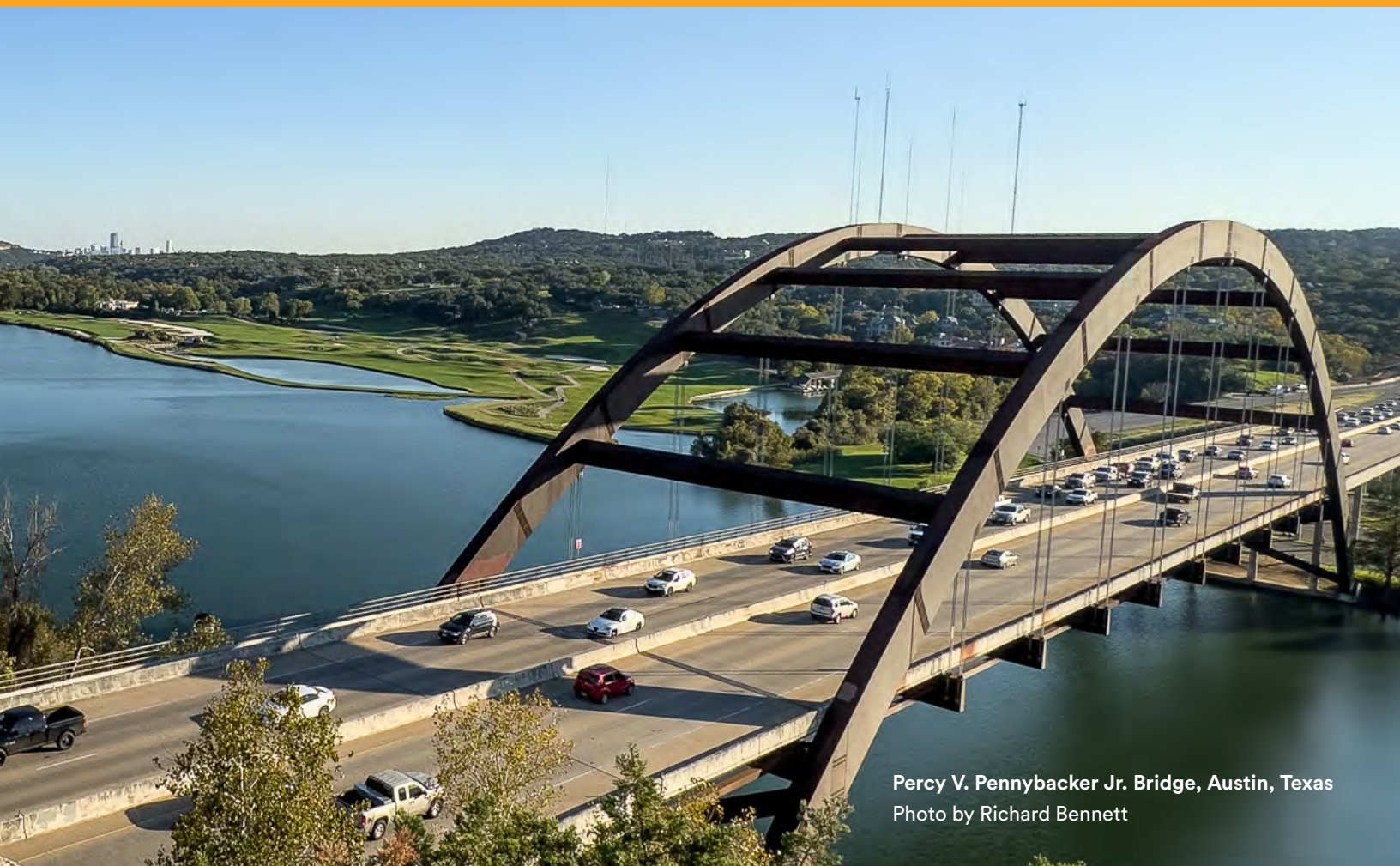


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 25

JULY 1, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

TABLE of CONTENTS

A Word from Our Pastor	3
Deacon on Call	4
New Members	5-6
Upcoming Events	7
Weekly Reminders	8
ABC Women's Ministry	9
Week in Review	10-13
- VBS: Day 3 & 4	
- VBS: Family Night	
- Patriotic & Baptism Sunday	
- Sweet Sunday: Pickleball Edition	
From the Pages of Bill's Notebook	14
ABC Library	15
Our Response to God's Faithfulness	16
- Attendance	
- Financial Report	



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

It's a special week in our nation. I hope you are gearing up for America's 250th birthday this Saturday! The celebration will begin early at ABC on Friday, July 3rd, for our annual Freedom Over Austin event. We will offer an all-American carnival, food trucks, live music, and a professional fireworks show. The party will begin at 7pm, and fireworks will go off a little after 9pm. Wear red, white, and blue, and I hope you are making plans to invite a friend.

