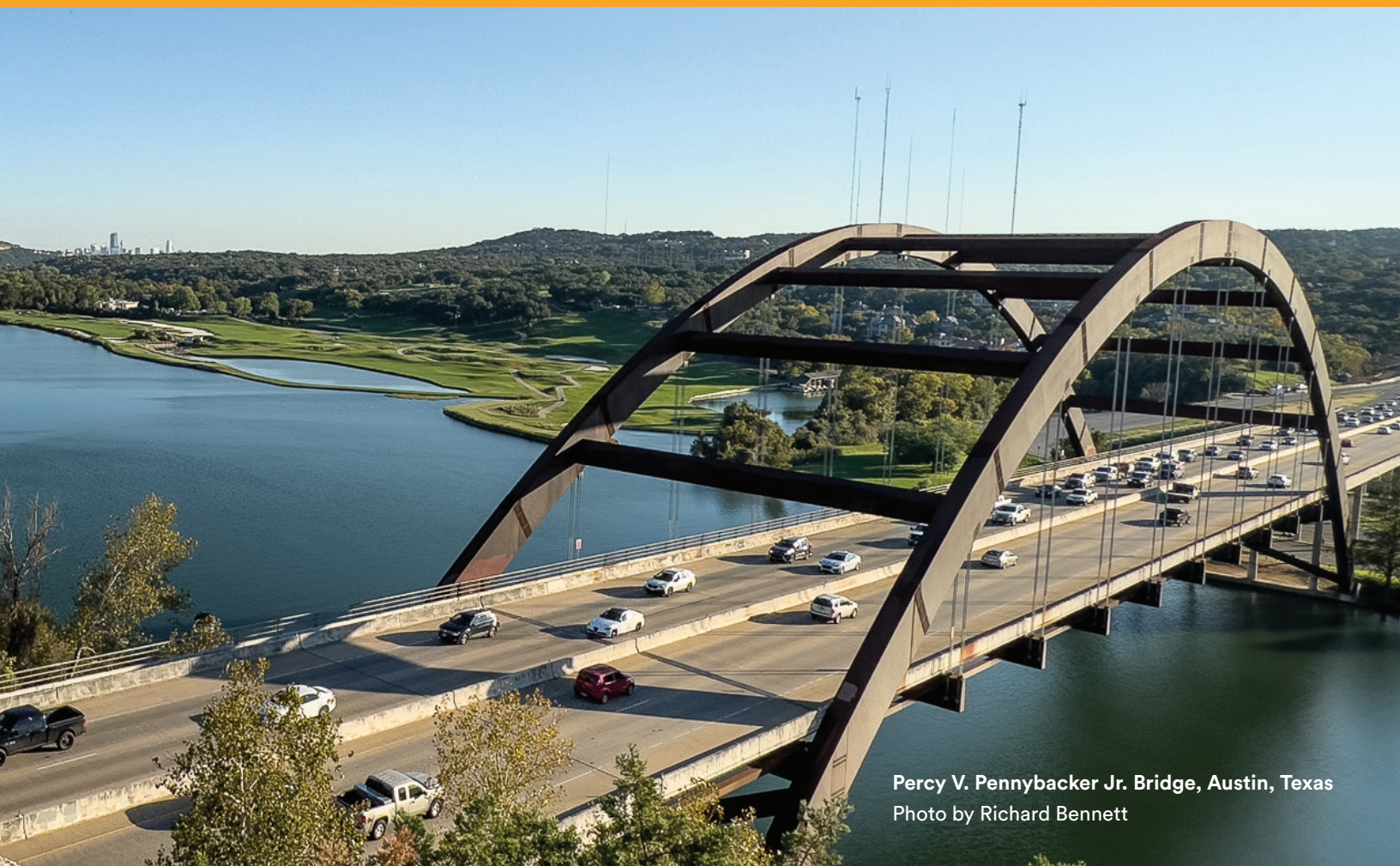


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 18

MAY 13, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

TABLE of CONTENTS

A Word from Our Pastor	3
Deacons on Call	4
Upcoming Events	5
Weekly Reminders	6
Vacation Bible School	7
Creative Arts Camp	7
Spring Cleaning Clothing Drive	8
ABC Women's Ministry	9
Week in Review	10-11
- Mother's Day	
- Parent-Child Dedication	
From the Pages of Bill's Notebook	12
ABC Library	13
Our Response to God's Faithfulness	14
- Attendance	
- Financial Report	



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

We are already halfway through May and just weeks away from the summer season. It's hard to believe that the school year is wrapping up and all eyes are shifting towards the summer calendar. In a few weeks we will be sending students to Preteen Camp at Mt. Lebanon Camp in Cedar Hill, Texas and Peak Week in Colorado. We will then host hundreds of children for VBS. We will also send young adults on a mission trip to Los Angeles and young families on a mission trip to Boston. We will host Freedom Over Austin on July 3rd, and we will teach worship to the next generation at Creative Arts Camp.

