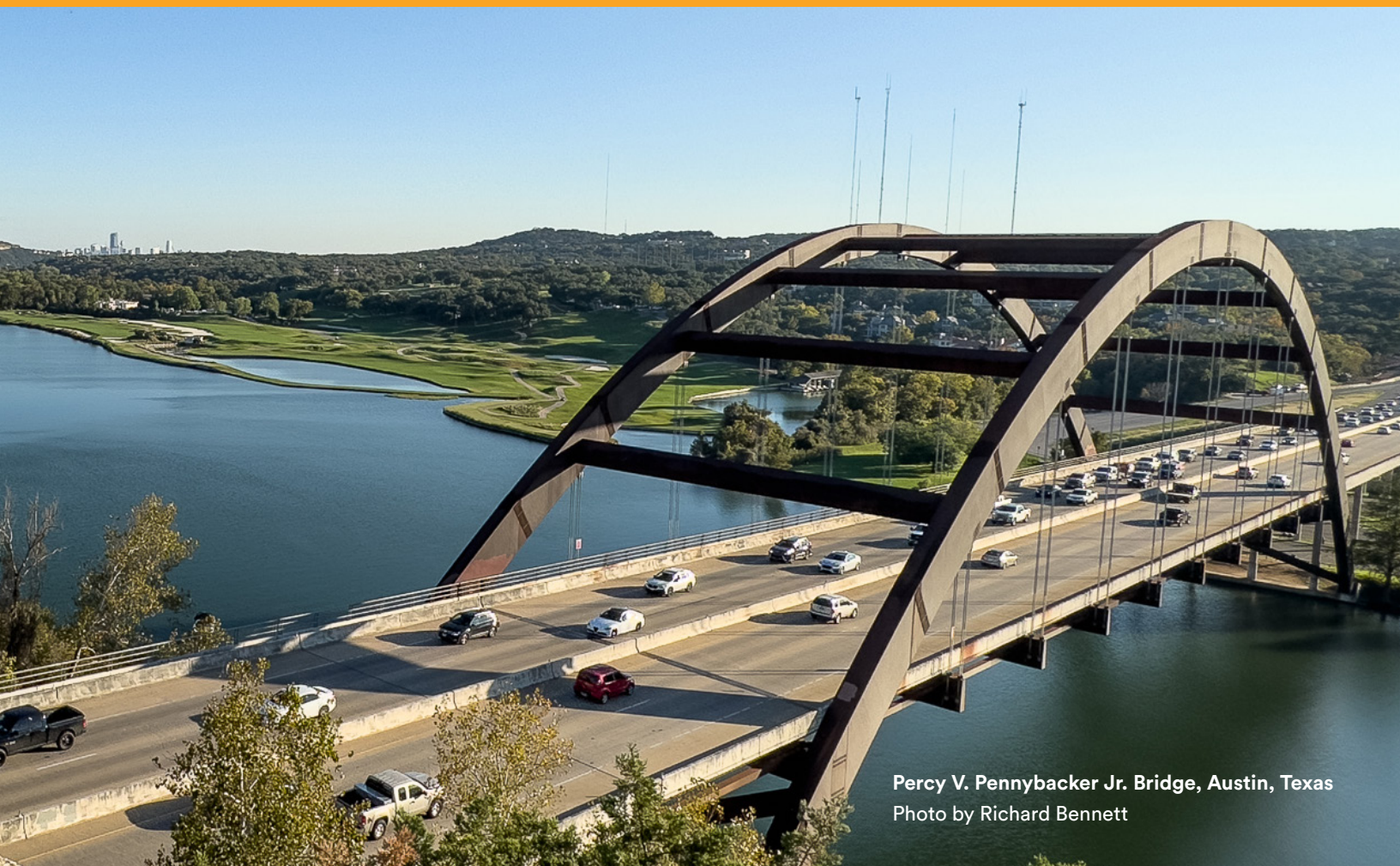


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 20

MAY 27, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Summer is officially upon us at ABC! We will be sending our first group of campers next week to Kids' Preteen Camp. Soon after they return, we will send out two buses of teenagers and leaders to Estes Park, Colorado for Peak Week. Then we will shift our focus to Vacation Bible School. We already have over 400 kids registered and believe this will end up being the largest VBS in our church's history. We still need about ten more volunteers, so please consider serving if you are available the week of June 22nd to 25th. While all of this is going on, our Young Adult Ministry is beginning a sports outreach on Monday nights, and we are all preparing for our community-wide outreach, Freedom Over Austin, on Friday, July 3rd.

This summer we also have lots of *Light The Way* projects going on. Our ministry partners, *Love For Myanmar*, have broken ground for our Healing & Trauma Center in Yangon. Paragon 360 will be coming later this summer to finish their media upgrade installations in our Worship Center. They will install new LED screens and update our lighting systems. It is exciting to see these projects coming near their completion, and I am looking forward to seeing how God will reach people for Him through these financial investments. We have one big LTW project remaining, campus-wide security upgrades, so thank you for your continued faithfulness through *Light The Way*.

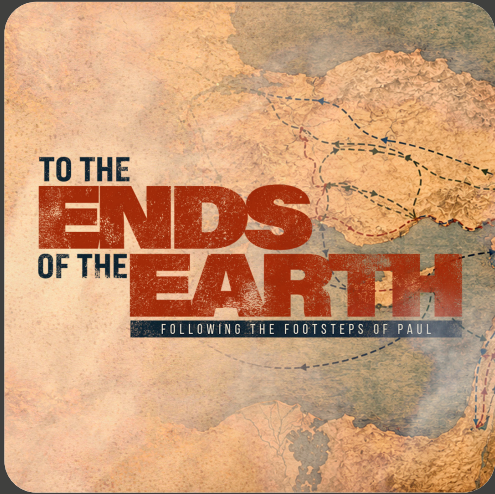
I thank God for your continued faithfulness to the ministry of Austin Baptist Church. Your continued gifts to the Great Commission Fund, which is the general fund of ABC, are helping us finance all the amazing ministry events that are about to take place. Thank you for being a partner in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and please join me in praying for God to move mightily through our