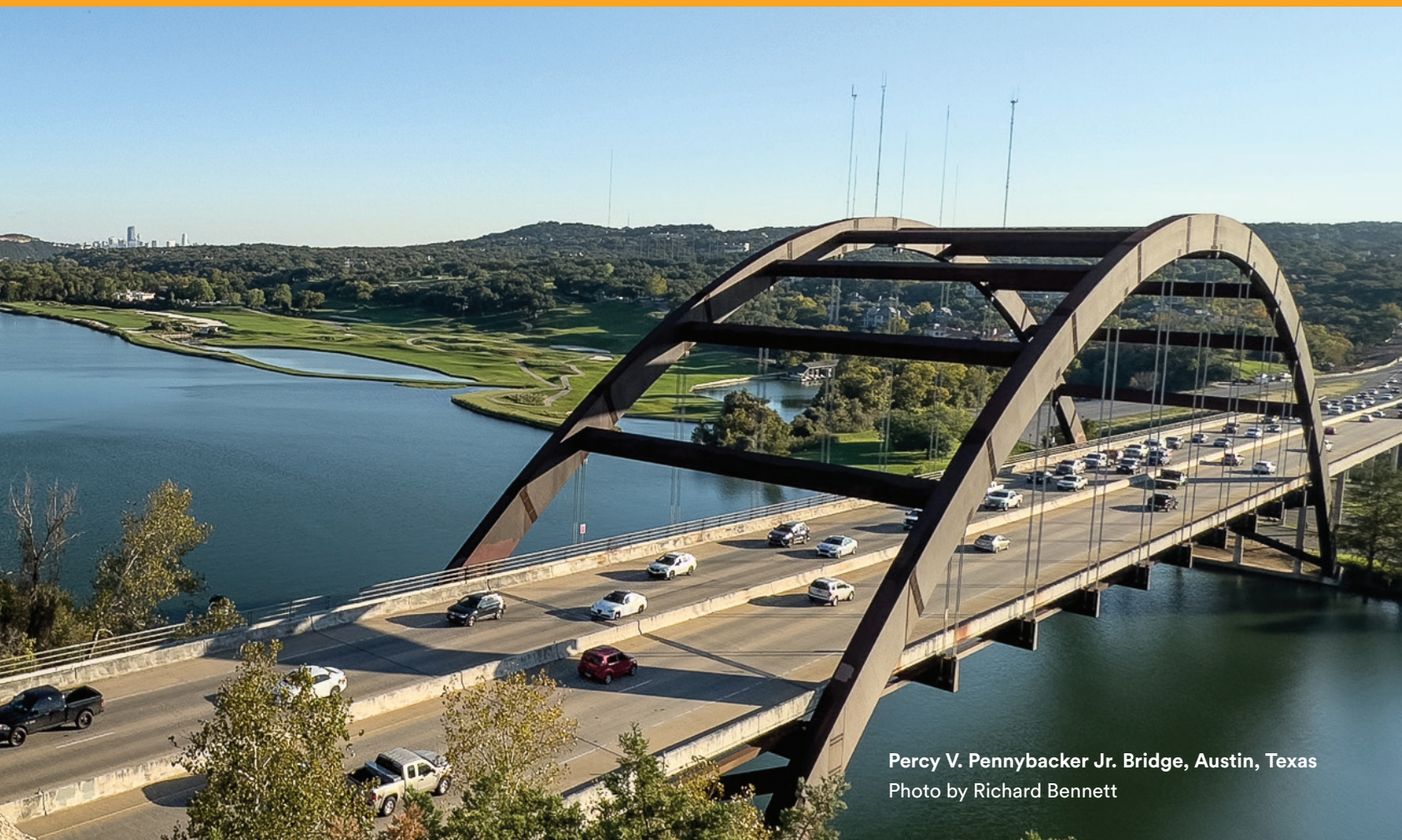


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 18 NO. 27

JULY 30, 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 **grace**. John 1:14 says, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” The Son of God put on human flesh and walked in a fullness of truth AND grace. Most people are only strong in one of the two.

