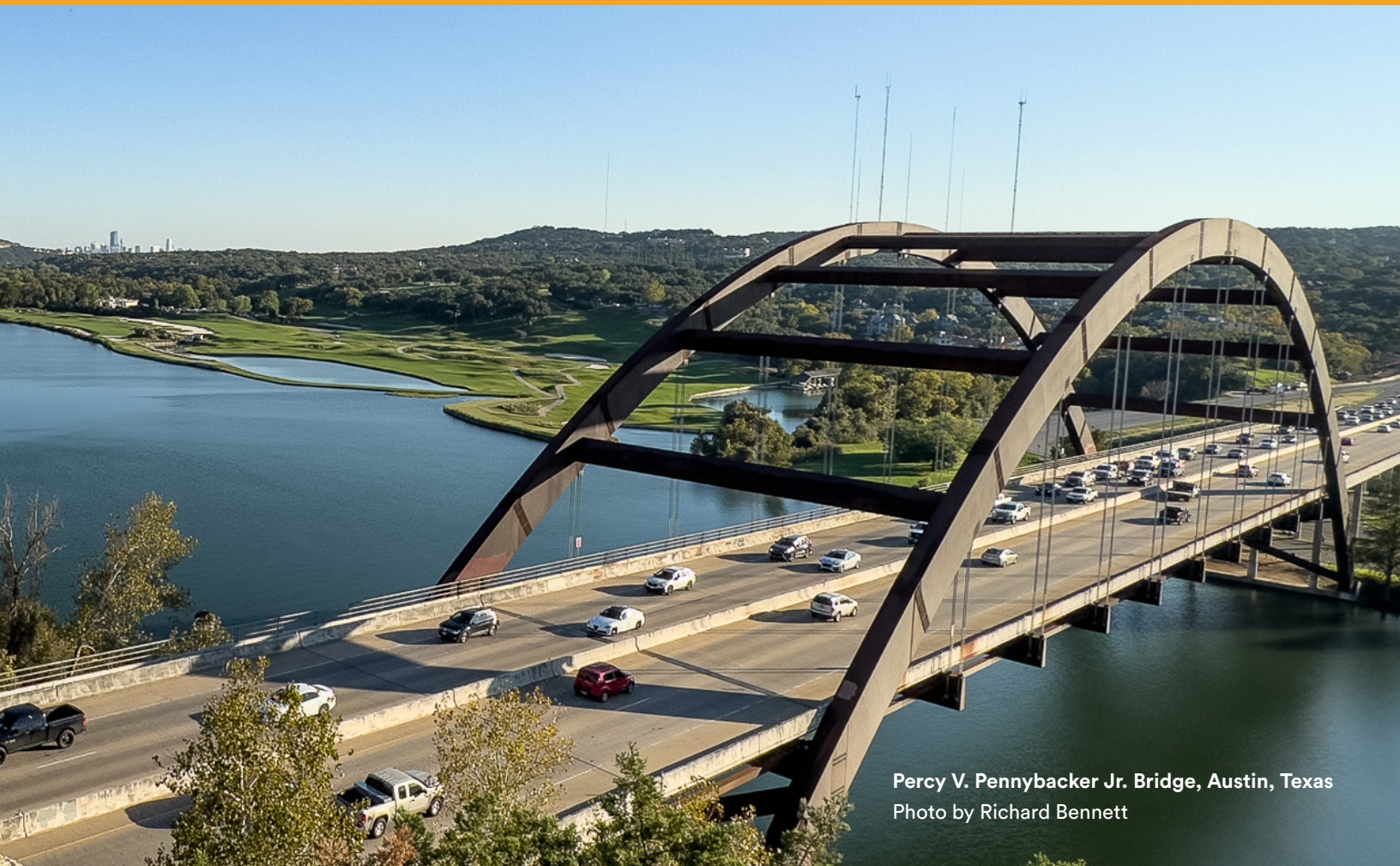


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 28

JULY 22, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Join me in prayer for our young adult ministry team that is being sent to Los Angeles this week. They are heading there to partner with our ministry friend, Dr. Derek Berry, and his newly planted church, Gospel of Christ Church. As a supporting church, ABC is committed to praying, giving, and sending to be a part of what God is doing in Southern California.

It has been a joy to watch more of our members be sent on mission for Him. This summer we sent several families to serve in Boston on our family mission trip. This fall we have mission trips scheduled for both Egypt and Thailand. It is thrilling to see God continue to open doors for our church to make an impact in our nation and our world.

