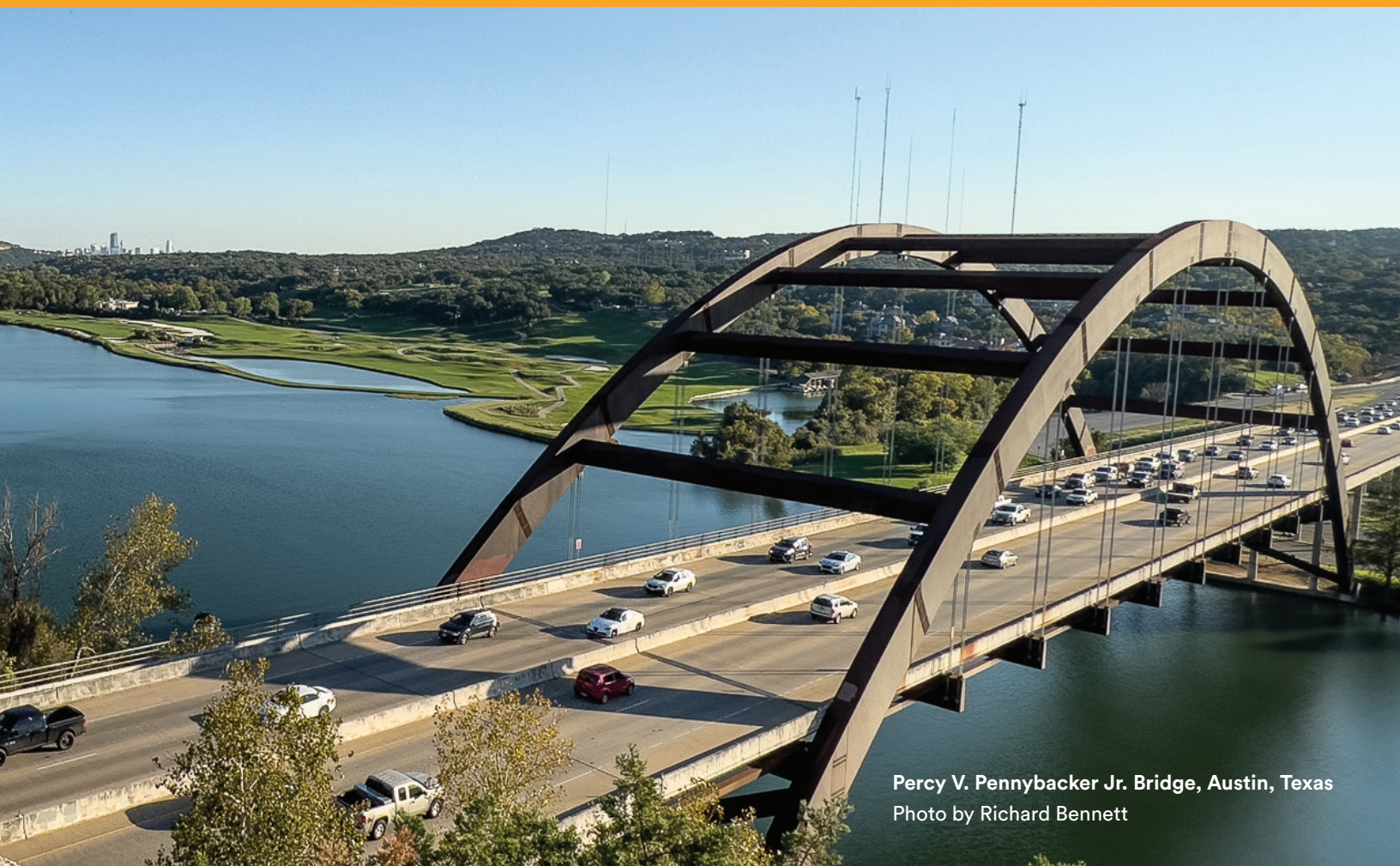


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 17

MAY 6, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

2 Timothy 1:5 says, *“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.”* Pastor Timothy was a key leader in the early church. He was mentored by the apostle Paul and accompanied him on ministry trips. As the two worked together, Paul recognized the Spirit’s gifting in Timothy, so Paul empowered him into ministry leadership. Timothy was charged to lead the large and influential church of Ephesus, a church Paul deeply loved and personally planted.

Over time, Timothy became a titan of the faith. However, we must not forget that did not happen overnight. Timothy had a faithful mother and grandmother who spiritually shaped him to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ. Lois and Eunice prayed for Timothy and taught him the scriptures at a young age (2 Tim 3:14). That faith-filled investment brought a great harvest for the kingdom of God. One cannot overstate the influence of a Christian mom.

This Sunday is Mother’s Day at ABC. It will be a special day of worship as we take time to thank God for mothers. We will have flowers, special photo spots, and I will teach on the next spiritual “Pathway” of our sermon series: prayer. There is great power in prayer, and there is great power in a praying mother. I hope to see 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!



