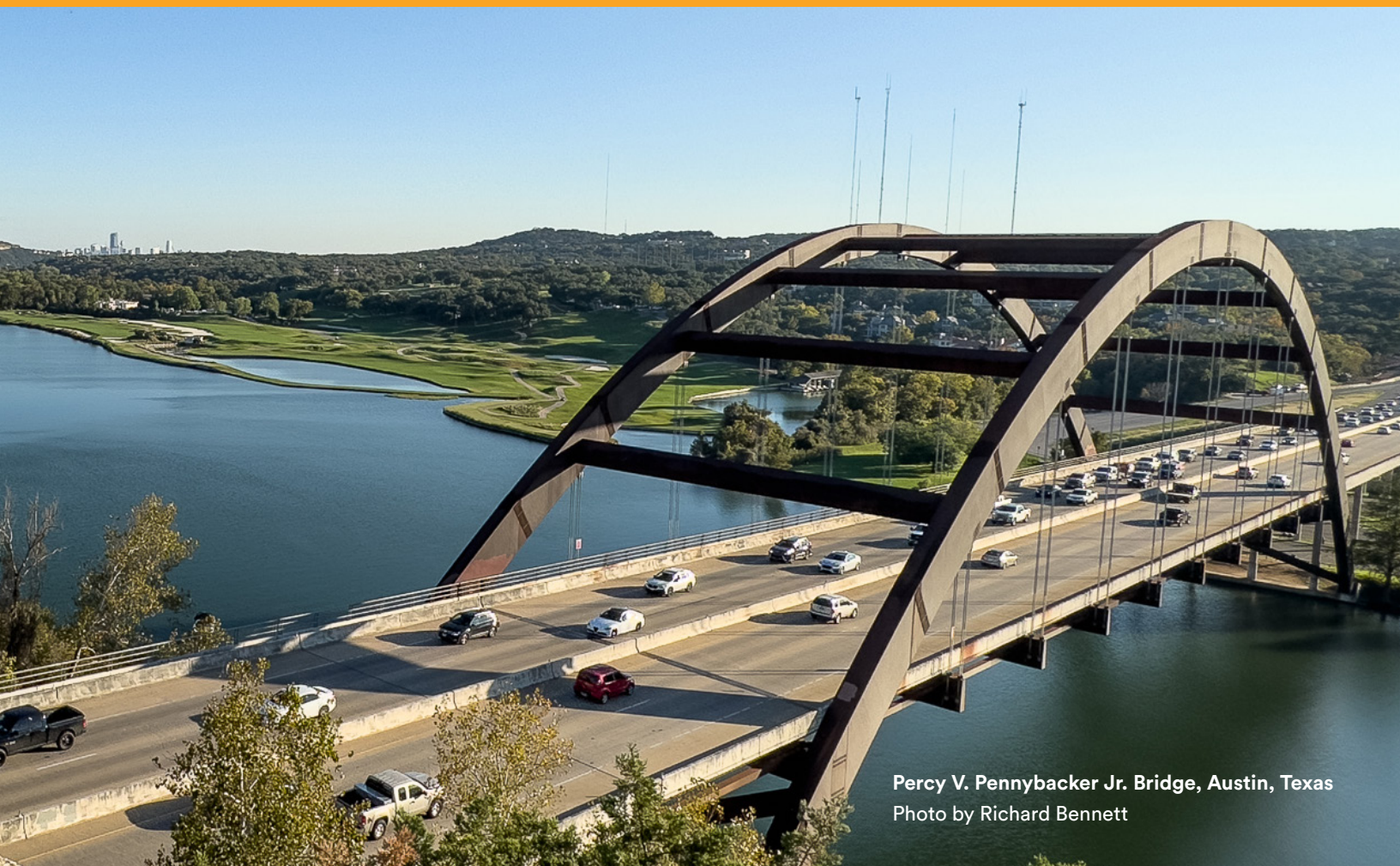


# The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 23

JUNE 17, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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# A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

VBS is here! Our ABC Kids Team is hard at work to prepare for hundreds of children next week at Vacation Bible School. When you show up this Sunday you will see our church has been transformed into an “Illumination Station” where our children will learn that Jesus is the Light of the World (John 8:12).

