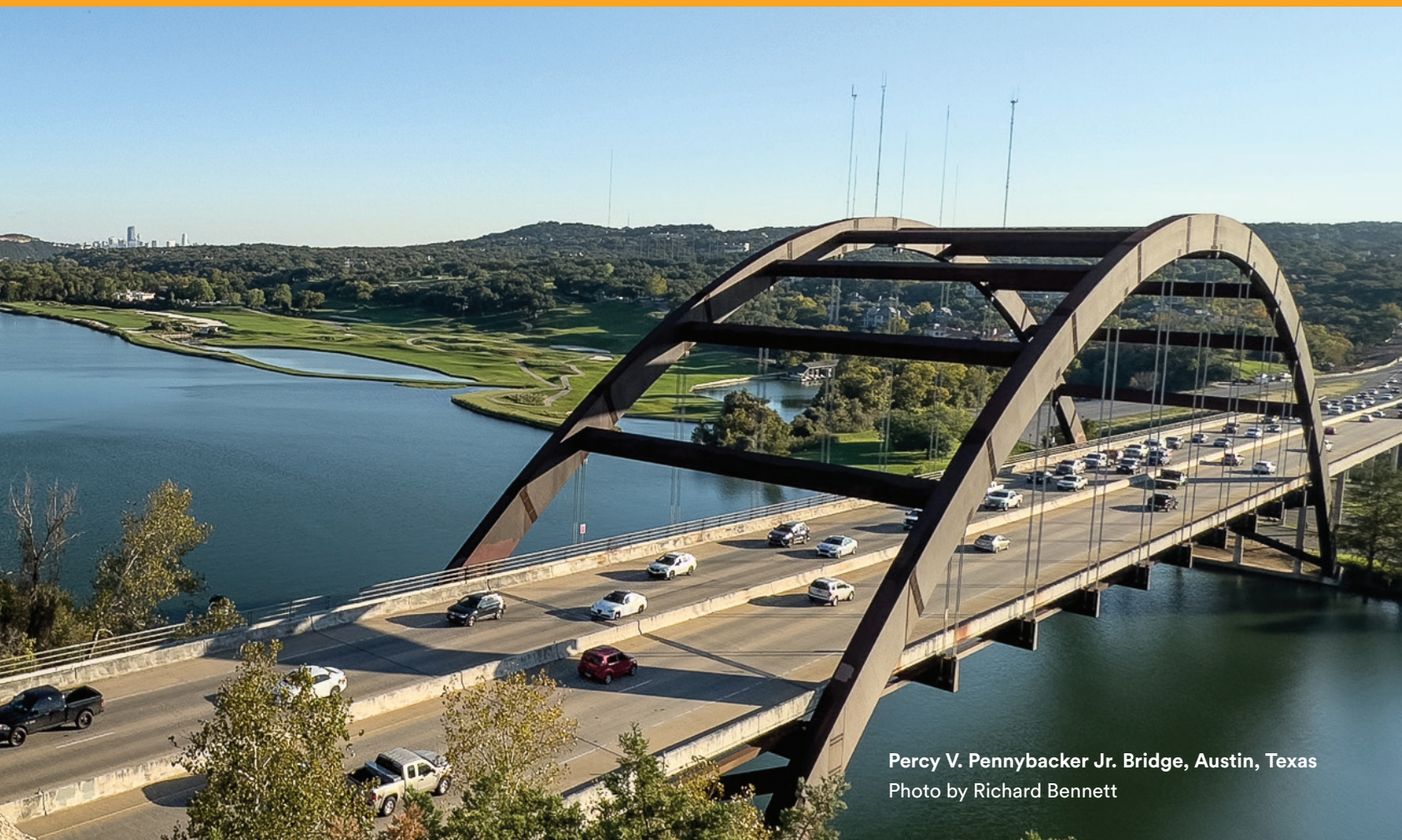


The **BRIDGE**

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 18 NO. 26

JULY 23, 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 **impact**. Jesus instructs the church to “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Jesus’ followers are called to shine their light and push back against darkness in our world. As we make an impact together, we pray our good works will lead many others to give glory to our Father in heaven.

I am excited to see how God will increase our impact in the coming months. By the grace of God, our debt is down to the final \$1 million! Through the *Light The Way* generosity initiative, our church has rapidly paid down our debt. The upcoming elimination of our debt will undoubtedly lead to an increase in kingdom impact. When the debt is paid off, I will encourage our church to begin “tithing” within our budget. I would love to see us set a baseline where 10% of our contributions to go outward to missions partners. When you give to the church, you will also begin giving through the church to bless our city, nation, and world.

