture reading, worship, silence, service, prayer, confession, and fasting. I encourage you to walk these pathways with me because they will grow you closer to the God who created you and redeemed you for Himself.

I hope you enjoyed having the sermon notes last Sunday. Be sure to pick one up this weekend from our greeters as you come in. This handout will be an additional resource to serve you during the sermon each week. All sermon notes can also be found digitally through the YouVersion Bible app.

Invite a friend to join you this weekend. Easter Sunday always reminds us of the power of an invitation. Take some time to pray for someone in your circle of influence, and intentionally reach out to invite them this week. I look forward to worshipping with you on Sunday at 8:45am or 11:15am.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER

SENIOR PASTOR





UPCOMING 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 6, 2026



Adam Hammett

256-453-8848



John DeLaCruz

512-585-0487

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026



Nayeli Wysoczanski

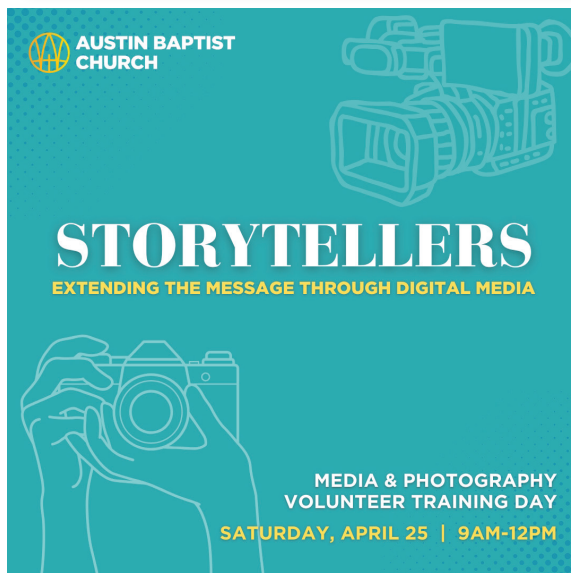


**LIGHT UP
YOUR *Life***

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.

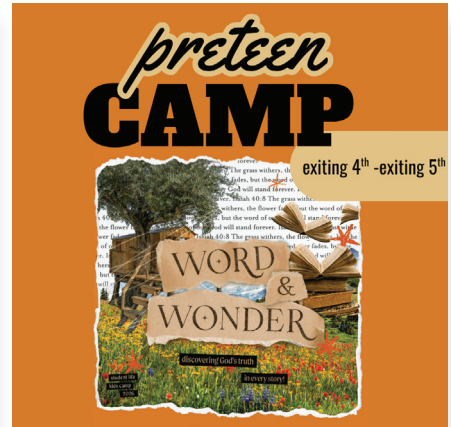
MATTHEW 28:19-20

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

WEEKLY REMINDERS



MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
APRIL 15

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

Grilled chicken, mashed potatoes, corn,
bread roll, and salad bar

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
Contact Mariah: mariahp@austinbaptistchurch.com

COMMUNICATIONS & PHOTOGRAPHY

Mariah Parker
DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS



austinbaptistchurch.com/STORYTELLERS

**ABC
SERVES
AUSTIN, TX
APRIL 18, 2026**

WHAT IS ABC SERVES?

Every spring, we set aside a special day to step outside the church walls and serve the local community of Austin. This year, save the date for ABC Serves on April 18th!

NEXT STEPS TO VOLUNTEER

- Sign up [HERE](#) or at austinbaptistchurch.com/ABCServes2026 (and also view where your BFG class will be serving).
- Choose which Bible Fellowship Group you'd like to serve with (every group will serve with a different service organization based locally in Austin).
- Pick a T-Shirt size (or choose to wear one from a previous year). The design is NEW this year! *Shirts will be available to pick up before and after both services this Sunday, April 12th.*

MEN'S STEAK DINNER



THURS.
APRIL 16
6PM-8PM

**LAST CALL
TO REGISTER**

**CLOSES
THURSDAY,
APRIL 9**

REGISTER AT AUSTINBAPTISTCHURCH.COM/STEAKDINNER

Come be encouraged by the Word of God with other men and enjoy a 16 oz hand-cut ribeye steak dinner hosted and prepared by our deacons.

We are also excited to welcome our guest speaker Darin Kinder, a former US Secret Service agent, Medal of Valor recipient, and a survivor of the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. Darin's unique experience of those events helped form his Christian perspective as an author and speaker. He brings a word that men need to hear.

Invite friends, colleagues, and neighbors and don't miss out on this fantastic Men's Ministry event!



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

Looking for a way to connect with the ABC Women's Ministry?

We have a place for you! Come join the ABC Women and our friends for ***Sweet Sunday on April 26th from 4pm-6pm.***

Sweet Sunday is a once monthly gathering in the Great Hall from 4pm-6pm for women of all ages to have a fun, relaxed, and casual time to connect with Jesus, other women, and enjoy some sweet treats and fun group activities.

We will conclude our time together with a short time of devotional, so come be encouraged with a good word and some great new friends! Every woman, regardless of age or life stage, is invited to have a seat at the table. And the best part? No registration is required! Simply show up and have a good time!

Have some additional questions?

Please reach out to **Anita McGinnis** at anitam@austinbpatistchurch.com and we will find you a seat at the table!