Some believers are strong in truth. They boldly proclaim what God’s Word says and do not fear drawing hard lines in the sand. However, some of these saints struggle to season their speech with salt or have compassion for the lost. Other believers can be strong in grace. They are empathetic and compassionate, always considering the well-being of others. However, they care so much they are unwilling to communicate hard truth when they know it will hurt.

Jesus was miraculously able to do both perfectly. He was bold and prophetic, but he was gracious and kind. He called out sin, yet he spent time with sinners. Children found him to be winsome, and the lost found him to be warm. Admittedly, none of us will ever be perfect like Jesus, but we are called to do our best to imitate his example.

This means we must lift up the truth so all can see the light (Psalm 119:105), but we must also welcome others with the warmth of Jesus Christ. I am thankful to pastor a warm congregation. We have some of the most loving people on planet earth right here at ABC. However, we must not take that for granted. We must strive to maintain that culture and scale it as we grow.

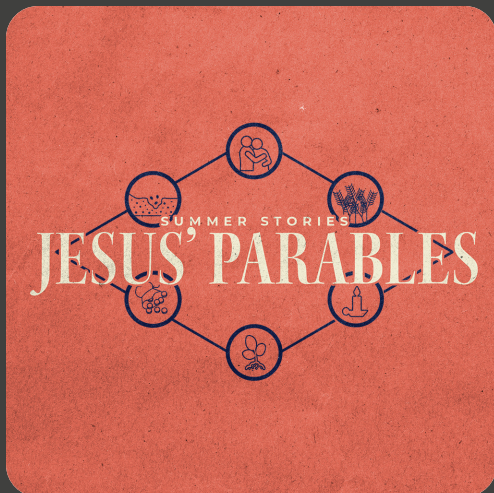
Who can you be gracious to this week? Perhaps you could send a text message, a hand-written note, or a thoughtful gift. You could set aside time from your friends this Sunday to instead look for new people to welcome into our church. Oftentimes it is these little touches that shine the brightest. Go shine your light this week. Be gracious with others as Christ has been gracious with you.

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 28, 2025



Russell Stout

512-203-5784



Scott Foster

214-763-1106

SCOTT FOSTER graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.S. in computer science. He also earned a J.D. from William & Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia. He makes his living as a patent attorney. He and Stephanie have three sons: Hudson, Harrison, and Hayes. They joined ABC in 2013.

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

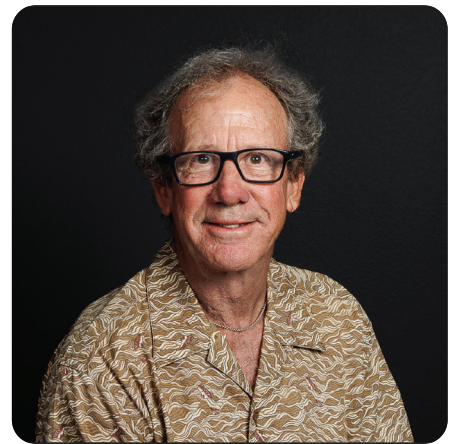
SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025



Almar Saenz



Rowan Storey



**William "Bill"
Morehouse**



Francois Revolus



Dale & Linda Carter



Sterling Burdine

UPCOMING EVENTS



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



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.*



ABC WORSHIP MINISTRY

Want to join us for *The Sights & Sounds of Christmas*?

2025 FALL KICKOFF

SEPTEMBER 14TH @ 5PM-7PM

If you would like to join the ABC Worship Ministry for *The Sights & Sounds of Christmas* this year, then you are invited to join the ABC Choir and Orchestra for the Fall Kickoff on Sunday, September 14th, from 5-7pm. At the Kickoff, we will go over the music and rehearsal schedule for this year's production. We hope you will consider joining us!

