

# The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 18 NO. 25

JULY 16, 2025



**AUSTIN BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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# A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

One of our core values at ABC is **truth**. The apostle Paul describes the church as “a pillar and buttress of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15). We are commanded *to lift up the truth*, the Word of God, for all to hear it. But Paul also instructs God’s people *to be clothed in the truth*. He says we must “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior” (Titus 2:10). It is one thing to speak the truth, but it is a much more challenging task to live out the truth for all to see.

Every day you preach a sermon. God has given each of us a captive audience through our children, grandchildren, co-workers, neighbors, friends, and even strangers. The question is, “What sermon are you going to proclaim?” Unquestionably, your audience is listening to your words, but don’t forget your decision making and conduct are preaching as well. I pray your audience hears a message of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control through your actions today (Galatians 5:22).

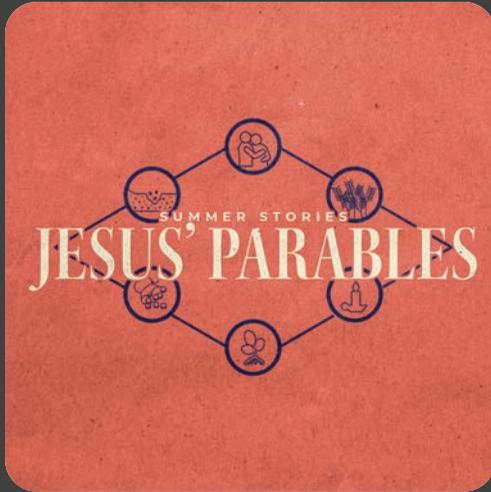
Let’s continue to be a church that “grows in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). Invite a friend this Sunday and come grow with us. I pray you preach a compelling sermon this week. I look forward to seeing you Sunday.

Onward and Upward,

**DR. JONATHAN SPENCER**

**SENIOR PASTOR**





## CURRENT SERMON SERIES

### Summer Stories: Jesus' Parables

A summer study through the Parables of Jesus

## DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 14, 2025



### Brandon Timberlake

512-565-7168



### Doug Sommerdorf

512-517-2376

DOUG SOMMERDORF graduated from Austin Community College and Hutchinson Vocational Tech in Nondestructive Testing. He works in new and existing residential and commercial construction inspection. He was in the Marine Corps, VMAQ-4, a Phantom Squadron, 1982-1985. He and Lucy have two sons, Michael and Paul, and one daughter, Megan. They joined ABC in 2021.

# CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025



**Connie Moore**



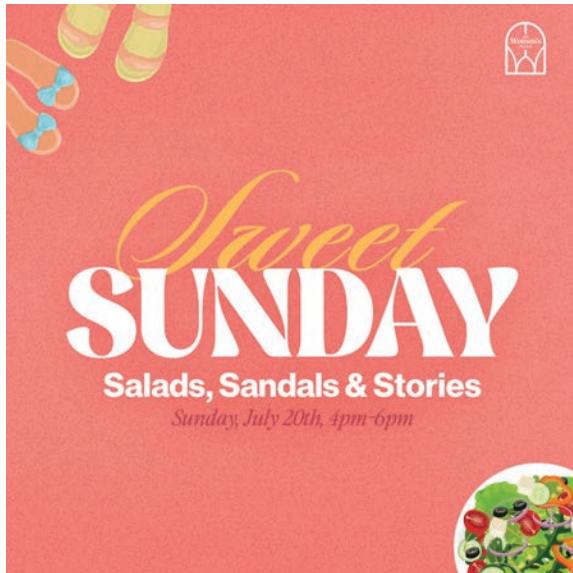
**Charles Crossley**



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.