Good Friday

Friday, April 3, 2026



WEEK IN REVIEW

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5, 2026



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

My father was a very patient man... except when he got behind the wheel. He drove like Mario Andretti even when there was no emergency. Now, he could be helpful with his Jeep Wagoneer pulling people out of the ditch or taking someone to the hospital in the snow, but he could also use the four-wheel drive feature to do some crazy things. While hunting one time we took an old wagon road that became so narrow he drove with one set of wheels on the path and one set on the embankment. All I saw was grass, rocks, and red mud out my window from the passenger side and when I looked to the driver's side my father was in his seat way above my head and I saw trees and sky out his window. Later when my family went to a stunt car show and the car went up on two wheels and drove around, I said to myself "Aw shoot, my Dad and I did that in the woods last year!" Apparently, there were few rules for my father who grew up with fewer cars on the road and fewer laws on the books. He drove out of necessity way before he was 16 or had a license. Once, when he was trying to get to the hospital, the traffic was stopped, so he hopped the median to try another route. However, he didn't notice the police cruiser on the other side, so naturally he got pulled over. When he tried to explain to the officer that he was a physician who was trying to get to the hospital, she did not care and wrote him a ticket. He did not think that was fair, so he tried to appeal. The man who was trying to help him with the process said, "I don't know what you said to that officer when you got pulled over, but she refuses to tear up that ticket and is determined that you will pay the fine." Being the child of my father, I too thought that there were few rules I needed to follow when driving. I definitely got my share of tickets, jumped medians, and rolled through stop signs. But it finally dawned on me that maybe I shouldn't drive like that. I had just started seminary and was interning at a church in Fort Worth. One day the traffic was very slow leaving the church parking lot, so I jumped a landscape median and a curb and pulled out onto the road. The next week, a new friend who helped with the church's building and grounds team, said, "I saw you pop the curb last week." I said, "Yes, that is one benefit of having a 4Runner." Then he clarified saying, "We don't do that around here." With an entitled edge to my voice I said, "Why not?" He then let me know "Why not! And What for!" He said it was rude, it ruined the landscaping and irrigation, and it was not a good look for a church intern to be impatiently driving over medians. I said, "Oh, I guess you're right, never thought about it that way." Sometimes we need to be reminded that our thinking is twisted.

"Iniquity" is thinking that wrong behaviors are okay when they are clearly not. The Hebrew word for iniquity is a word that means twisted. In iniquity, we have a mistaken view that self-serving, distorted, or harmful actions are okay for us to do. We may have learned them legitimately from generations before us, but they are still wrong. When God introduces Himself to Moses, He makes sure that Moses knows that iniquity can be forgiven, but it is never okay and that we are to behave differently when we belong to Him or it can affect our families generations later. Exodus 34:6-7 says, "The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation'" (Exodus 34:6-7 ESV). Wow, that generation stuff is convicting; I rode with my son a few years ago and guess what? He drives a little bit like his dad and his granddad. My son and I have both chilled out in the last few years, but when triggered, I can still pop a curb with the best of them. Only now I have remorse. I have to confess my iniquity that I have behaved in a way that doesn't resemble the actions of someone who belongs to Jesus. I'm praying that the driving iniquities will end with this generation.

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

In His Joy,

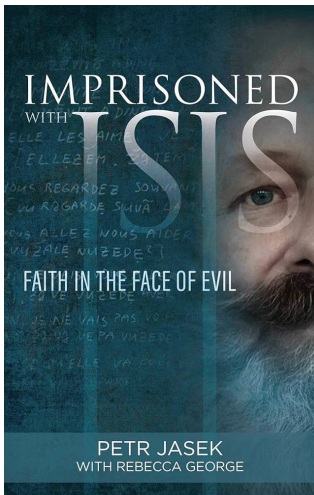
BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



Imprisoned with ISIS: Faith in the Face of Evil by Petr Jasek with Rebecca George

Petr Jasek's father was a persecuted pastor of an underground Christian church in Communist Czechoslovakia. Jasek began working with The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) in 2002. He helped, "...aid and assist persecuted Christians in hostile areas and restricted nations." Jasek's background in hospital administration was helpful in this job. Today, he still serves with VOM as a global ambassador.

Imprisoned With ISIS tells the story of Jasek's imprisonment while on a trip for VOM to Sudan in December of 2015. The purpose of his trip was to determine how VOM could help and encourage persecuted Christians in Sudan. His four-day trip turned into 445 days in Sudanese prisons. Jasek was detained at the airport as he tried to leave Sudan. He realized they thought he was a spy. Jasek was taken to a facility for political prisoners where he and six other men were placed in a cell meant for one person; he soon learned the others were members of ISIS. He was assaulted and tormented by his cellmates daily, interrogated repeatedly by officials, and put in solitary confinement. Jasek was charged with espionage, waging war against the state, and undermining the constitution. He was convicted by a Sudanese court to life in prison. This book gives details of his experiences in the Sudanese prisons, his spiritual growth, his trial, and finally his unexpected release. In the last chapter of the book, Jasek says, "The Lord has granted me the privilege to suffer for the sake of His name, and there is great joy in being counted worthy of that calling."

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 04.05.2026

GOOD FRIDAY	675
EASTER SUNDAY (ALL SERVICES)	2,160

FINANCIAL REPORT 04.05.2026

ACCOUNT	APR. 05, 2026	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$70,058.95	\$1,489,290.08
DESIGNATED	\$885.00	\$58,623.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$7,649.08	\$305,781.66
TOTAL GIVING	\$78,593.03	\$1,853,694.74

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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