I am so thankful for Rachel Tovar, our staff, and the dozens of volunteers who are working hard this week. It is a joy to see adult classrooms, youth spaces, and common areas being transformed to help children learn about Jesus. Moments like this make me thankful for how God continues to bring young families to ABC. May we never forget that the sound of noisy children is a great blessing for the church, and the silence that comes from no children is a great tragedy. I pray ABC will always be a church that pours into the next generation for Jesus Christ.

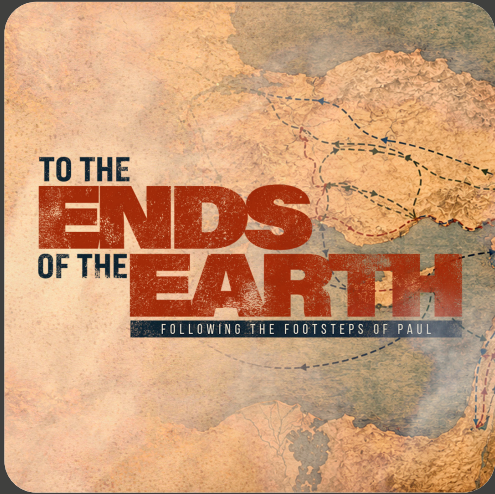
Join me in prayer for our ABC Students who are in Colorado. We are praying expectantly for God to do a great work and look forward to hearing the report. Pray also for our baptism celebration on June 28th. I am praying many may take that step of faith to raise their flags for Christ on that special day. If you or a loved one is considering believer’s baptism, please reach out to our team.

I look forward to continuing our sermon series this week as we turn our attention to Paul’s first missionary journey. I’ll see you at 8:45am or 11:15am.

Onward and Upward,

**DR. JONATHAN SPENCER**  
SENIOR PASTOR





## CURRENT 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 JUNE 15, 2026



**Ron Willard**

512-663-1957



**David Sewell**

512-633-2737

# CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026



**Bart Templeton**



**Samson Frondorf**

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Faith Ann Wilson**

**Born:** June 13, 2026

**Proud Parents:** Matt & Naomi Wilson

**Siblings:** Luke



**LIGHT UP  
YOUR *Home***

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

JUNE 17, 2026

Hey Church Family,

I wanted to bring to your attention to two more great staff members celebrating work anniversaries this month.

On June 16th, **Garrett Ullrich** celebrated his third year on staff with us as our Associate Worship Leader. Garrett brings a great heart of kindness and compassion to our team. His commitment to leading worship well in both worship services is greatly inspiring. Additionally, he is a ray of sunshine everywhere he serves, and we are so glad for how he provides the joy for our team. We're grateful for his partnership in the gospel.



On June 17th, **Christina Reese** celebrates her second year on staff as our Pastoral Administrative Assistant. Christina handles all things calendar and keeps the working of our pastoral offices running smoothly. She provides a calm attitude that looks for answers, and it's been a joy to see how the Lord is using her administrative capacities to reach others for Christ. We're so glad for her place on our team.

As you see these wonderful staff members in the next couple of weeks, be sure to join me in expressing your appreciation for their heart for the Lord through ABC.

In Christ's Love,

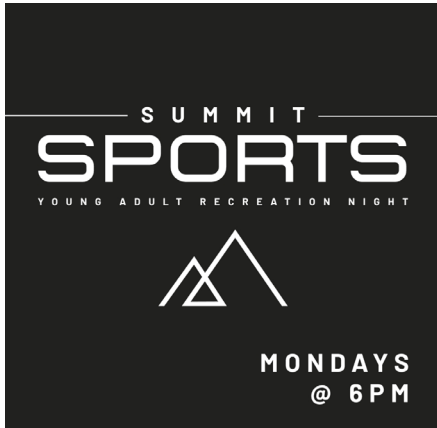
**DR. MATT GILLUM**  
EXECUTIVE PASTOR

# UPCOMING EVENTS




For all event and weekly activity information, please visit  
[austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS)