Begin praying with me about what it could look like for our church to shine farther than we ever have. Thank you for your generosity to our General Fund and to our *Light The Way* initiative. I look forward to celebrating the completion of all three LTW objectives in the coming months as we *eliminate* our debt, *expand* our mission, and *extend* the message of Jesus Christ.

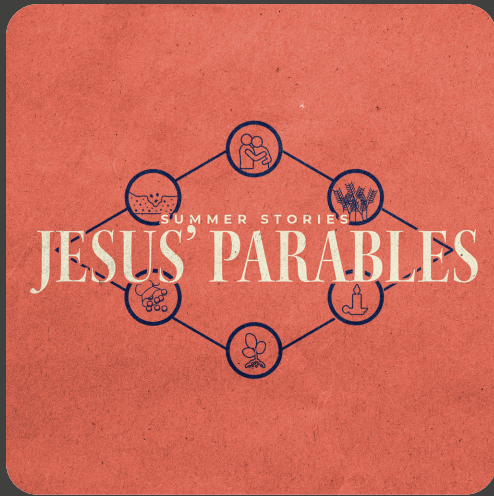
This Sunday we will press on in our summer sermon series, “Summer Stories.” I look forward to seeing you at 8:45am or 11:15am.

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 21, 2025



Greg Parker

214-430-6856



John Spears

512-514-3018

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2025



Eiley Kellogg



Wynter Kellogg

**See Page 11 for a special testimony about the Kellogg sisters.*



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 23, 2025

Hello Church Family,

On July 13th, our Senior Pastor, Dr. Jonathan Spencer, celebrated five years as a part of the Austin Baptist Church ministry team. Jonathan leads the church well, delivering truth from the Word of God, encouraging and exhorting, enabling ABC to move forward. The past five years have seen a lot of growth and change. We're praising God for all the wonderful things that He is doing in our congregation and are so glad that Jonathan leads as our Senior Pastor.



On July 20th, Margi Kuhn celebrated her third year on staff at ABC as Administrative Assistant. Margi is a joy to work with, bringing encouragement and thoughtfulness to every area she interacts with. She leads our volunteers and keeps the massive amount of data we work with rolling along. We're proud of Margi and so glad that she is a part of our team.

I hope that this week you'll take time to reach out to Dr. Spencer and Margi to express your thanks for the excellent and caring work they do for our ABC community.



You are invited to attend one (or more) of the following mini-mester classes with Dallas Theological Seminary being hosted here at ABC this fall. **Contact Dr. Matt Gillum at mattg@austinbaptistchurch.com if you are interested.**

ST5101 THEOLOGICAL METHOD AND BIBLIOLOGY | SEPT. 11-13 (TH. 6-9, FRI 8-5, SAT 8-3) **DR. KEVIN WONG**

A study of prolegomena as the nature, method, and sources of theology; revelation, especially the inspiration, authority, sufficiency, inerrancy, and canonicity of the Bible; and theological hermeneutics, including an introduction to dispensationalism. *Required prerequisite to all Systematic Theology (ST) courses.*

EML5331 PERSONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT | SEPT. 25-27 (TH. 6-9, FRI. 8-5, SAT. 8-3) **DR. KEVIN GANDY**

This course will help leaders understand the complexities of personal leadership development, including how one's personality, temperament, and strengths impact a leader within personal, ministry, parachurch, and other contexts. *Online enrollment limited to 16 students.*

ST5105 SANCTIFICATION & ECCLESIOLOGY | OCTOBER 9-11 (TH. 6-9, FRI. 8-5, SAT. 8-3) **DR. TIMOTHY YODER**

A study of sanctification, the doctrine of the spiritual life, and ecclesiology, the doctrines of the body of Christ and the local church, including its organization, ministry, ordinances, government, and purpose. *Prerequisite: ST5101 Theological Method and Bibliology.*

UPCOMING EVENTS



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



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE



Ladies, the time has come! Sign up today for this year's Women's Ministry kick-off for a **Picnic & Plug-In on August 24th!** Step out of the heat for an inside picnic (at tables!) where you will get to hear how you can plug in and find your place at ABC. This will be a night to gather for fun, enjoy heartfelt worship, and hear the vision where God is leading the Women's Ministry this year, including two new ways to serve and connect!