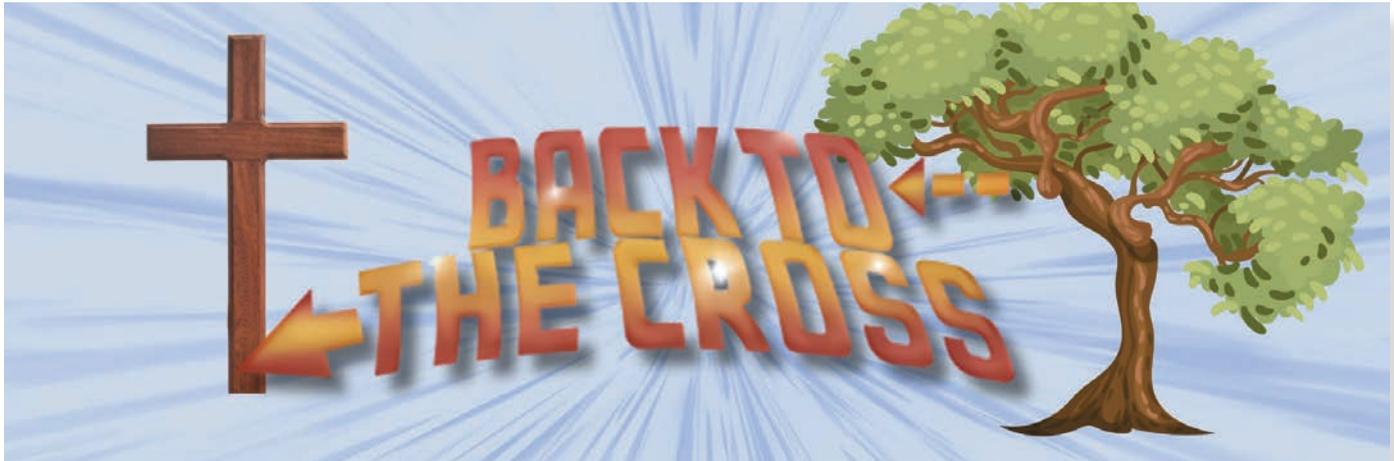
**MATTHEW 28:19-20**

# UPCOMING EVENTS



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

# WEEKLY REMINDERS



## CREATIVE ARTS CAMP IS IN FULL SWING!

Our 1st-5th grade campers are having a great week so far at Creative Arts Camp! They have been spending the week learning the musical “Back to the Cross” as well as participating in a variety of activities, including creative movement, arts and crafts, percussion, singing, drama, and woodworking!

The campers have been working very hard to learn this year’s musical, and the ABC Worship Ministry would like to invite everyone to come to the musical presentation this **Friday, July 18th, at 6:30pm** and see all the hard work the campers have put into this show! Admission is FREE and open to everyone, so invite your friends and family to join us for the performance!

## STAY IN THE LOOP THIS SUMMER!

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



Austin Baptist Church



@austinbaptistchurch



@austinbaptistchurch7837



# ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

It's that sweet time of year again — Sweet Sunday: Summer Edition is just around the corner! Slip on your favorite summer sandals and join us for an afternoon of salads, sweets, and stories on **Sunday, July 20th from 4:00-6:00 PM in the Skylight Room.**

Bring a friend and come enjoy:

- Fresh summer salads
- Delicious desserts
- Encouraging stories from one of our own
- A relaxed and meaningful time of connection



This is always such a special time to catch up, laugh, and be reminded of how God is at work in our lives.

While you've got your calendar out, don't miss our **Women's Ministry Picnic & Plug-in** on **Sunday, August 24th**. Doors will open at 3:45 PM and we'll wrap up by 6:00 PM. You'll get to enjoy a variety of fresh sweets, good friends, and a lemonade station while also hearing about all the ways you can get plugged in this fall! We're shaking things up this year, so get ready for something fresh, fun, and meaningful.

One last thing: If you have any scrap fabric (28" or longer) or ribbon (1" or wider), we'd love your donations! Just drop them in the bin marked Women's Ministry behind the lobby desk—we'll be using them for this year's theme.

In His Grace,

**ANITA MCGINNIS**  
WOMEN'S MINISTER





## DISASTER RELIEF IN THE WAKE OF CENTRAL TEXAS FLASH FLOODING

As the casualties rise, we are heartbroken over the profound loss that many of our fellow Texans have experienced in Central Texas due to the flash flooding over July 4th weekend.

Our ministry partner, *Texans on Mission*, has already deployed several volunteer groups to bring disaster relief to victims of the flash floods around Central Texas. If you would like to know how you can volunteer to help with Texans on Mission, or how you can donate to the cause, visit the links below.

SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP AT  
[TEXANSONMISSION.ORG](http://TEXANSONMISSION.ORG)

### GET INVOLVED

- Learn about volunteer opportunities [HERE](#)
- Donate to the cause through TXM [HERE](#)

## TEXANS ON MISSION AND IN ACTION

*Volunteer group deployed at Trinity Baptist Church in Kerrville, Texas*



Texans on Mission Damage Assessment, Chaplin, Feeding, Shower/Laundry, and Home Mud Out teams started arriving at Trinity Baptist Church in Kerrville on Monday, July 7th. Through last Saturday, the Austin Baptist Association Shower/Laundry trailer, which our church supports both financially and by several members assistance during deployments, provided 236 showers and 100 loads of laundry for the above Texans on Mission teams. The Shower/Laundry unit will stay in Kerrville until all the identified home mud out, and possibly tree removal, jobs are completed over the next few weeks.

This week, other Texans on Mission teams are starting mud out work in San Angelo where approximately 700 homes were flooded on July 4th.