But I want to remind you that we are all being sent this week, even if we are not leaving our city. Paul reminds us, *“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God”* (2 Corinthians 5:20). Every Christian is an ambassador for God. Ambassadors are sent to foreign lands to serve as representatives of their king.

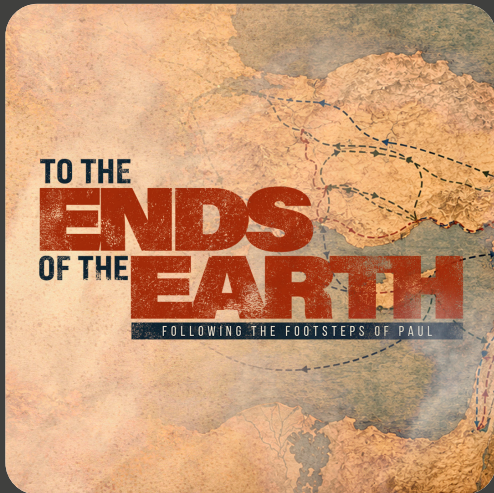
You and I live in a foreign land. We are exiles (1 Peter 2:11) and our true citizenship is awaiting us in heaven (Philippians 3:20). God has placed you where you are on purpose and for a purpose. We are sent by God to extend His ministry of reconciliation. Every day you are on the mission field, and every day is an opportunity to point others to Him.

May we pray for those whom God is sending to Los Angeles, but I also pray that your eyes will be opened to where He is sending you this week. Your mission field is all around you. And remember the lesson we learned from Paul last Sunday: “changed people will change their cities.”

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 20, 2026



Jim Steele

512-589-0804



David Myrick

512-695-6021

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026



Gabriella Sanya



**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 NEWS

JULY 22, 2026

Hey Church Family,

This week, **Sharleen Storey** submitted her letter of resignation for the position of Operations Administrator effective July 24th. We are thankful for the work that Sharleen has done in organizing our operational processes and in seeing ministry in the church move forward. I hope you'll join me in expressing your thanks to Sharleen for the great work she has done with ABC as she moves toward her next opportunity.



In Christ's Love,

DR. MATT GILLUM
EXECUTIVE PASTOR

BACK TO THE BEGINNING

Creative Arts Camp

PERFORMANCE @ 6:30PM
FRIDAY, JULY 24

All are invited!

SYNOPSIS

Our scene opens up at a rustic campground in the mountains when a few campers hear a strange sound. Norman, the camp counselor, recognizing the all-too-familiar sound, leaves the group to investigate and finds Finn, a good kid who has been spending too much time with the rebellious Rigsby brothers, and the H.O. 2000 Time Machine. Wanting to impress his two new "friends," Finn had activated the machine and lost the Rigsby brothers... back in the Garden of Eden!

Ready to embark on an unplanned adventure, the campers jump into the H.O. 2000 to find the lost boys and end up traveling back through time, visiting the same campsite in 2000, 1995, 1978, 1955, 1808, and finally, making it all the way back to Creation!

Back to the Beginning is the perfect musical for engaging kids with the story of creation. Filled with scriptural truth and the promise of God's love, this message of hope and redemption is a reminder of how good His ways are!

Cant' Make it in Person?
Watch the Livestream!

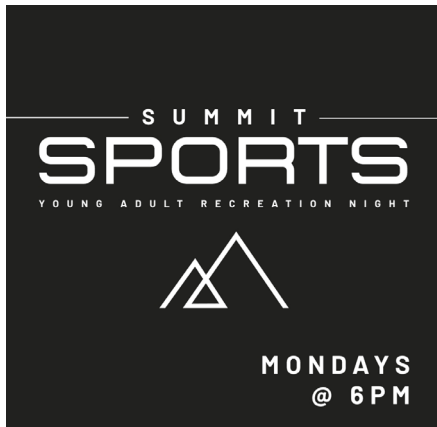
austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH

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,

Last, last call for the Riverboat Cruise!

If you've been thinking about joining us, we'd love to have you! While the bus is officially full, there are still plenty of seats available on the Riverboat. Don't miss this fun evening with your ABC sisters and friends as we cruise beautiful Lake Austin!

The deadline to sign up is this Thursday, July 23rd by noon! You're welcome to meet us at ABC and carpool with others to the dock, or meet us directly at the dock if that's easier for you.

Here's the schedule for the evening:

- 2:45 PM – Meet at ABC to carpool.
- 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.

