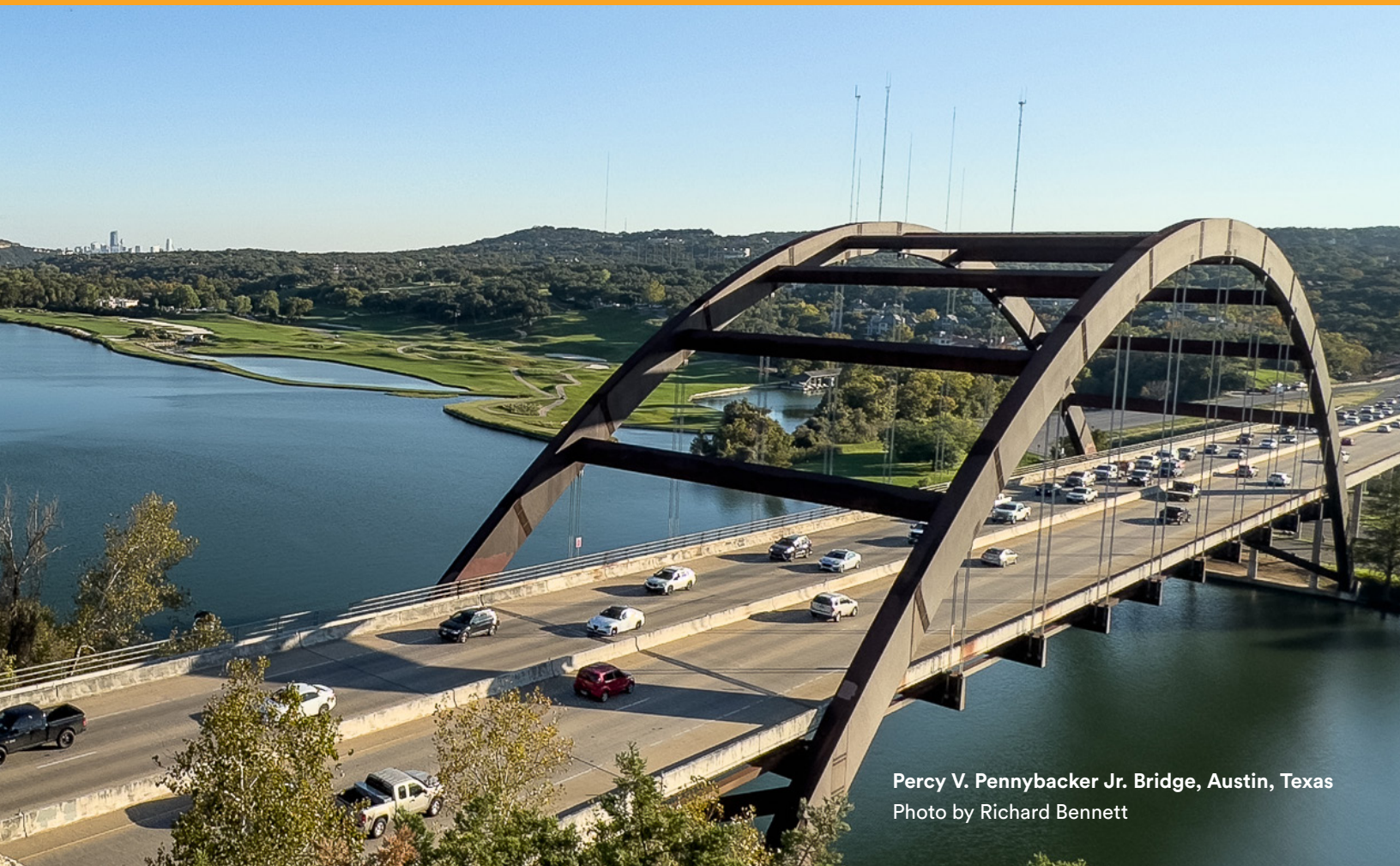


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 27

JULY 15, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Ephesians 1:7-8 says, *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us.”* God has lavished His grace upon us. We have experienced the riches of His grace through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. And we continue to experience His grace as Jesus leads and guides our church.

The summer has been a special time at ABC. We have seen salvations and baptisms. We have welcomed dozens of new members. We have sent kids to VBS, children’s camp, and youth camp. We have expanded our reach through sports ministry and community-wide events. We have sent a mission team to Boston, and we will send another team to Los Angeles next week.

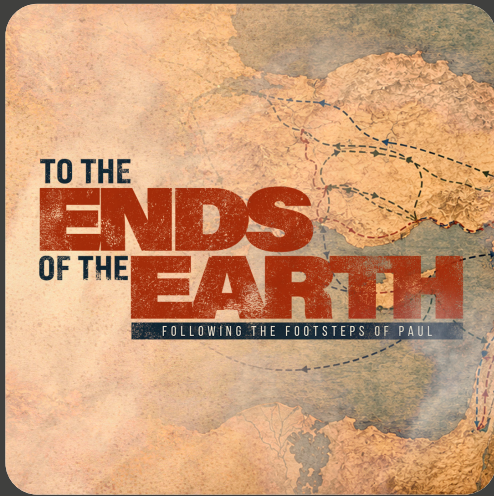
Take time to pause and reflect on God’s grace. Identify God’s hand at work in your life and in the life of our church. As you give thanks, anxiety will decrease and peace will increase in your life: *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:6-7).