# WEEKLY REMINDERS



SUMMIT  
**SPORTS**  
YOUNG ADULT RECREATION NIGHT



MONDAYS  
@ 6PM



Join us for  
**42SDAY**

June 23rd at 6:30pm in the Cafe



**SWEET SUNDAY**  
PICKLEBALL EDITION

JUNE 28 | 4PM - 6PM  
@ PICKLEBALL COURTS



AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH

**BACK TO THE BEGINNING**

CREATIVE ARTS CAMP - JULY 20 - 24, 2026  
PERFORMANCE AT 6:30PM ON FRIDAY, JULY 24



ABC WOMEN'S  
**SWEET SUNDAY**  
SUMMER EDITION:  
RIVERBOAT CRUISE



JULY  
**26**  
4:00PM



**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



**LAST SUNDAY TO DONATE - 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](http://agapeprc.org)



(512) 248-8200



## **PATRIOTIC SUNDAY**

**JUNE 28, 2026 @ 8:45AM SERVICE**

Honoring our veterans and  
active duty military

In honor of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the ABC Choir and Orchestra will be performing special music for our annual Patriotic worship service at **8:45am on June 28th.**

**All veterans and active duty military are invited to wear their uniforms,** and will be honored for their service during the performance. Invite friends and join us for this special Sunday service.

MARBLE FALLS, TX

AUGUST 12



Prince Of Peace  
AKIANE KRAMARIK | ACE F  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# Beloved Gallery

SENIOR ADULTS TRIP

[REGISTER HERE](#)

PHOTO CREDIT  
BELOVED GALLERY

## DAY TRIP TO

# Beloved Gallery

EXPERIENCE THE ARTWORK THAT CHANGED MILLIONS

Join us for a special day trip to the Beloved Gallery in Marble Falls featuring the extraordinary works of Akiane Kramarik. View many of her childhood masterpieces, including the world-famous *Prince of Peace*, the painting inspired by her personal experience with Jesus. The painting disappeared for nearly 20 years before being recovered and can now be viewed free of charge.

### ITINERARY

- 9:30 AM – Depart from ABC
- 11:00 AM – Private Guided Tour of Beloved Gallery
- 12:15 PM – Lunch & Pie at the famous Bluebonnet Café
- 2:00 PM – Depart Marble Falls
- 3:00 PM – Return to ABC

Contact: Bill McGinnis

[billm@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:billm@austinbaptistchurch.com)

TEXT

# PEAKWEEKPRAYER

TO

# 512-491-9600

TO RECEIVE PRAYER UPDATES





# ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

## Hello ladies!

We may be just beginning summer, but the Women's Ministry Team spent last Sunday praying, planning, and dreaming about what God has in store for the upcoming year for our ABC Women and friends. One of my favorite things is watching how God weaves His vision together, strengthening us as we lead women into a life-changing relationship with the Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

I cannot wait for each of you to be part of the story God is writing for the year ahead. As we planned for the future, we also paused to celebrate where we have seen God at work this past year. Our theme, Woven, became more than just a word—it became a reality as women were knit together through faith, friendship, discipleship, and service.

Among the greatest reasons to celebrate are the 12 women who have been baptized since August and the 43 women who joined Austin Baptist Church, whether individually or with their families. These stories of life change remind us why we do what we do.

We also reflected on the ways God used our Kick-Off, Twilight Tea, and Women's Retreat to connect with more than 800 women, including over 150 guests. Our Sweet Sundays continued to flourish in their new home in the Great Hall, welcoming new women each time—both members and guests—as they found fellowship, encouragement, and community.

This year, God also opened the door for two new ministries that have already made a significant impact. Our C.O.R.D. Ministry (Connecting Others Relationally through Discipleship), launched under the leadership of Kim Anawaty, provides intentional relationships through an encourager and encouragee model. Through this ministry, God has brought together 22 women to encourage one another and grow deeper in their faith.