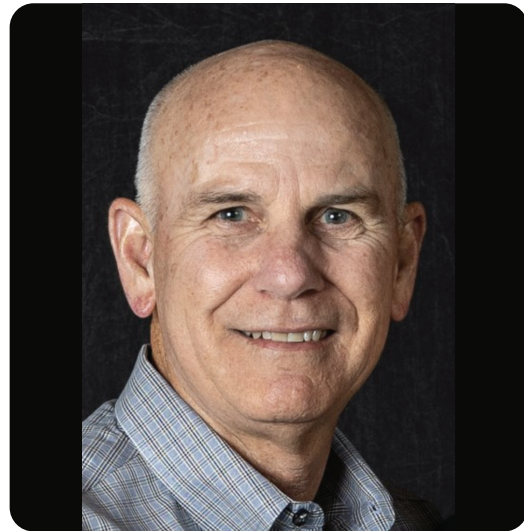
DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 4, 2026



Gerald Aalbers

512-921-0050



Larry Selby

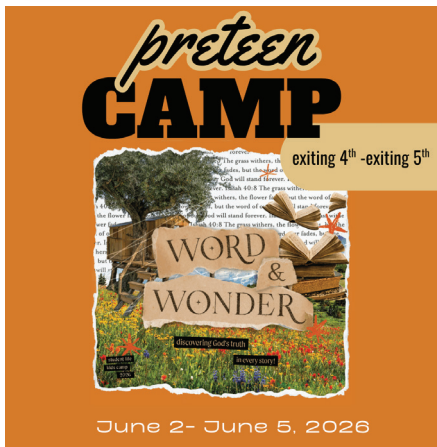
512-461-7830

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

WEEKLY REMINDERS



MIDWEEK MENU

LAST SPRING MIDWEEK MENU
MAY 13

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

Steak, baked potato, green beans,
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.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

MAY 6, 2026

Hey Church Family,

This week we celebrate with **Keith Quartermaine** as he retires from his position on our Facilities Staff at ABC. He has served on our staff for the past 7 years. Keith has brought great humor to our staff team, and our church facility has benefited immensely from his care and excellent work. I hope that you'll join me in thanking Keith in the coming weeks as he completes his tenure on our staff!

In Christ's Love

DR. MATT GILLUM

EXECUTIVE PASTOR



STUDENT

WKND

MAY 3



Thank for your continued support of our Student Ministry. Because of your generosity, our students will have the incredible opportunity to grow in their relationship with the Lord at Student Life Camp this June.

If you would still like to give, it's not too late. You can do so at the link and QR code below.



THANK YOU CHURCH FAMILY

FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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



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!

I'm so excited to celebrate our moms this Mother's Day at ABC. It's always a special Sunday, and this year will be even more meaningful as we dedicate 10 babies! We'll also have some great photo spots for families and a special gift for every mom. What a sweet way to honor your mother, by coming together to worship.

I also want to invite you to be part of our second **Embrace Grace Baby Shower** on **Sunday, May 24th, from 12:45–2:45 in the Skylight Room**. This semester, we'll be celebrating two incredible moms. If you'd like to come alongside them, here are a couple of ways to help:

- Support them with a gift from their registry (click [HERE](#)).
- Sign up to bring food for the shower (click [HERE](#)).

If you plan to attend, we'd love to have you. Just send me a quick email at anitam@austinbaptistchurch.com. We'll also have a table in the Lobby (in front of the stone wall) where you can drop off shower gifts. Thank you for making pro-life not just something we say, but something we live out. Your love and support has made a real impact, and it's been beautiful to see the fruit in these moms' lives.

Finally, it's never too late to join us for our Wednesday night Women's Bible Study at 6:30 pm in room 243A/B. My hope is that you'll find your gait as you come in and experience God's **G**race, **A**uthenticity, **I**mpact, and **T**ruth alongside other women. I look forward to seeing many of you soon.

Woven Together,
ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER



Student Sunday

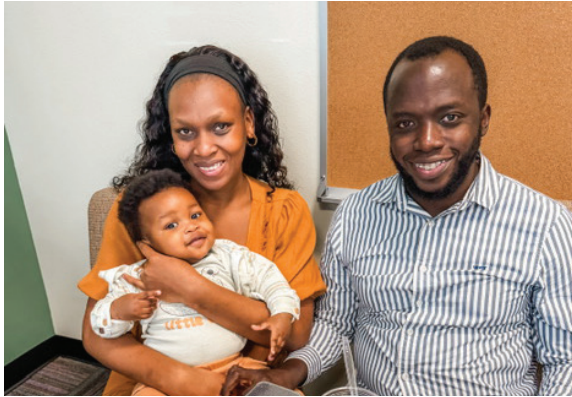
Sunday, May 3, 2026



WEEK IN REVIEW

Parent-Child Dedication Brunch

Sunday, May 3, 2026



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

How do we avoid acting infantile? I haven't heard that word used too much, at least not since my mother used it often when I was a teenager (not that I don't still act infantile sometimes now as an adult). She definitely used it the time I threw a tantrum because my sister was on the riding mower, and I had to do our least favorite task of running the weed eater when it was my turn to mow. I had grabbed a chunk of ice out of my cup and hurled it 30 yards down the yard. My sister just so happened to drive right into its path, and the ice hit her in the side of the head. (Just so you know, while I still regret this, she was not significantly hurt, but her artful dramatic performance in front of my parents got her out of doing any yard work for several weeks).