We host summer events like this for a purpose. All our summer programming helps us advance our mission which is "to lead people into a life-changing relationship with the Light of the World, Jesus Christ." I remember last summer when I met a family who came to VBS. It was their first time inside our church doors, and their kids had a wonderful experience. They then came to Freedom Over Austin and loved our community. This made them start attending our church, where they were later baptized and are now active members. This is why we do what we do.

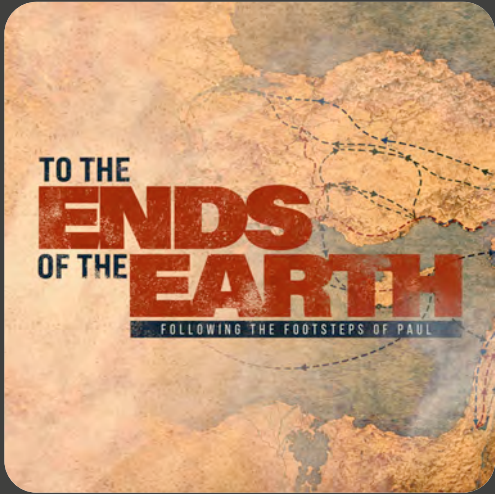
Events like Freedom Over Austin are simple bridges to our community. Hundreds of people will walk to our campus from the apartments. Hundreds of visitors will come with our members. Outward facing events and ministries are so important for the local church to engage our neighbors. Our young adults started offering a sports ministry on Monday nights this summer. Their attendance has doubled by simply offering pickleball and basketball on site. Last week, one young adult prayed to receive Christ at that sports outreach event.

Thank you for partnering with us in the Gospel. Events like this are only possible through your generosity and commitment to The Great Commission Fund, which is the general fund of our church. We are indeed advancing the Great Commission forward together, and I pray many more lives will be transformed this summer as ABC lets our light shine before others.

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!



DEACON ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 29, 2026



Frank Griffith

512-296-8288

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026



Hannah Bergmann



Willow Brown



Karson Gailey



Jan Hoffman



Noya Iheanachor



Nkemdilim Iheanachor



Cesar Jimenez



Kelsey Jimenez



Preston Larkham

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026



Dalton Kesselring



Emily Lutz



Disovel Moreira



AJ Price



Carmen Ramos



Camilla Reichelt



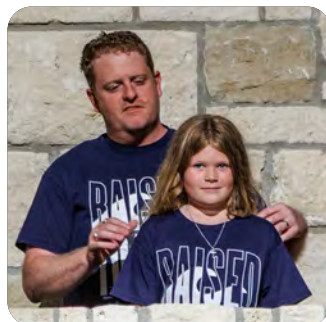
Asher Stevens



Benton Stevens



Maureen Vipperman



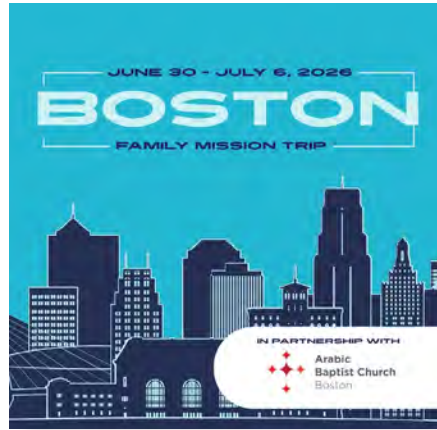
Gwen Werner

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

WEEKLY REMINDERS



STAY IN THE LOOP THIS SUMMER!

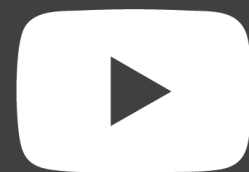
Follow us on social media and keep up with everything happening at ABC.