Another new ministry, Embrace Grace, began under the leadership of Kelsey Dramberger. This ministry walks alongside women facing unexpected pregnancies, offering support, hope, and the love of Christ. Through Embrace Grace, eight moms chose life for their babies and were discipled through the 12-week program. As these women desired continued community and spiritual growth, Embrace Life was launched under the leadership of Julie Christianson. From there, God raised up Dawn Crouch to begin an intercessory prayer team devoted to praying faithfully for these moms and their families. More than 30 women have volunteered, along with many other ABC members, demonstrating that being pro-life is a belief, but being pro-love is an action.

One of the most vital ministries we offer continues to be our Bible studies, where we have seen both growth and meaningful connection. We believe every woman deserves a place at the table around God's Word.



# ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Through studies offered on different days, in various formats, and covering a wide range of topics, women of every season and stage of life can find a community where they are known, encouraged, and rooted in Scripture.

As we look ahead to a new ministry year, we do so with grateful hearts for all God has done and with great anticipation for what He will continue to do. The story is still being written, and we are honored to be woven together as part of His greater purpose.

~Anita McGinnis

P.S. Don't forget about our two upcoming Sweet Sunday Summer Editions!

**June 28 – Pickleball Edition:** Whether you're a seasoned player, want to learn the game, or simply prefer to cheer from the sidelines and enjoy the fellowship, there's a place for you!

**July 26 – Riverboat Cruise:** Join us for an afternoon on Lake Austin as we enjoy beautiful scenery, a fajita dinner, and time together. Be sure to sign up soon to reserve your spot, as space is limited!

We would love for you to be part of these sweet summer gatherings!



J U N E 2 8 | 4 P M - 6 P M



SWEET SUNDAY

SUMMER EDITION:  
RIVERBOAT CRUISE

JULY

26

4:00 PM

# Women's Ministry Team Planning

June 7, 2026



WEEK IN REVIEW

**Dr. Derek Berry & Family**  
**Church Planting Partners | Pasadena, CA**  
June 14, 2026



# From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

Here's your sign! When I was in elementary school a friend and I were asked to be "sign boys" at the University of Tennessee basketball games. This was the era of Ernie Grunfeld and Bernard King or the "Ernie and Bernie Show." Coach Ray Mears was doing everything he could to inject more excitement into Stokely Athletic Center. He even had a unicycle riding entertainer and had someone wrestle a bear. Now, back to the sign boy thing. My friend and I were like an early Jumbotron, except with poster board, magic markers, and yardsticks. Yes, I know, not exactly the same thing, but at the time it was pretty exciting. Whenever the Vols took a shot, we would hold up a sign that read "ZIP," and when the ball went in the hoop, we would hold up "BOTTOM. If it was a really great shot we would run down the aisles, crisscross in front of the seats courtside and run back up to our perch about halfway up the arena steps. We were outfitted in orange blazers, black pants, and dress shoes. (What is it ZZ Top says about a sharp dressed man?) For some reason we both wanted the sign that says "ZIP," maybe because you got to hold it up every shot whether the ball went in or not, and maybe because at that age to be the "BOTTOM" was not great. So, we traded signs every week. We did this for two or three seasons, and it was a memorable experience.

We all carry a "sign" with us, not the astrological sign the Bible tells us not to consult, but a sign that the people around us see. If people around us came up with a word or two to describe us what would it be? God made us much more complex than that, but what would be our primary identity? Would it be "KIND," "GENUINE," "HELPFUL," "LEADER," "ENCOURAGER," "SMART," "WISE," or would it be something like "ANGRY," "MEAN," "DEVIIOUS," "SELFISH"? The good news is, regardless of the sign we carry, God puts a sign over us. In the wonderful book of Song of Solomon, Solomon's bride says, "He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was LOVE" Song of Songs 2:4 (ESV). Those who belong to Jesus are called His Bride, and His sign over us is "LOVE." God's kind of love has at least seven attributes that are true about it. They are as follows:

1. God gives LOVE freely to His people, it is not earned.
2. God's People reciprocate LOVE back to Him.
3. There is also the expectation that God's people will pour this LOVE out on each other and even our enemies.
4. God's LOVE does not end, it is forever.
5. God's LOVE is unconditional, it is the "I love you no matter what" kind of love.
6. God's kind of LOVE is a way of living, it permeates life and involves mercy, grace, kindness, favor... in love.
7. God's LOVE is a giving kind of love - it involves action.