church in this season. I look forward to kicking off our summer sermon series this Sunday, "To the Ends of The Earth." As people are traveling all summer, we will also be traveling with the apostle Paul through the book of Acts. We will study his missionary journeys and see how the Holy Spirit took the Gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

Don't forget we have mission trip interest meetings for Egypt and Thailand at 12:30pm this Sunday. Invite a friend and I'll see you for worship at 8:45 or 11:15am.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER
SENIOR PASTOR





UPCOMING SERIES

To The Ends of The Earth

Following the Footsteps of Paul

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 25, 2026



Jim Hammock

512-426-7944



Mark Davis

512-970-0747

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

WEEKLY REMINDERS

FALL MISSION TRIPS
INTEREST MEETINGS
 MAY 31 | 12:30 PM

EGYPT MISSION TRIP
 OCTOBER 18-26, 2026
 Meeting Location: The Chapel

THAILAND MISSION TRIP
 DATES TBD (LATE FALL 2026)
 Meeting Location: The Great Hall

agape women's clinic

Change for Life.



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!

Give online anytime at:

 agapeprc.org

SUMMIT

SPORTS

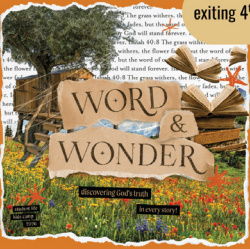
YOUNG ADULT RECREATION NIGHT



KICKOFF EVENT
 JUNE 1 @ 6PM

preteen
CAMP

exiting 4th - exiting 5th



June 2- June 5, 2026

ABC WOMEN'S

SWEET SUNDAY

SUMMER EDITION:
 RIVERBOAT CRUISE



JULY
26
 4:00 PM

UPWARD
SPORTS

AUSTINBAPTISTCHURCH.COM/SPORTS

K-3RD GRADE

BEGINNING FALL 2026
 REGISTER ONLINE

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



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



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

We just celebrated our second Embrace Grace Baby shower! Thank you to all who helped make this such a meaningful day. To give you a glimpse into the two moms we celebrated, please enjoy these portions of Kelsey Dramberger's speech, our Embrace Grace leader.