CONTACT: Dr. Todd Stearns | todds@austinbaptistchurch.com

EST 1975

SINGING MEN OF TEXAS



FRIDAY, AUGUST 15 @ 7:00PM

The 2024-25 concert season marks the 50th year of ministry for the Singing Men of Texas. In celebration, ***all six chapters will combine*** for a special concert on August 15, 2025 at Riverbend Centre in Austin, TX.

Buy tickets at txb.org/smot

Friday, August 15 | 7:00pm

Riverbend Centre for the Arts
4214 N Capital of Texas Hwy
Austin, TX 78746

TICKET PRICES:

Ages 13 - adult: \$15.00

Ages 3 - 12: \$10.00

Ages 2 and under: Free

TICKET PROCEEDS

Proceeds go to support the Prestidge Endowment Scholarship Fund, named in memory of Sam Prestidge, the founder of the Singing Men of Texas. A scholarship is awarded annually to a student preparing for full-time music and worship ministry at a Baptist university.



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT

Picnic & Plug-In

WHEN IS THE EVENT?

Sunday, **August 24th** from 3:45pm-6pm.

WHERE IS IT HAPPENING?

In the **Great Hall** – we will be indoors, with “picnic” tables set up for a relaxed, summer-style gathering.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

\$10 per person – this covers the fun, worship, vision night, and some special treats

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN SIT AT A TABLE?

Each table seats **8 women**. Feel free to gather your friends and fill a table together!

DO I NEED TO BRING FOOD?

Yes! This year, **you bring your own picnic**, and it can be whatever that looks like for you. Here's some inspiration:

- Keep it simple with a fast food stop
- Coordinate with friends to share a potluck picnic
- Go all out with your favorite picnic spread!

WHAT WILL BE PROVIDED?

We will provide the following:

- White tablecloths on each table
- A lemonade station
- Popcorn and ice cream for all

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EVENT?

- Connection and fun
- Heartfelt worship
- Vision casting for the year ahead
- A look at two brand-new ways to serve and connect in Women's Ministry

CAN I BE A HOSTESS?

Absolutely! If you're interested in hosting a table, check out the hostess guide on the event page.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Click **HERE**. We will have a seat at the table saved just for you!

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Email Anita McGinnis at **anitam@austinbaptistchurch.com**. We can't wait to see you there and don't forget to invite a friend!