So, here's your sign: LOVE! Show it to everyone. Run up and down the aisles with it. Criss-cross in front of the crowds with it. Take it with you. Show it to your family and friends. Show it to strangers. Show it to your enemies. LOVE is our banner.

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

In His Joy,

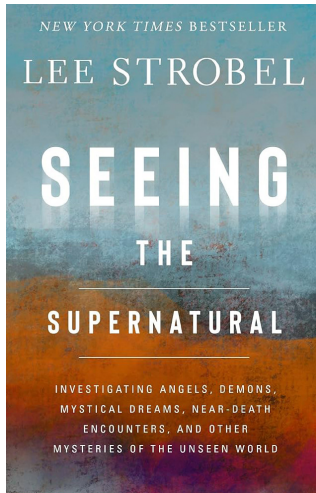
**BILL MCGINNIS**

**PASTOR OF CARE**





# ABC Library



## ***Seeing the Supernatural: Investigating Angels, Demons, Mystical Dreams, Near-Death Encounters, and Other Mysteries of the Unseen World* by Lee Strobel**

Lee Strobel was an investigative reporter for the Chicago Tribune. He was an atheist at the time. When his wife became a Christian, Strobel started to investigate the biblical claims about Jesus Christ and became a Christian at age 29. He has served as a pastor at Willow Creek Community Church in Illinois, and at Saddleback Church in California. He also hosted a Christian apologetics program, Faith Under Fire. In 2014, Strobel became a professor of Christian Thought at Houston Baptist University (now Houston Christian University) and in 2020, he became the Founding Director of the Lee Strobel Center for Evangelism and Applied Apologetics at Colorado Christian University. He now serves as a teaching pastor at Woodlands Church in The Woodlands, Texas. Lee has written over 40 books, including *The Case for* \_\_\_ Series, which began with the best-selling book *The Case For Christ*. He is recognized for his contributions to, and his passion, for Christian apologetics.

We have all heard stories of the supernatural. In ***Seeing the Supernatural***, Strobel presents Biblical answers to many questions we have about the supernatural world. The book is divided into two parts: Part 1 examines The Supernatural Among Us and Part 2 examines The Supernatural That Awaits Us. The first chapter covers the existence of our soul, or the “Invisible You” as Strobel calls it. An interview with a scientist or a philosopher about apologetics and faith is included in each chapter. The topics in Part 1 include: miracles today, spiritual encounters that are life-changing, mystical dreams, visions, the truth about angels, and the reality of Satan and demons. In Part 2, the topics that are presented include: deathbed glimpses of the afterlife, near-death experiences, knowledge we have of heaven, damnation, life after death/evidence for the resurrection, ghost stories, physics, and the paranormal. In the conclusion, Strobel shows that each of these topics point to the reality of the supernatural realm. He says that the evidence for the supernatural starts with us. We are not just physical bodies; we have both a physical body and an unseen soul which is essentially the core of our being. This book was written for both believers and for skeptics. The book will help the reader to understand more about God’s character, how to discern between the real and the counterfeit, and the unseen realm that exists beyond our natural world.

**CONTACT: Rita Ervin**

Email [library@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:library@austinbaptistchurch.com)

or visit us online at [austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY)

**LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS**

**SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM**

# OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

## ATTENDANCE

06.14.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP .....	515
11:15 AM WORSHIP .....	509
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP .....	774

## FINANCIAL REPORT

06.14.2026

ACCOUNT	JUN. 14, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND (GENERAL)	\$69,296.24	\$2,320,162.52
DESIGNATED	\$500.00	\$99,814.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$161,989.00	\$659,983.37
TOTAL GIVING	\$231,785.24	\$3,079,959.89

## 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](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/TEAM)**

### **ABC PRAYER TEAM**

Email Bill McGinnis at **[billm@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:billm@austinbaptistchurch.com)**

### **FOR PUBLICATION CONSIDERATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Mariah Parker, Director of Communications

- **EMAIL:** [mariahp@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto: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**