Austin Baptist Church



@austinbaptistchurch



Austin Baptist Church



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Hello Ladies!

What a fantastic Sweet Sunday Summer Edition! Who knew ABC had so many pickleball enthusiasts? It was such a joy to see women of every age playing, learning, cheering one another on, and even teaching the game. Not even the Texas heat could keep our ladies off the courts! I'm still not sure who had more fun, the players or the spectators!

For those who preferred air conditioning over athletics, we had a fun craft inside where everyone created adorable custom visors, perfect for pickleball or just for enjoying the summer. Before all the laughter and friendly competition began, we had the privilege of hearing from our own Kay Moore. Kay shared with incredible honesty and grace about her journey with anxiety. She reminded us that while anxiety can be a trap, God has faithfully been setting her free through His Word, prayer, and wise Christian counseling.

One truth especially stood out: when anxiety begins to overwhelm us, our first response should be to go to Jesus.

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." — **Matthew 11:28–30***

Jesus doesn't simply tell us to carry our burdens better, He invites us to bring them to Him. As we walk closely with Him and take on His yoke, He strengthens us, lightens the load we were never meant to carry alone, and gives our souls the rest and peace we long for.

One more exciting surprise from the evening was the overwhelming enthusiasm for starting an ABC Women's Pickleball League! If you'd be interested in participating, I'd love to hear from you. Just email me at anitam@austinbaptistchurch.com. Please also join me in praying about how God might use this as a way to build friendships, encourage one another, and reach women in our church and community.

If you missed this Sweet Sunday, don't worry—we have one more Summer Edition coming up on July 26th! Join us for our Riverboat Cruise on Lake Austin. We still have seats available, and it's always one of our favorite events of the summer. We'd love to have you aboard! Click the registration link below for more information and to reserve your spot. I hope to see you there!

Woven Together,

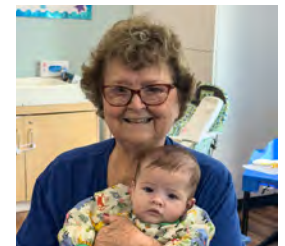
ANITA MCGINNIS

WOMEN'S MINISTER

VBS: Day 3 & 4

June 24-25, 2026

WEEK IN REVIEW



VBS: Family Night

June 25, 2026



WEEK IN REVIEW

Patriotic and Baptism Sunday

June 28, 2026

WEEK IN REVIEW



Sweet Sunday: Pickleball Edition

June 28, 2026



WEEK IN REVIEW

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

Sometimes we just gotta run away. In college, I took a semester off and worked at the Louisiana World's fair in New Orleans. My first day of work was Ash Wednesday. I arrived at the office a few minutes early, but even after start time, no one was there. I was confused, so in my naiveté I asked, "Where is everyone?" They said, "It's Ash Wednesday." I thought, "Oh maybe they were very religious and just wanted to kick the beginning of the Lenten season off right, having some extra morning devotion." I quickly learned, however, that everyone had apparently overindulged in the "fatness" and festivities of Mardi Gras. I noticed the longer I stayed in that city, the more I not only began to accept this destructive overindulgence, but I indiscriminately embraced the behaviors that devalued others and myself and harmed my relationship with God. It was a city with great fun, food, music, culture, but foolishness came too easy for me there. At first, I lived a short drive from the city. Then I moved into New Orleans. Then some of the not-so-good values of the Crescent City rubbed off on me, and I became a lot less like the person God intended me to be. God helped me realize I needed to get out of that town and get parts of that town out of me. (No offense to New Orleanians. I loved the food, fun, music, and culture of this great historic city, but in my weakness, I was too easily drawn into becoming someone God didn't intend for me to become. Southern Baptists have a seminary there, but at the time I was not drawn in that direction. As a matter of fact, I was running from God's call on my life.)