God’s fingerprints are on our church and on your life. Give Him the glory for what He has done, and for what He continues to do at ABC. I look forward to seeing you Sunday 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 JULY 13, 2026



James Gandy

512-913-0241



Jorge Tovar

512-658-3713

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026



**Andrew & Natalie
Swirsky**

with Jane, Holly & David



Mitzie Coker



**LIGHT UP
YOUR *Life***

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

MATTHEW 28:19-20

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

JULY 15, 2026

Hey Church Family,

We have two staff anniversaries that I want to make you aware of:

On July 13th, **Dr. Jonathan Spencer** celebrated his 6th anniversary as the Senior Pastor at ABC. We were so glad to have Jonathan take the lead back in 2020, and we've certainly seen the blessings of God during that time. We so appreciate Jonathan's readiness to lead with vision, all while constantly pointing people back to the life-saving Word of God. The Lord has done wonderful things through his preaching and leadership over these years, and we look forward to what God has ahead for ABC!



On July 20th, **Margi Kuhn** will celebrate her 4th anniversary as an Administrative Assistant. Margi brings a smile and compassion to every interaction she has in the office. Alongside serving in the choir and co-leading the Believers' BFG, Margi consistently serves through a ministry of presence and with a strategic mind toward the growth of the Kingdom of God. We are grateful for her role on the team!

I hope that you'll join me in congratulating these wonderful staff members. The Lord has blessed our ministry with a wonderful team!

In Christ's Love,

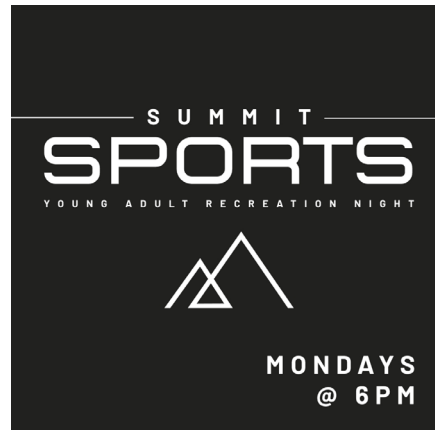
DR. MATT GILLUM
EXECUTIVE PASTOR

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



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Hello ladies!

Good news! There's still room for you on our Sweet Sunday Summer Edition Riverboat Cruise!

While the bus is now full, ***there are still plenty of seats available on the riverboat for dinner and the cruise.*** You can easily carpool from ABC with others or meet us at the dock. ***Parking is available in the LCRA parking lot and garage at 3700 Lake Austin Boulevard***, directly across the street from our departure location.

Don't miss this little summer getaway on beautiful Lake Austin! Enjoy a relaxing evening with great food, wonderful conversation, and breathtaking views—all without having to plan a thing. (And if you're riding with friends, someone else can even do the driving!)

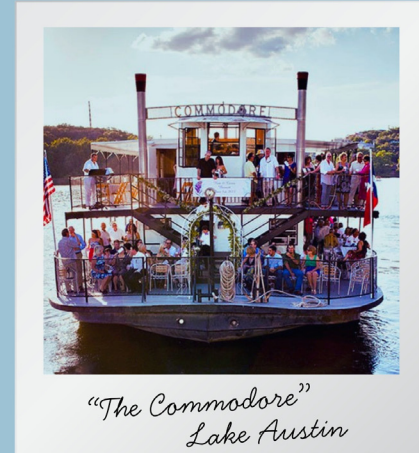
This is the perfect event to invite a friend. It's such an easy, fun way to introduce someone to the warmth and community of ABC Women. And let's be honest...it's also a great excuse to wear that cute sundress and summer hat!

Here's the schedule for the evening:

- **3:00 PM** – Meet at ABC to carpool or head to the dock.
- **3:45 PM** – If meeting at the dock, please arrive by this time.
- **4:00 PM** – Board *The Commodore*.
- **4:00–6:00 PM** – Cruise beautiful Lake Austin while enjoying a delicious fajita dinner and taking in views from Mt. Bonnell to the Pennybacker Bridge.
- **6:15 PM** – Depart for the trip back to ABC.
- **7:00 PM** – Arrive back at ABC.

Whether you carpool with friends or meet us at the dock, we'd love for you to join us for this memorable summer evening. Register [HERE](#) today and come make some sweet summer memories with us—we can't wait to see you on the water!

Woven Together,
ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER



Boston Family Mission Trip

June 30 - July 6, 2026



Last week, ABC had the privilege to serve once again alongside several other local Austin churches at Arabic Baptist Church in Boston, Massachusetts, hosting VBS for children in the 8th grade and under while the church hosted its yearly Bible conference.

We are so encouraged by the work God is doing in the northeast and grateful to be able to send a team to serve!