Please note that we are changing things up this year! We are inviting you to gather your gals and take a seat at the table with **your own picnic**. That means **you and your friends pack your picnic basket full of goodies for the night**. If you would like to be a hostess, get more information, or to register for the event, visit austinbaptistchurch.com/PICNIC! Don't overthink this one, it will be a casual, relaxed time to enjoy picnic goodies with friends. You can make it super easy and go through a drive-through on your way, bring your picnic "bag", or get with some friends and each bring something to share. Think of it sort of like a potluck picnic style! Each table will have a white tablecloth, but feel free to spruce it up with what you would take to a picnic. And if you get here with nothing, no worries; we are providing a lemonade station, popcorn, and ice cream!

With this being something new, please don't hesitate to reach out and ask me any questions at anitam@austinbaptistchurch.com. Also, more details are covered on the registration page. I hope to see many of you there, and of course, invite a friend. I can't wait to share this afternoon with you!

In His Grace,

ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER



Creative Arts Camp: Performance

Friday, July 18, 2025



Sweet Sunday
Sunday, July 20, 2025



WEEK IN REVIEW

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

Dear Church Family,

My name is Kevyn Kellogg. It's such a privilege to share with you today. When our Pastor of Care Bill McGinnis invited me to write this guest message, I felt both honored and deeply humbled. I'm not a theologian, a speaker, or someone who grew up in church. I'm just a mom of four—still learning, still memorizing my Bible verses, and soaking up every bit of truth and grace I can.

My faith journey began with the quiet encouragement of my great-grandmother who always told me to keep God first and to pray. As a little girl, I did just that. I would talk to God, write to Him, and somehow He would always respond. Long before I knew theology, I knew Him as relational and near.

That foundation eventually led us, my husband Josh and I, to Austin Baptist Church about two and a half years ago. Since then, we've been overwhelmed by the love, presence, and authenticity of this community. This church has truly shown us what it means to walk with God, and to walk with one another.

Now I feel the Lord asking me to share something deeply personal. A story that still shakes us to our core but also fills us with awe. A story of pain, of rescue, and of resurrection. A story that led to a sacred moment together with our church family on Sunday.

—

This past Sunday, July 20th, we had the indescribable joy of watching our daughters, Wynter and Eiley, be baptized.

That moment, seeing them walk into the water in full faith, full awareness, full life, took my breath away. And the date? It marked exactly four years since the day Wynter nearly drowned. A day that changed everything for our family. A day when we witnessed God's hand move in a way we could never deny.

Four years ago to the exact day on July 20th, our daughter Wynter drowned. She was just three. That afternoon, my husband Josh took our girls, Parker, Eiley, and Wynter to the pool, while I stayed back to help our youngest Sawyer feel better. It was just the four of them. Earlier that day, I had taken them to swim lessons. Because of that, they were full of confidence. Wynter was playing on the steps of the pool while Josh watched the other girls dive. He looked away for just a moment, and in that brief moment... she slipped under. No splash. No sound. Just gone. Right beneath him. Josh pulled her up, lifeless and blue. With no phone and no one around, he screamed for help. Panicked and unsure of what to do, he began an untrained CPR attempt. He pressed on her chest. Blew into her mouth. Cried out for help. Slowly, she began to cough. To vomit. To breathe. And God sent help. A neighbor we hardly knew, whose house backed up to the pool, just happened to be on her deck. She heard him and called 911.

Wynter was barely breathing when I got the call. I ran to the pool—literally ran, even though my legs felt like lead, pushing baby Sawyer in the stroller, shoes falling off. I saw the ambulance and climbed inside. She was breathing, but her eyes were glazed. She was incoherent, and still blue. I was hysterical. They told me to stay calm, to help keep her calm. But inside, I was crumbling.

Another neighbor, who we also barely knew at the time, saw the ambulance and stopped to help our other children, taking them safely to her home until Josh's parents could arrive. More help—sent by God.

At the hospital, Wynter still couldn't answer questions. Her lungs were filled with water. They feared she might have brain damage. We texted anyone we could think of. We begged for prayer, prayer chains, help trying to reach THE Miracle Worker. I couldn't even form words myself, just, "Please, God. Save her."

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

Then something miraculous happened. After her first round of tests, she fell asleep. Suddenly, the room was filled with the smell of chlorine. Her body started sweating—soaking her bed. The water was pouring out of her. I know it sounds strange, but I know what I witnessed: God was pulling the water out of her. When she woke up, she was back. Smiling. Alert. Whole.