Infantile means what it sounds like: behavior befitting an infant; babyish, or childish. A few years ago I watched a documentary about Taylor Swift in which she said the generally accepted truth that "stars get stuck at whatever age they became famous." She stated the axiom when talking about turning 30 and having to reinvent her public persona several times since she became famous as a teenager. I also understand that we can get stuck emotionally at whatever age we experience significant trauma in our life. This trauma can be caused by a life-changing physical or emotional hurt, like a major accident, or being bullied, a parents' divorce or the loss of a close family member. This can also be the kind of trauma where something we desperately need for normal development is missing. As children, certain parts of our brain develop at certain ages. If a parent or caregiver is missing physically or emotionally during that time, we can get stuck at that age in our development. We may miss getting the discipline or established boundaries we need because a parent is too exhausted or preoccupied to do it. Unless we are able to work through and let God re-parent us, we will react to our world from the perspective of a child at whatever age we get stuck for the rest of our lives.

Trauma may have happened to Jacob when he realized that his twin Esau was his Dad's favorite, or when his mother failed to teach him not to trick his brother out of birthrights and blessings. Eventually, after acting like a knucklehead all his life, he encountered God, and God wrestled with him, changed his life, humbled him, and threw his hip out of joint so he walked with a limp. It matured him, and he began looking out for the welfare of others instead of just himself. He quit acting so infantile. God even changed his name to Israel. He was not perfect; Jacob still played favorites with his own sons, but he and his sons eventually began treating each other well. God's plan is for us to grow up, not stay infantile. Unfortunately, it seems that many of us so-called adults are stuck in an infantile state. Whether it's name calling, taking advantage of someone because we can, whining when we don't get our way, or holding a grudge, we all need re-parenting.

When we encounter God, our lives change. We begin maturing, and we are no longer infants looking out only for ourselves. Peter tells us: *"So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness 1 Peter 2:1-3 (NLT2)."* It's easy to act infantile when we are hurting and life is difficult, but it is also a perfect time to grow. Let's talk to God, let Him re-parent us with the truth of His Word, the power of His Spirit and by learning from those around us who are more spiritually mature than we are.

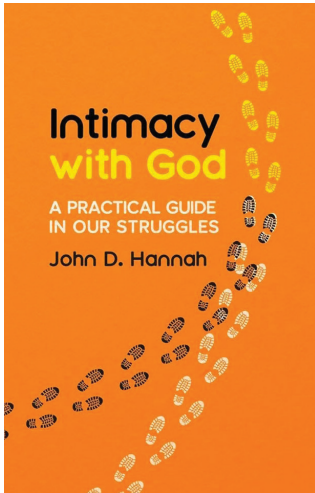
Hang in there people! God is glad to be with us! I'm praying for you all!

In His Joy,
BILL MCGINNIS
PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



Intimacy With God: A Practical Guide in Our Struggles by John D. Hannah

John D. Hannah is the Distinguished Professor of Historical Theology and Research Professor of Theological Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, where he has served for over 50 years. From the DTS website, “His teaching interests include the general history of the Christian church, with particular interest in the works of Jonathan Edwards and John Owen.” He is the author of several books and is a popular church and conference speaker.

In the introduction of *Intimacy With God*, Hannah asks several questions that are the inspiration for writing this book. Three of those questions are, “How do you walk with God? Is there a secret or secrets? How are we to explain the inconsistencies in our walk after having become convinced of the great love of God for us revealed in and through Jesus Christ?” The book is written in four sections: Section 1 - *Preliminaries*, Section 2 – *The Actions and Provisions of God to Promote Spiritual Growth*, Section 3 – *Positive Ingredients That Promote Personal Spiritual Growth*, and Section 4 – *Negative Actions That Enhance Positive Spiritual Growth*. At the end of each of the chapters are discussion questions. In the conclusion, Hannah states, “How can anyone not grow in their faith-walk when they avail themselves of the means of grace: God’s Word, God’s people, God’s church and its many offices?” He closes the book with the words of a poem by John H. Sammis, which later became a hymn entitled *Trust and Obey*. Hannah believes that these two words capture the essence of the ideas that he tries to express in *Intimacy With God*.

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 05.03.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP	587
11:15 AM WORSHIP	371
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	704

FINANCIAL REPORT 05.03.2026

ACCOUNT	MAY 03, 2026	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$107,652.15	\$1,809,509.31
DESIGNATED	\$18,500.00	\$86,773.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$11,023.20	\$354,577.06
TOTAL GIVING	\$137,175.35	\$2,250,859.37

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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