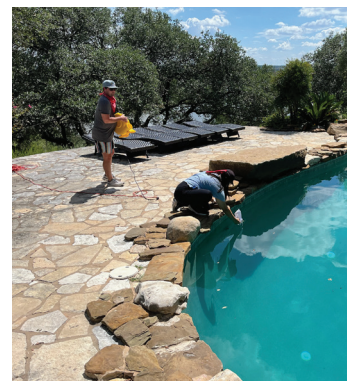
In His Grace,

ANITA MCGINNIS

WOMEN'S MINISTER



Summit Young Adults Retreat July 25-27, 2025



Preteen Camp
July 27-30, 2025



WEEK IN REVIEW

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

When training to become a lifeguard as a teenager, I thought it would be easy. I said to myself, “Self, you are on the swim team. You have been swimming all your life. You spent hours and hours playing in the pool. How hard can it be, right?” I would soon find out how hard this would be. We first went through the workbook and training manual. While reading the material I would think, “I can do that and that and that.” We would practice in the pool each week, and eventually we were able to do the in-water test. Our first task was to swim 500 yards. We were told to keep a slow and steady pace, because after finishing we would be expected to tread water for 10 minutes. This part was particularly difficult for me at the time because I had about half the body fat I do now. Body fat apparently makes you more buoyant, so without a lot of it I sank like a rock. By this time in the water test, I was breathing really hard. Then came time for the “distressed swimmer” portion. For this we had to pretend to jump in and save someone who was pretending to drown. We were told to approach the swimmer while reassuring him. To make this realistic, this large man began to try to hold on to my head under water to try keep his head above water. We were told to take a large gulp of air and go under the water, which makes the person let go of you because they want to stay on top of the water. I didn’t get enough air, but I still had to continue to do the next step, where you come around to the back of the victim underwater, swim to the surface and put them in a cross chest (think headlock but over their chest and under their arm). Then you had to calmly reassure them and swim them to shore using only your legs. I was panting so hard I couldn’t talk at all, much less calmly. Thankfully, I was able to grip the swimmer tightly enough that when he started to thrash again he stopped trying to fight against me and let me bring him to the pool’s edge. I got out of the pool and almost passed out. I never had to swim, tread, and rescue anyone before. I had just caught my breath and the instructor threw some heavy weights into the deep end and instructed me to go and bring them back up. Somehow, I gathered enough stamina to will myself through the exercise. This was it. I had finished the tests, both written and water, and now I was a lifeguard. When I looked back to see how difficult they had made this training, I realized why. If I was a “distressed swimmer” in need of rescue, I would want someone who could pass a difficult test be the one to come after me, not someone who had just played in the pool.

The Apostle Paul told his protégé Timothy that those who serve in the church need to be trained and tested. He wanted to make sure that when the persecution and difficult situations come, that leaders would be ready to help those in their care. He says, “In the same way, deacons (servants) are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons” (1 Timothy 3:8-10). If you are being tested, be thankful. God may be strengthening you so you can help someone else.

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

In His Joy,

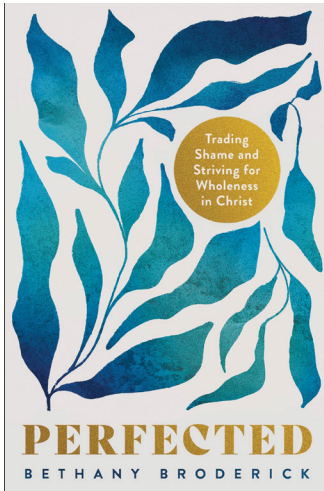
BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



Perfected: Trading Shame and Striving for Wholeness in Christ
by Bethany Broderick

Bethany Broderick is a speaker, writer, and a professor of marketing. She has written for *The Gospel Coalition*, *Risen Motherhood*, *Journey Women*, *Christian Parenting*, and more. Broderick lives with her husband and three children in Birmingham, Alabama. Broderick says that she is a recovering perfectionist. On her website she says, “I am passionate about helping women find freedom from their-self condemning shame and self-righteous striving so they can experience wholeness through the finished work of Christ.”

A question that many women wrestle with is, “Am I good enough?” In ***Perfected***, Broderick tackles this question that she has dealt with in every stage of her life. “No matter how much I did, it never seemed enough.” She uses examples from her own story and hopes that by reading this book you will learn how to walk freely in Christ’s perfection. The book is written in three parts: The Lies, The Truth, and The Promise. Part 1 - The Lies, discusses Satan’s lies that hold us captive and how to use the truths in Scripture to fight those lies. Part 2 – The Truth, includes a of study of the right view of God, the right view of ourselves, and the right view of salvation. Part 3 – The Promise, focuses on the promises of God pointing us to assurance of faith, enduring hope, love-motivated good works, and Biblical community. Each chapter ends with a Remember, Reflect, and Read section. Broderick encourages you to identify the lies, meditate on the truth, and live according to the promises of God. She says, “I pray that the next time you wonder if you are good enough, you will hold fast to a better truth: I am perfected in Christ.”

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

ATTENDANCE07.27.2025

8:45 AM WORSHIP	591
11:15 AM WORSHIP	379
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	781

FINANCIAL REPORT07.27.2025

ACCOUNT	JULY 27, 2025	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$52,142.44	\$3,333,187.43
DESIGNATED	\$1,900.00	\$97,897.50
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$13,928.00	\$983,695.76
TOTAL GIVING	\$67,970.44	\$4,414,780.69

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.



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