“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” – Psalm 34:18

It took time for us to realize: we had lived through a miracle. We later learned that twins admitted that same night died from their injuries. Another child was left permanently impaired. But Wynter—our sweet miracle—walked out of that hospital the next day. But the weight of it, the closeness of death, the trauma, the fear, lingered. Josh was haunted by the image of pulling her out, lifeless. Eiley and Parker watched it all unfold. I lived in that fragile space of both gratitude and exhaustion.

Life didn't pause. But we did. And slowly, God began to heal not just Wynter—but us too.

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.” – Isaiah 43:2

We've held this story close for years and haven't talked about it much publicly. Now, we get to tell the rest of the story. It's sacred and deeply emotional, but this baptism—this resurrection moment—felt like the right time to share what God has done.

Four years later, to the day, Wynter walked into the water again, full of life and with full awareness and full faith to declare that she belongs to Jesus. And Eiley, her big sister—who watched her dad pull Wynter's lifeless body from the pool and prayed from the sidelines that God would save her—was baptized too.

We don't take a single breath for granted. We remember the weight of what we almost lost. And we praise the God who gave her back to us.

*“We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too may live a new life.”
– Romans 6:4*

Thank you for standing with us—in faith, in unity, in awe of a Savior who still performs miracles. Being surrounded by this church family as our daughters were baptized was something we'll never forget. We felt your prayers, your presence, and your love. Thank you for being the kind of community that walks together through both trauma and triumph. It felt so special to witness this moment among people who care so deeply. God is so good.

“You turned my mourning into dancing... you clothed me with joy.” – Psalm 30:11

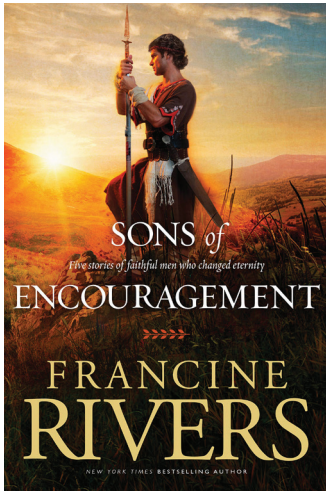
To God be ALL the glory.

With full hearts and deep gratitude,

~Kevyn Kellogg



ABC Library



Sons of Encouragement: Five Stories of Faithful Men Who Changed Eternity by Francine Rivers

Francine Rivers is an American author who began her career writing historical romance novels. In 1986, she became a Christian and spent a lot of time reading the Bible before she began to write Christian novels. Her first Christian book was ***Redeeming Love***, which she views as a statement of her faith. Two of her Christian novels, ***The Last Sin Eater*** and ***Redeeming Love***, have been made into movies. On her website Rivers says, “I hope that reading my stories will make you hunger to read the Word, Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. I pray that you will finish my books and pick up the Bible with a new excitement and anticipation of a real encounter with the Lord Himself.”

The Sons of Encouragement is made up of five individual novellas about five men of the Bible. These five men who served in the shadow of others are: The Priest - Aaron, The Warrior - Caleb, The Prince - Jonathan, The Prophet - Amos, and The Scribe – Silas. The story of each one of these men is based on Biblical accounts. Rivers states that with the Bible as a foundation, “I have created action, dialogue, internal motivations and in some cases, additional characters that I feel are consistent with the Biblical record. I have attempted to remain true to the scriptural message in all points, ...” After each man’s story there is a Bible study called Seek and Find, which includes passages from the Bible to read, discussion questions, and additional verses for you to think about. Rivers hopes that as you read the supporting scriptures and study them that, “... you will become aware of the continuity, the consistency, and the confirmation of God’s plans for the ages – a plan that includes you.” This book is rated 4.4 on Goodreads.

CONTACT: Rita Ervin

Email library@austinbaptistchurch.com

or visit us online at austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY

LIBRARY HOURS

SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM

WEDNESDAYS - CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM: austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS: austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG

ABC PODCASTS: austinbaptistchurch.com/PODCASTS

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE07.20.2025

8:45 AM WORSHIP	594
11:15 AM WORSHIP	354
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	740

FINANCIAL REPORT07.20.2025

ACCOUNT	JULY 20, 2025	YTD
GENERAL FUND	69,730.44	\$3,281,044.99
DESIGNATED	\$2,859.00	\$95,997.50
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$81,985.68	\$969,767.76
TOTAL GIVING	\$154,575.12	\$4,346,810.25

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:

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



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