*~ Photos and updates courtesy of Richard Bennett*



# Creative Arts Camp: Days 1-2

July 14-15, 2025



# From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

As I count my blessings, one is my father-in-law. This tall, well-dressed, well-spoken, gentle giant of a man is a great leader. He has led in the corporate world with Dean Witter, Discover, and Sears in cities across the United States. Known to his friends as “Hooty,” he is a man of integrity who is sought out for deacon boards, finance committees, and other leadership opportunities in the church. This great Bible study teacher always looked for a church home on the first Sunday he arrived in every new city his career placed him in (of which there were at least ten cities). He raised two wonderful children, their spouses, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and all their significant others. His generosity seems to have no end. He has helped provide vehicles for my teenagers, helped with kids’ clothes, vacations, and in countless other ways. He even invited all six of us and a rescue dog to live in his home when we were “homeless” between churches. He let us stay in his fancy neighborhood, even when our dog kept climbing over his prized Corvette, breaking through the garage window screen to escape, and roaming free to chase rabbits and golf balls on the golf course. This dog also bit his dog’s ear, which of course bled profusely. All that to say, Hooty’s patience is enviable. Granddad has a special relationship with each of his grandchildren, impacting their lives at significant times in their formative years and still now as young adults. He and Nana showed up for every milestone and special event in their lives, with praise, gifts, and endless words of encouragement. He is quite the chef too. He makes fantastic burgers, brats, flank steak, brisket, ribs, and pork. His Thanksgiving and Christmas feasts are unrivaled. His love and care for people comes out in the wonderful food he prepares and serves for his family and friends. He is a great husband to his wonderful wife. He is an excellent duck hunter, skilled skeet shooter, and avid golfer — and his duck salad is the best I’ve ever tasted!

He is also a gifted wood carver and has carved wonderful geese, ducks and other waterfowl with grace and precision. He has given these as priceless wedding gifts to each family member. After Anita’s and my broken engagement and reuniting, when hearts were tender, raw and broken, his thoughtfulness was reflected in his careful wood carving that brought hope and healing to our lives. He spoke of how when carving the Canada goose for us, it was made in three separate parts that were fused together. Two separate parts made the body, but without the connection to the third part, the head, the two parts meant nothing. He spoke about the two body parts representing Anita and me that would become “one” and that Christ must be the head of the marriage, and without Him the relationship would be meaningless. Love and respect for Christ and each other would prevail as the foundation for a happy home.

This is great wisdom for all of us. When marriages, churches, and communities are broken, we need Christ, the head of us all to join us together, lead us and heal us. The Apostle Paul tells us, “...Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body.” Ephesians 5:23 (CSB) I’m so thankful for Jesus and this man I count as a blessing. My father-in-law is like a second father to me, and he is the spiritual patriarch for his clan. His wisdom from above points us all toward Jesus and healthy connection. I’m impressed with the ways he leads his family, his church, his career, under the headship of Christ.

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**

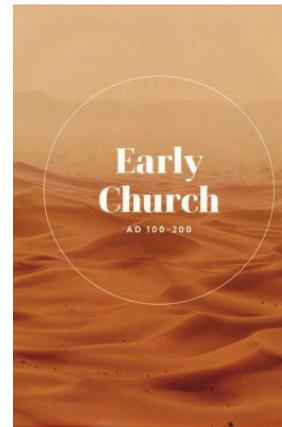
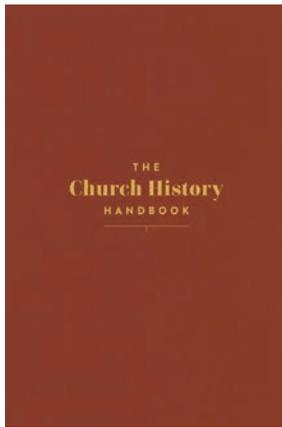




# ABC Library

## The Church History Handbook by Holman Reference Books

The highlighted book for this week is *The Church History Handbook* by Holman Bible Publishers. The publishers of this book focused, “on presenting important people, events, and ideas in a visually compelling way.” The time periods covered include: the Early Church (AD 100-200), the Patristic Church (AD 200-500), the Middle Ages (AD 500-1500), the Reformation (AD 1500-1700), and the Modern Period (AD 1700-Present). Each section contains a Historical Overview, Timeline, Historical Christian Doctrines, and short biographies of important church leaders during that time period. The book includes charts, tables, maps, infographics, quotes from early church fathers, 25 doctrinal studies of important ideas related to our Christian faith, and much more. The Biblical text in this book comes from the Christian Standard Bible. The publisher says, “*The Church History Handbook* is intended to enhance your reading and understanding of history of the Christian Church and ultimately point you to ‘God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ’ (2 Cor. 4:6).”



**CONTACT: Rita Ervin**

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

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

### LIBRARY HOURS

SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM

WEDNESDAYS - CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER

## RESOURCES

**SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM:** [austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH)

**BIBLE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS:** [austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG)

**ABC PODCASTS:** [austinbaptistchurch.com/PODCASTS](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/PODCASTS)

# OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

## ATTENDANCE

07.13.2025

<b>8:45 AM WORSHIP</b> .....	<b>602</b>
<b>11:15 AM WORSHIP</b> .....	<b>340</b>
<b>BIBLE FELLOWSHIP</b> .....	<b>695</b>

## FINANCIAL REPORT

07.13.2025

<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>JULY 13, 2025</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>68,112.97</b>	<b>\$3,211,314.55</b>
<b>DESIGNATED</b>	<b>\$805.00</b>	<b>\$93,138.50</b>
<b>LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED</b>	<b>\$18,808.00</b>	<b>\$887,732.08</b>
<b>TOTAL GIVING</b>	<b>\$87,725.97</b>	<b>\$4,192,185.13</b>

## 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**