ABC Mission Team Members:

- Chris Barton
- Delia Botbol
- Robert, Allison, Joseph, Tenley, and Caleb D'Alfonso
- John, Donna, and Matthew DeLaCruz
- Adrian, Kate, and Claire Gillum
- Cody and MaryBeth Montey
- Lydia and Vera Reichelt
- Brandon, Emily, and Brady Timberlake
- Adrian Tovar
- Rachel Tovar
- Addy Winters
- Lynn Wood

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

It was time for my first student camp as a middle schooler. The long drive to the infamous white sands of Panama City Beach seemed to take forever. Some of the students slept, some sang, some made up limericks, and some pranked. Some high school couples paired up and didn't "leave room for the Holy Spirit" as the saying goes (there was a lot of smoochie face going on when the adults weren't around). Thankfully the bus had facilities, because one creative prankster had carefully rewrapped Feen-A-Mint laxative gum and placed it in Doublemint wrappers, which he oh so generously gave out to anyone who would like a piece of gum. Fortunately, there were no known "accidents" in anyone's breeches on the way there. When we arrived, we were divided into boys' and girls' cabins, and the cabins were then divided into other rooms of six to eight people. In order to keep the smallish rooms livable, the leaders had made a competition for the cleanest room. At the end of the worship assembly and Bible study each night, the leaders would announce the winning room and they got free ice cream. Our room never won that competition for some reason, but we sure enjoyed our time together at camp. By the third night or so, it was obvious we would not be winning that award, so we thought we would have some fun with those who came to inspect the rooms while we were at the assembly. We filled a small trash can full of water and put it over the door and we all exited out the other door. We could hardly contain ourselves when one of the parent leaders came to the worship assembly soaked from head to toe. She was smiling, but just barely. The guys from our room had extra clean-up duty for the remainder of the camp. I'm thankful for the loving adults who made sure we stayed safe, had fun, and learned how to live like God's children. This group of students would learn and grow over the next five years, disciplined by caring adults. We took a life-changing mission trip to New England (where I heard God's call into vocational ministry). We had hours of worship and Bible study together, along with mission and ministry opportunities to learn how we are supposed to act when we belong to Jesus. We also grieved together over the failure of one of the pastors who led students in that ministry. Through this pain, we learned what happens when we forget Whose we are and how we are supposed to act.

It takes a community of believers to raise up the next generation who will belong to and act like Jesus as adults. The wisest man ever says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Students need lots of loving direction from Jesus' followers who are more mature than them, who help them understand what is okay and what is not okay. Otherwise, they grow up with a twisted reality of how to act, each of them doing whatever seems right in their own eyes, forgetting that their identity is in and with Christ. That youth group ended up producing four pastors, a couple of missionaries, two minister's spouses, several deacons, and Sunday School teachers. Pray for parents of students, student ministers, student leaders, and students that there will always be a generation of teens learning how to love God and love others like Jesus does.

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

In His Joy,

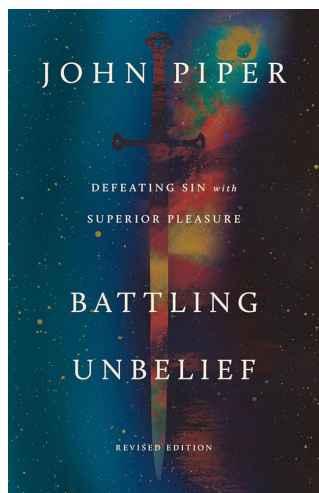
BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



Battling Unbelief: Defeating Sin with Superior Pleasure

by John Piper

John Piper served for thirty-three years as the pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is the founder and lead teacher of desiringGod.org and is chancellor of Bethlehem College and Seminary. He has written more than fifty books. One of his most famous and defining quotes is, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

Piper says that the eight chapters of this book come from another book he has written, ***Future Grace: The Purifying Power of the Promises of God***. "These are the application chapters, the ones that actually illustrate how faith in the future grace severs the root of sin and sets free the stream of love." These chapters focus, "...on the very practical challenge of how to free ourselves from anxiety, pride, misplaced shame, impatience, covetousness, bitterness, despondency, and lust." Piper shows how delighting in God's promises of what He plans to do for us in the future, instead of in the promises of the temporary pleasures of sin, will set you free from sin. God's promises are secured through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Piper says, "We sin because we believe the deceitful promises that sin makes. We counter the promises of sin with the superior promises of God." That is how we fight sin and unbelief and have victory through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

CONTACT: Rita Ervin

Email library@austinbaptistchurch.com

or visit us online at austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY

LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS

SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM: austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS: austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG

ABC PODCASTS: austinbaptistchurch.com/PODCASTS

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE07.12.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP		587
11:15 AM WORSHIP		333
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		691

FINANCIAL REPORT07.12.2026

ACCOUNT	JUL. 12, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND (GENERAL)	\$77,758.58	\$2,620,232.29
DESIGNATED		\$104,467.91
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED		\$655,684.13
TOTAL GIVING	\$90,016.49	\$3,380,384.33

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**

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- **CALL:** **512.334.8247**

Please submit articles and items for The Bridge by the Friday BEFORE publication.



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