It will be a very active season here at ABC, so I ask for your partnership in three ways. First, please commit to pray with us. We don't do these events to fill up a program calendar. We do these events "to lead people into a life-changing relationship with the Light of the world, Jesus Christ." Pray that we might fulfill our mission this summer and for lives to be forever changed.

Second, find ways to serve this summer. ABC is not short on opportunities to get involved. Summer provides a fresh chance to use your gifts to build up the church. There are numerous Sunday morning service opportunities (click [HERE](#)), and each of these events and programs will require faithful volunteers to make them happen. How can you use your spiritual gifts to build up the kingdom this summer?

Third, remain steadfast in your worship through giving. Summer is the busiest season of our church calendar, it's also the most expensive. Because you give, we can offer these incredible Gospel opportunities to engage with our community and impact our world. Thank you for your faithfulness to our Great Commission Fund, which is the general fund of our church. Through your generosity, we are able to advance the Great Commission forward together as a church family.

I'm excited about what God is going to do in the coming weeks. May God continue to use ABC to light up your life, your home, your neighborhood, and the world. I look forward to continuing the Pathways series with you this Sunday at 8:45am or 11:15am.



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 MAY 11, 2026



Mike Brimberry

512-771-1055



Phil Samuelson

512-426-4488

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

SHINING A LIGHT ON
WHO JESUS REALLY IS

ILLUMINATION STATION

JOHN 8:12

June 22nd-25th
9am-12pm | K-5th Grade



AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH

IT'S TIME TO SAY YES TO VBS!

This year we are heading to Illumination Station for the brightest week of the year! During VBS, kids will explore all the ways Christ's light brightens, illuminates, reflects, and reveals through Bible study, games, crafts, and more.

This event is for children entering kindergarten through entering 5th grade for the 2026-2027 school year. This event is completely FREE to attend.

**REGISTRATION OPEN NOW FOR
KIDS AND VOLUNTEERS!**

austinbaptistchurch.com/VBS

The ABC Worship Ministry invites kids entering 1st-6th grades to join us for Creative Arts Camp, July 20-24, 2026, from 9:00 AM-12:00pm each day.

Campers will learn and present the musical "Back to the Beginning," an exciting time-travel adventure back to Creation, where kids discover God's love, power, and victory over sin and death. Invite your family and friends to our special Friday evening performance on July 24th at 6:30pm as we share what we've learned!

In addition to preparing the musical, each child will choose a fun, creative arts elective like Arts & Crafts, Creative Movement, Graphic Design (4th-6th grade), Kids in the Kitchen, Percussion, Photography (4th-6th grade), Puppets, Singing, or Woodworking.

BACK TO THE BEGINNING

Creative Arts Camp

JULY 20-24, 2026

**REGISTRATION AND
VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS
OPEN NOW!**

austinbaptistchurch.com/CreativeArtsCamp

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



**LAST WEEK
TO DONATE!**

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!

We're thrilled to host our second Embrace Grace Baby Shower on Sunday, May 24th, from 12:45–2:45 PM in the Skylight Room. We'll be celebrating two incredible moms, blessing them with gifts that are practical, meaningful, and full of love. If you'd like to give a gift, you can use our combined registry by clicking [here](#). Please have your gifts wrapped, labeled (with the mom's name), and delivered to the church by Sunday, May 24th.

We're also in need of volunteers to provide food for the event. If you'd like to help in that way, please sign up [here](#). If you are helping provide a gift or food and would like to attend the baby shower, RSVP by emailing me at anitam@austinbaptistchurch.com by May 20th.

As we have completed two semesters of Embrace Grace and one of Embrace Life, it has been a blessing to see how God is working in each woman's life. Thank you for being a church family that leads with love and with our mission "to lead people into a life-changing relationship with the Light of the World, Jesus Christ."