Parking Information:

Parking is available in the LCRA parking lot and garage at 3700 Lake Austin Boulevard, directly across the street from our departure site. Please do not park at Hula Hut, as unauthorized vehicles may be towed.

Registration Information:

Click the link **HERE** to register or visit austinbaptistchurch.com/riverboat.

If you are already registered, keep an eye on your email this week for more information as we get closer!

See you on the water!

ANITA MCGINNIS

WOMEN'S MINISTER

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

Last week I enjoyed my wife's family reunion in South Carolina. This tradition of getting together started with one of her aunts in the 1990's. Three of her aunts lived in the Charleston area and her mother was in Nashville. Her grandfather, Samuel Thomas, was a preacher, and his wife was a Women's Missionary Union president. They attended the first several gatherings but have since gone to heaven. These gatherings are very loud, full of love, good food, lots of laughter, and can be overwhelming to family newbies who happen to marry in. It is a week-long celebration at the Isle of Palms. Everyone catches up on the latest family news, future plans, and latest humble brags about kids and grandkids (though now many of the younger family members now keep up with each other on social media). Everyone comes to an official reunion event on one day, but there are unofficial gatherings at the beach, the pool, and the rental houses all week long. By the end of the week, our hearts are full, skin is sunburned, and our hearing has been impaired by the boisterous squeals of joy and effusive interactions. Anita's Aunt Sammie, the one who started the tradition, passed away about 10 years ago, and her Aunt Kay has since passed away too. The two sisters that remain, Maranita, age 86, and Darlene, age 90, were saying goodbye perhaps for the last time in person on Friday. Darlene said, "Well, I will see you in heaven." We all teared up, but it's true; these preacher's kids knew that all those who belong to Jesus will all be "reunited" in heaven one day.

The Apostle Paul was reminding believers in the church at Ephesus about their great blessings of faith in Christ. He tells them that... *"In Him (Christ) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He (God) set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth"* (Ephesians 1:7-10). Won't that be a marvelous reuniting with Jesus and those in Jesus? As they say, "I'll see you again, here, there, or in the air!"

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

In His Joy,

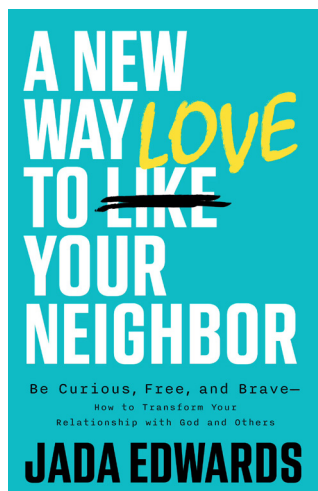
BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



A New Way to Love Your Neighbor: Be Curious, Free, and Brave — How to Transform Your Relationship with God and Others by Jada Edwards

Jada Edwards and her husband Conway planted One Community Church in Plano, Texas in 2008. She leads a women's Bible study and serves as the Creative Services Director and Women's Director there. From Edward's website, "She has committed her life to equipping women of all ages, at all stages, with practical Biblical truth to help them live authentic and transparent lives."

Edwards realized that God was trying to show her that she had a problem with love. She says, "God showed me that my "love issue" wasn't a matter of being more loving—as it relates to behavior or expression. It was about what I loved most and how I loved, which was absolutely a matter of the heart." This book is not about romantic or marital love but love in all relationships: family, friends, neighbors, roommates, your hairstylist, and everyone else in your life. The main scripture that this book focuses on is Mark 12:30-31: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ***A New Way to Love Your Neighbor*** is written in two parts. Part 1 is titled "What Is Limiting Your Love?" where Edwards covers four different limits: settling for wrong definitions, choosing better instead of best, choosing external instead of internal, and trying to give before you receive. Part 2, "Loving God and Others in a Whole New Way," includes these five ideas: Be Curious - Love is Learning, Be Free - Love is Forgiving, Be Brave - Love is Uncomfortable, Be Resilient - Love is Unrelenting, and Be Real - Love is Honest. This book, "...unveils just how much can change in our relationship with God and others when we finally get it (love) right."

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

ATTENDANCE07.19.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP		575
11:15 AM WORSHIP		371
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		765

FINANCIAL REPORT07.19.2026

ACCOUNT	JUL. 19, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND (GENERAL)	\$72,853.09	\$2,693,085.38
DESIGNATED		\$108,369.11
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED		\$667,385.13
TOTAL GIVING	\$88,455.29	\$3,468,839.62

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