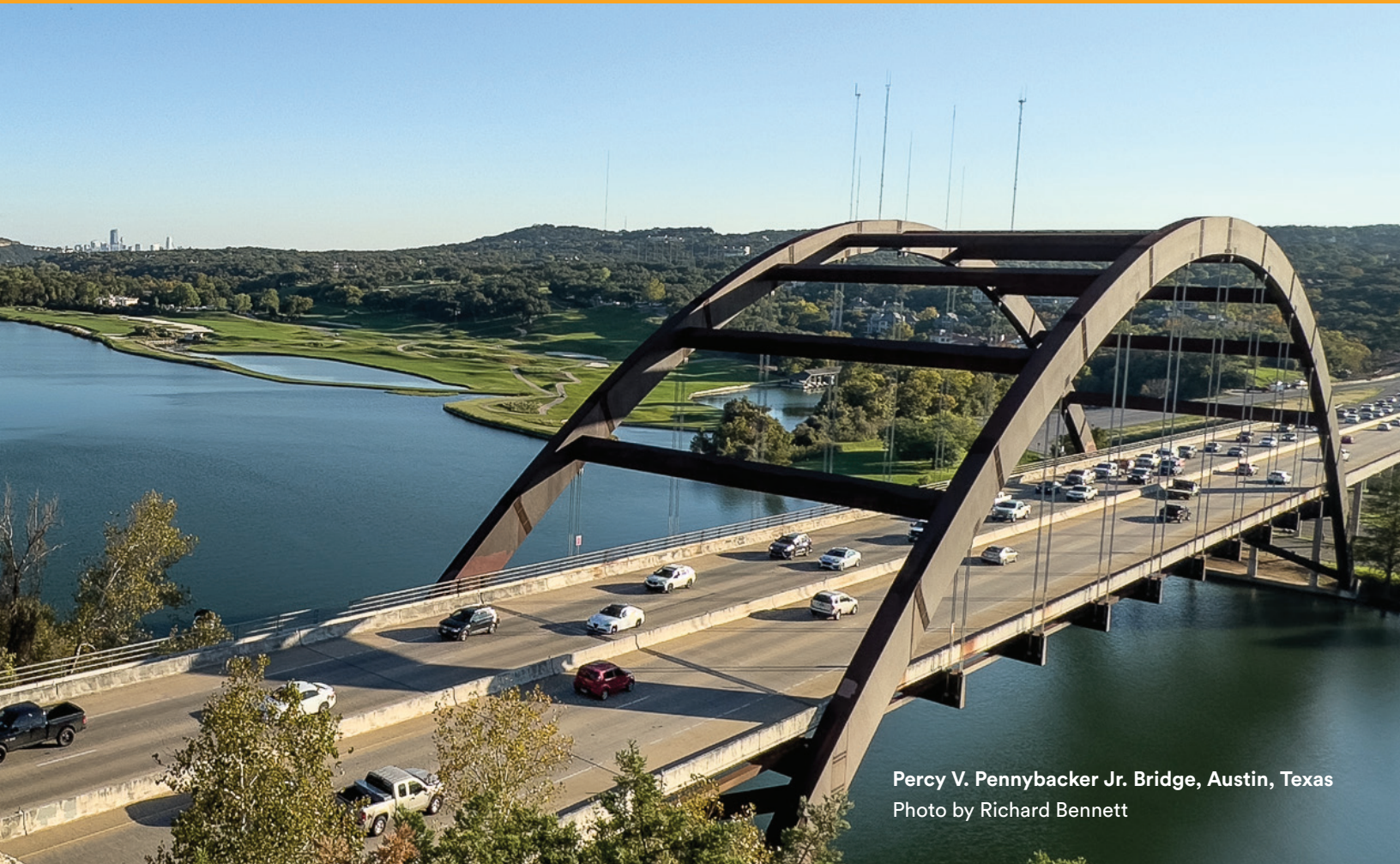


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 19

MAY 20, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

TABLE of CONTENTS

A Word from Our Pastor	3
Deacons on Call	4
New Members	5
Staff Spotlight	5
Upcoming Events	6
Weekly Reminders	7
Vacation Bible School	8
Creative Arts Camp	8
ABC Women's Ministry	9
Agape Pregnancy Center: Baby Bottle Campaign	10
Week in Review	11-12
- Graduate Recognition Sunday	
- 2026 Graduates	
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,