Kelsey Dramberger

Lead of Embrace Grace Program at ABC

Hi everyone! Thank you all so much for coming today, we are honored that we get to shower these two amazing moms today.

Before I get started I want to thank everyone that made today happen because without each and every gift purchased, linen steamed, plate of food prepared, pictures printed and framed, the list goes on, we would not be here! It has been a whirlwind of a semester but this shower is always a beautiful reminder of what we have learned, how we have grown, and how we have seen God work in the past twelve weeks.

That brings me to our moms of honor, Shae and Marcella. Twelve weeks ago you each made the brave decision to step through the doors of this church and show up for a group that you knew close to nothing about. Each of you drove 30-45 minutes to get here, pregnant and tired, nauseous, in pain, overwhelmed by challenges in life...plenty of reasons not to show up, but you did. And I'm so grateful you did.

Marcella, we met you first thanks to Miss Emma, and I could say so much about the woman you are. You may have only turned 16 a month or so ago, but your maturity and your trust in God is admirable. From the moment you found out you were pregnant, you have acted like a mom, putting the needs of your baby first. You work consistently to protect Malorie, to establish a foundation for her to thrive, and to set boundaries as needed. You use your words with such poise and eloquence, always soft with your delivery but firm in your beliefs. I am

already so proud of the mom that you are. I know that this has been nothing short of overwhelming and isolating, but I hope, with these women here and in our group, that you always feel supported, seen, and loved. I am so hopeful for your future and for Malorie's future, and I pray that you continue to seek God first in all that you do. As we talked about a lot this semester: "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Shae, you are a shining example of resilience. Nothing in your life has been given to you, and nothing in your life has been easy, but I want you to know that you are a survivor and a fighter. Whether you choose to stay in Texas or move back to Florida, I know with full assurance that you will always fight for what you need and what Gabriel deserves. I also want to call out your grit and perseverance. This past week you had a few scares that landed you in the hospital, but my gosh are you tough. Whether it be toothaches or pregnancy pains, or the two combined, you keep your chin up and you keep pushing forward and I think that is an absolute gift from the Lord. Every step of your journey, God has been there to catch you and I want to encourage you in this final stretch of your pregnancy to lean on God. He will never fail. He is always enough.

Continued on next page...



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Continued from previous page...

The last thing I want to remind y'all about today is my hope that Embrace Grace will serve as just the beginning of your story and your faith journey. As the Embrace Grace founder Amy Ford says, *"Don't gain all this momentum to focus more on God and just let it fade away because our 12 weeks together is over. Let this be your launching pad to fly! The miracles you've seen are just the beginning. The closer you get to Him, the more miracles you will see. This is the kind of life God wants for you. And even though Embrace Grace is coming to an end, let this be the beginning of growing your spiritual roots and deepening your faith."*

Don't forget to read your Bible and study God's Word. His Word is alive and is our one source of truth for everything we need. I also want to encourage you to become more involved in our church. God created us to need connection and we were not made to do life alone. Austin Baptist Church has an incredible community filled with resources for families and an amazing Children's Ministry to plug into. And if you want to give your life to Christ or talk about getting baptized, please come chat any day, any time with me or any of our amazing leaders.