Woven Together,

ANITA MCGINNIS

WOMEN'S MINISTER



Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10, 2026



Parent-Child Dedication

Sunday, May 10, 2026



WEEK IN REVIEW

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

If sitting is considered the new smoking, sometimes I'm up to two packs a day when I am working on a project in my office. Scientists are saying even if we take a one hour walk, it is the other eight sedentary hours in front of a screen that kill us a little each day. Even though my watch reminds me every hour, "Time to stand," I have to remind myself to get out of my chair and walk down the hall or climb some stairs. My watch also reminds me when I am not exercising or moving enough each day. It will tell me every night at 10pm, "You can still do it, you can close your move ring. Just take a brisk 45-minute walk." Strangely, when I helped keep my grandson, my watch never had to give me these warnings, because he was constantly moving. But when I was a pre-teen, long before smart watches, my mother didn't put up with any sitting around whining about being bored or having nothing to do. We were shooed outside to play until dinner, or sometimes we were given yard work or other chores to do. She always made sure we were involved in something. She had us in guitar classes, sailing classes, swim classes, ski lessons, tennis lessons, and classes at the children's museum to learn how to run television cameras. We humans were made to move, to go, to learn, to grow, to bear fruit, to discover, to stay in motion. God made us that way.

When Jesus was about to go to heaven and leave the Holy Spirit to guide us, He told us, as you go (as you learn, as you grow, as you are in motion), make disciples of the people around you. Discipling others involves going (and doing), teaching, maturing, and living life together in Christ. Making disciples is active life connection with other people. This is far different than sitting back trying to make converts from a position above them. We all need Jesus, and there are things we have to learn from Him while we are actively involved in His Church. Maybe we need a reminder on our watch that says, "Time to check on a friend" or maybe, "You can still do it. Go love someone well!" Young's Literal Translation of the Bible assumes that humans are on the go. It says, "Jesus spake to them, saying, 'Given to me was all authority in heaven and on earth; having gone, then, disciple all the nations, (baptizing them — to the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all, whatever I did command you), and lo, I am with you all the days — till the full end of the age'" (Matthew 28:18-20).

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

In His Joy,

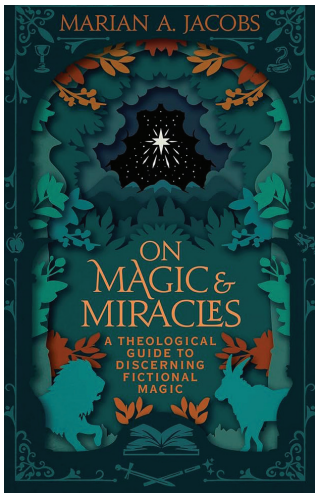
BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



On Magic & Miracles: A Theological Guide to Discerning Fictional Magic by Marian A. Jacobs

Marian A. Jacobs "...is passionate about writing fantasy, science fiction, and Christian story ethics for the edification of the church and the Glory of God." Jacobs serves on her church's worship team and is working on her seminary degree. She and her husband have three children.

In the introduction to *On Magic & Miracles*, Jacobs writes, "Children aren't the only people who have a developing conscience. This is a process Christians go through all our lives as God sanctifies us in different ways. Even as adults, we continue to wrestle through how to best filter the content we watch or read." This book is written in two parts: Part One - A Theological Foundation of Magic and Miracles, and Part Two – Discerning Fictional Magic Through Scripture. In section one of the book, she lists five key factors that can help you discern the difference between the works of God and the works of Satan: source, goal, heart, setting, and methodology. In section two, Jacobs discusses the benefits of the fantasy genre to Christians. This section is more of a "how to" on evaluating various forms of media as suitable or appropriate for believers. Stories are, "... one of the most powerful ways mankind processes and assesses truth as well as lies." The genre of fantasy has exploded into one of the most popular genres of books and films that people are consuming. Jacobs says, "... scriptural principles can assist readers, movie-lovers, gamers, and parents in discerning how fantasy can both edify and honor God." Jacobs tackles many questions that Christians have about magic and miracles, about specific books such as Harry Potter and Chronicles of Narnia, and about specific films such as Star Wars and Stranger Things. This book is not a list of what you should or should not consume, but it presents the tools that you need to help you make wise, Spirit-led choices.

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 **05.10.2026**

8:45 AM WORSHIP	728
11:15 AM WORSHIP	435
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	790

FINANCIAL REPORT **05.10.2026**

ACCOUNT	MAY 10, 2026	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$94,589.21	\$1,904,098.52
DESIGNATED	\$5,566.00	\$92,339.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$9,279.00	\$363,856.06
TOTAL GIVING	\$109,434.21	\$2,360,293.58

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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