Jesus said, “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). Memorial Day weekend is upon us, and I hope you take some time to reflect upon the meaning of this holiday. Unlike our upcoming 250th Independence Day, Memorial Day is designed to be more reflective than celebratory in its nature. It is a special weekend where we remind ourselves that freedom is not free, and blood has been spilled on our behalf.

Jesus understood the topic of sacrifice better than anyone else. After uttering those words, he would soon offer himself as a once and for all sacrifice to atone for the sins of the world. His blood was spilled to purchase our freedom from sin and death. Our savior understood sacrifice is the ultimate expression of love. May we each remember the loving sacrifice that was made by Jesus. But may we also remember the loving sacrifice that was made by our military heroes.

Fifteen service men and women have laid down their lives this year alone in our armed services. Let’s pause and pray for these surviving families and continue to pray for the men and women who are deployed all around the world to protect liberty. I hope you enjoy the three-day weekend and the unofficial start to summer, but I hope you also give thanks to God for the freedom we enjoy every day as believers in the United States of America.

If you are traveling this weekend, I wish you safe travels. But if you are here this Sunday, I’ll look forward to wrapping up our Pathways series with you at 8:45am or 11:15am this weekend.

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 18, 2026



Dale Hefner

512-762-9969



Ron McClarty

512-587-1211

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026



Elise Ott

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

MAY 20, 2026

Church Family,

Please join me in congratulating **Dr. Matt Gillum** on his 14th work anniversary at Austin Baptist Church. Matt was the first youth pastor at ABC and established the foundation for our ABC Student Ministry. Since then, Matt has gone on to serve as a faithful and effective Executive Pastor, providing leadership and strategy in our ministry and administrative areas. We are thankful to have him, Adrian, Kate, Claire, and Tag in the ABC family. Take some time this week to express your appreciation to Matt and his family for their faithful service to our church.

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER

SENIOR PASTOR

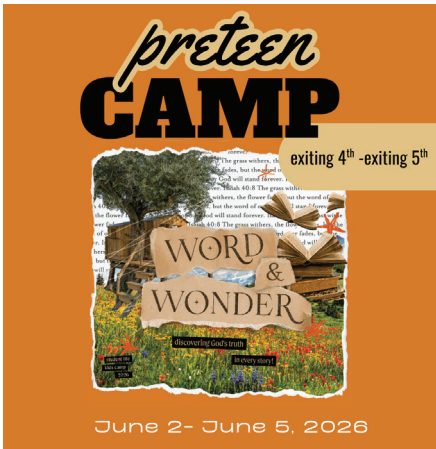


UPCOMING EVENTS



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

WEEKLY REMINDERS



STAY IN THE LOOP THIS SUMMER!

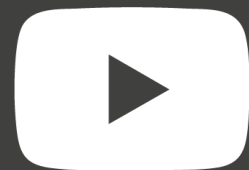
Follow us on social media and keep up with everything happening at ABC.



Austin Baptist Church



@austinbaptistchurch



Austin Baptist Church

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



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE



Ahoy, Ladies!!!

Grab your sundresses and sun hats and join us for a beautiful summer evening cruising along Lake Austin!

Our adventure will begin at ABC as we board charter buses that will take us to the dock where we'll step aboard *The Commodore* for a relaxing riverboat cruise. We'll meander up Lake Austin from the Tom Miller Dam, taking in natural limestone cliffs, Mt. Bonnell, stunning lakefront homes, and the spectacular views of the Pennybacker Bridge.

While on board, we'll enjoy a delicious fajita dinner along with lots of fun, fellowship, and conversation. The riverboat features open-air decks perfect for soaking in the views, as well as enclosed, air-conditioned areas for comfort.