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

A friend at Southwestern Seminary had invited me out to the ranch where he was living and taking care of the owner's longhorns. I was excited to see these massive creatures up close. He asked if I wanted to help feed them. Always up for an adventure, I said, "Yes." He demonstrated how to take a bale of hay through the barn door and scatter it in front of these docile but extra-large hungry beasts. So, I grabbed a bale by the twine and as I was about exit the barn, the twine snapped and the hay exploded just inside the door. Well, I learned that hungry longhorns don't understand that they are not allowed in the barn even if there is food on the ground. So, in my ignorance, I literally grabbed the bull by the horns and pushed it back out the door. Surprisingly, it stayed just outside the door as I kicked the hay toward him and his herd mates. My friend said, "I can't believe you just did that." He knew that the longhorn could have easily slung me into the loft without even trying if it was so inclined. I guess I was just lucky he was hungry and not hangry. They say ignorance is bliss, unless of course it is just ignorance. What you don't know can hurt you, I guess.

The Apostle Paul was worried about the early church and reminded them that he and his friends were praying for their knowledge and wisdom of spiritual truths. He says, in Colossians 1:9-14, "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." So before you take the "bull by the horns", pray for knowledge and wisdom so you can "live a life worthy of the Lord."

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

In His Joy,

BILL MCGINNIS

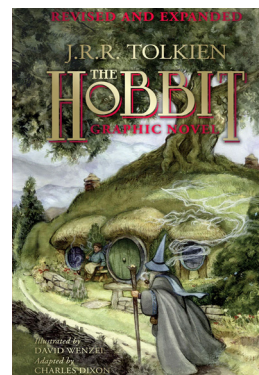
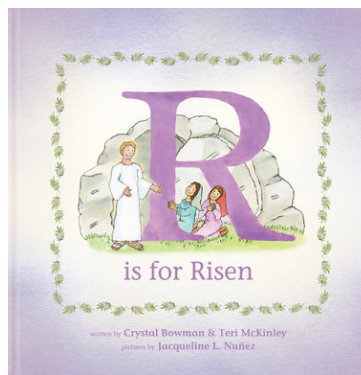
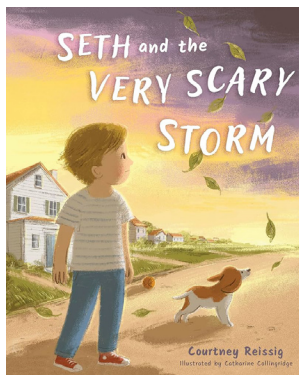
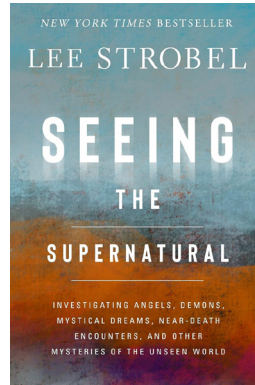
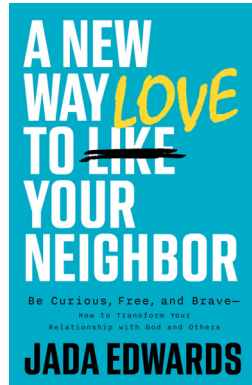
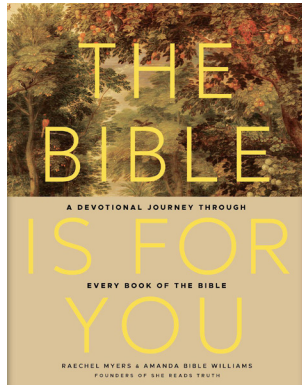
PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library

Below are some new titles being added to the ABC Library soon! Keep an eye out!



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 **05.24.2026**

8:45 AM WORSHIP	507
11:15 AM WORSHIP	326
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	789

FINANCIAL REPORT **05.24.2026**

ACCOUNT	MAY 24, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND (GENERAL)	\$55,490.21	\$2,082,166.51
DESIGNATED	\$1,700.00	\$96,939.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$2,689.00	\$396,295.14
TOTAL GIVING	\$58,879.21	\$2,575,400.65

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:

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- **EMAIL:** mariahp@austinbaptistchurch.com
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Please submit articles and items for The Bridge by the Friday BEFORE publication.



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