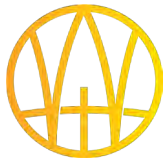
They say you become like those around you. In the Bible, we learn about Lot, the nephew of Abraham. Abraham, though far from perfect, kept seeking God and was blessed. Lot, on the other hand, kept drifting further from God. At first, he and his family lived on the plain outside of the wicked city of Sodom. Next, Lot is living inside the city accepting the city's behaviors as normal. Then just before God is about to destroy the city, we find Lot sitting at the city gate as one of the leaders. He had become just like the worst of those in the city, even offering his own daughters to wicked men. By His mercy, God sent angels to rescue Lot and his family from the coming judgment He would bring on Sodom and sister city Gomorrah. Lot was about to change his mind about running away with the angels from the evil city to safety, but God's messengers insisted. Genesis 19:16 says, "When he (Lot) hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them." God's plan is always to rescue us from evil. We gotta accept being rescued and run away from it. We also read that the angels had warned Lot's family not to look back, but Lot's wife couldn't resist and she infamously became a pillar of salt, an icon of the consequences of continued and deepening disobedience.

Which way are you running? When we run toward God and away from evil, we begin to act more like God's children, but when we keep moving toward evil, we become someone God never intended us to be.

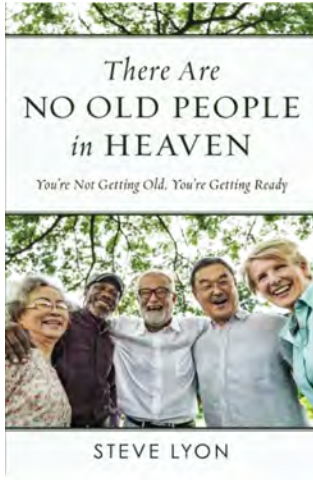
Hang in there people. God is glad to be with us. I'm praying for us all.

In His Joy,
BILL MCGINNIS
PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



There Are No Old People in Heaven: You're Not Getting Old, You're Getting Ready by Steve Lyon

Growing old isn't easy, is it? We try our best, but we're not who we used to be and we know it. Every part of life is sagging like a wet blanket on Grandma's clothesline. Our memory has the hiccups, and people are starting to notice. Sometimes, it's hard to follow a movie's plot line, or remember our grandkids' names. And physically ... well, let's just say tight abs have given way to swinging triceps, and age twenty is so far behind us we can't tell if it's still there or just a speck of wishful dust on life's rear view mirror. Ditto for a number of other decade-marking birthdays.

Our schedule, once full of things which gave us meaning and purpose, is now cluttered with doctor's visits and lab appointments. Skills honed through decades of employment atrophy by the month and we grieve their loss. People don't need us, we're forgotten at work, and death is continuing to take people we love. We knew we'd age. We just can't believe it's actually happening. And it's a bummer.

That's why this book is so compelling and hope-filled. In it, author Steve Lyon (Th.M., Dallas Seminary; former pastor and Christian publishing executive) uses his unique blend of humor and biblical insight to help you discover the age-old truth that a broken mind and body wasn't the end of Jesus Christ's story, and He is absolutely committed to making sure it's not the end of yours.

You'll learn to shake off Satan's lie that growing old is the ultimate legacy of having lived — and learn, instead, it means He's busy sculpting your aging fragility into perfection. Then, at just the right moment, the Spirit will seamlessly uncouple you from sin and death and power you through the heavens toward home where you'll explode with every possible combination of physical, intellectual, psychological, and spiritual flawlessness. The perfect version of you. His to glory in and yours to enjoy. Forever!

So if you fear life's encroaching rigor mortis is calcifying your days into a tombstone and some faded photographs ... don't. Your Savior is better than that. He's Greater than that. He loves you far more than that. He has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Deut. 31:6) which means "Even to your old age, I shall be the same, and even to your graying years I shall bear you! I have done it, and I shall carry you; and I shall bear you, and I shall deliver you." (Is. 46:4)

Deliver you. Through death, to life, to a recalibrated youthfulness that you cannot imagine. That's Him. That will be you with Him. And that's when you'll discover there really are No Old People in Heaven.

CONTACT: Rita Ervin

Email library@austinbaptistchurch.com

or visit us online at austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY

LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS

SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE **06.28.2026**

8:45 AM WORSHIP	699
11:15 AM WORSHIP	373
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	784

FINANCIAL REPORT **06.28.2026**

ACCOUNT	JUN. 28, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND (GENERAL)	\$62,819.28	\$2,431,662.07
DESIGNATED		\$101,654.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED		\$675,906.05
TOTAL GIVING	\$71,567.88	\$3,209,222.12

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