This outing has always been a favorite for women of every age! I'm also happy to share that this particular boat is very easy to board.

The lower deck is easily accessible, and the stairs to the upper deck are gentle and manageable for those wanting even more incredible views.

So go ahead and mark your calendars for our Sweet Sunday Summer Edition: Riverboat Cruise on Sunday, July 26th!

We will meet in the ABC parking lot at 3:00pm to board the buses. Our cruise will begin at 4:00pm and conclude at 6:30pm, so we expect to arrive back at ABC around 7:15pm.

Click [HERE](#) to reserve your spot for this special evening on Lake Austin! Your \$110 fee includes transportation, the riverboat cruise, dinner, and gratuities.

I can't wait to celebrate summer with you on the lake!

Woven Together,
ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER



Change for Life.

COLLECTING SUNDAY, MAY 24 - SUNDAY, JUNE 21



WILL YOU PARTNER WITH US IN THIS SIMPLE WAY TO **SAVE LIVES?**

Take a bottle, fill it with coins, cash, or check, then bring it back to your church by collection time or bring it to one of our centers, or scan the QR code and give online any time!

agapeprc.org



(512) 248-8200

Graduate Recognition Sunday

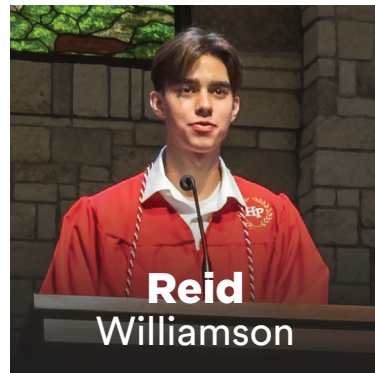
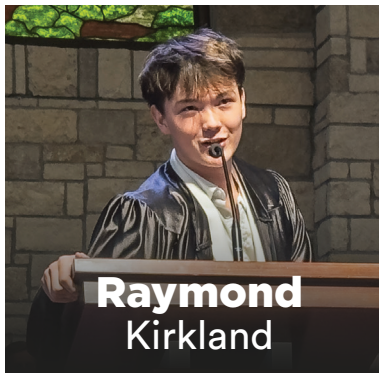
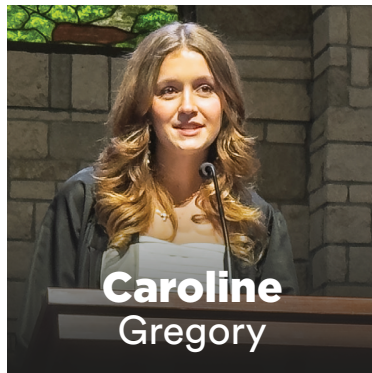
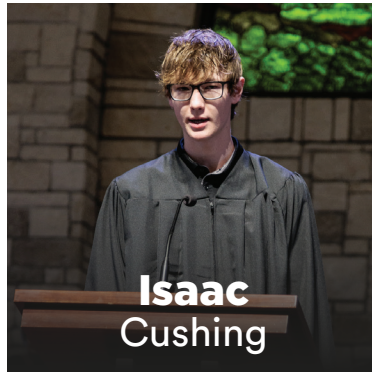
Sunday, May 10, 2026



WEEK IN REVIEW

The Graduates

Class of 2026



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

As we get closer to Vacation Bible School season, my mind goes back to wonderful nostalgic memories of VBS as a kid. I am so thankful for I had church family that loved kids so much that they would invest volunteer hours and dollars into a week of focused faith development. We would march into the sanctuary singing “Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus, going on before.” Many of us had never marched before, so it was kinda awkward trying to stay in step. For some reason, the boys were more out of step than the girls, even with the teacher starting us out with “Right, left, right, left.” Maybe it was a developmental thing (you know, a brain and motor skill thing that girls get before boys). Anyway, we could have changed the song to: “Awkward Christian neophytes, lurching like baby giraffes, with the grace of Jesus loving us anyway.” When we arrived in the sanctuary we put our hands over our hearts and pledged our allegiance to the American flag, the Bible, and the Christian flag.

Unintentionally, and again awkwardly, we may have begun to march in the direction of something that valued national patriotism equal to or greater than the worship of God Almighty. Don't get me wrong, God has certainly blessed America. Every one of us is blessed to live in this great country, and we should all truly pledge our allegiance to all the good our flag represents. We should also love God's Word and highly value the symbols of our faith, but there is no equal to God on earth or in heaven, and He should be worshiped far above anything else. The first two of the ten commandments say, “You shall have no other gods before me” and “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them” (Exodus 20:3-5 NIV). Once again, God in His grace, allowed us all to mature and develop in our understanding of our relationship to Him. Many among us first understood the gospel of Christ at VBS. If I could go back, I'm not sure I would change any of my experiences. My life has been shaped for the better by those early faith events. I would, however, perhaps try to help kids understand that a personal relationship with our awesome God through Jesus Christ is far above anything we can march, pledge, or salute our allegiance to.

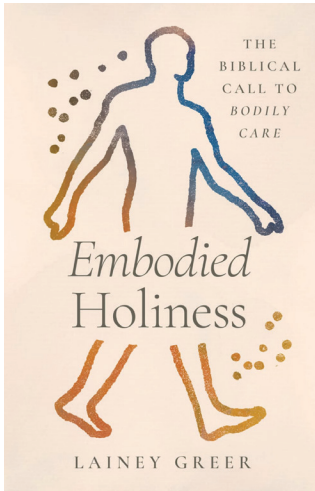
Hang in there people! God is glad to be with us! I'm praying for us all.

In His Joy,
BILL MCGINNIS
PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



Embodied Holiness: The Biblical Call to Bodily Care

by Lainey Greer

Lainey Greer has a Bachelor's Degree in exercise science from the University of Tennessee, a Master's Degree in Christian leadership from Dallas Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. in systematic theology from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Greer is passionate about Christian theology and body stewardship. She is the founder of Your Body Matters. From the Your Body website, "Your Body Matters exists to equip you with a Biblical view of the body that impacts how you live." Greer is the author of several books, an events speaker, and the writer of the Forsaken Body blog. She worked in church ministry for 10 years.

In ***Embodied Holiness***, Greer challenges the idea that Christians tend to undervalue the body. Greer believes that we are called by God to glorify Him with our entire self, body, and soul. As Christians we must prioritize our spiritual health, but we must also strive to be physically healthy. In chapter one, Greer presents a Biblical argument for the body, using Scripture that supports the idea that body and health should not be neglected. In chapter two, she presents an anthropological argument for the body created by God as a physical body and a soul. In chapter three, Greer presents a theological argument for the body, stating, "I will argue that I Corinthians 6:12-20 serves as the ultimate text to connect how Christians think about their bodies with the way they treat them." In chapter four, Greer presents the evidence for a historical argument for the body showing that creeds, the seven deadly sins, and the Westminster Larger Catechism point to the idea that early Christians knew that the health of your body is important. Chapter five gives advice on how to care for the body through exercise, nutrition, rest, and stress management. Chapter six presents evidence from studies of how Christians currently view and treat their bodies. The Conclusion includes Self-Assessment Questions and Tips for Incorporating Body-Stewardship Basics. Greer believes, "God expects in His followers a physical well-being sufficient to simply carry out what He commands."

CONTACT: Rita Ervin

Email library@austinbaptistchurch.com

or visit us online at austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY

LIBRARY HOURS

SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE 05.17.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP	619
11:15 AM WORSHIP	352
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	782

FINANCIAL REPORT 05.17.2026

ACCOUNT	MAY 17, 2026	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$89,086.67	\$2,027,676.30
DESIGNATED	\$900.00	\$95,239.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$12,550.08	\$393,606.14
TOTAL GIVING	\$102,536.75	\$2,516,521.44

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.



7016 RIBELIN RANCH DR. AUSTIN, TX, 78750