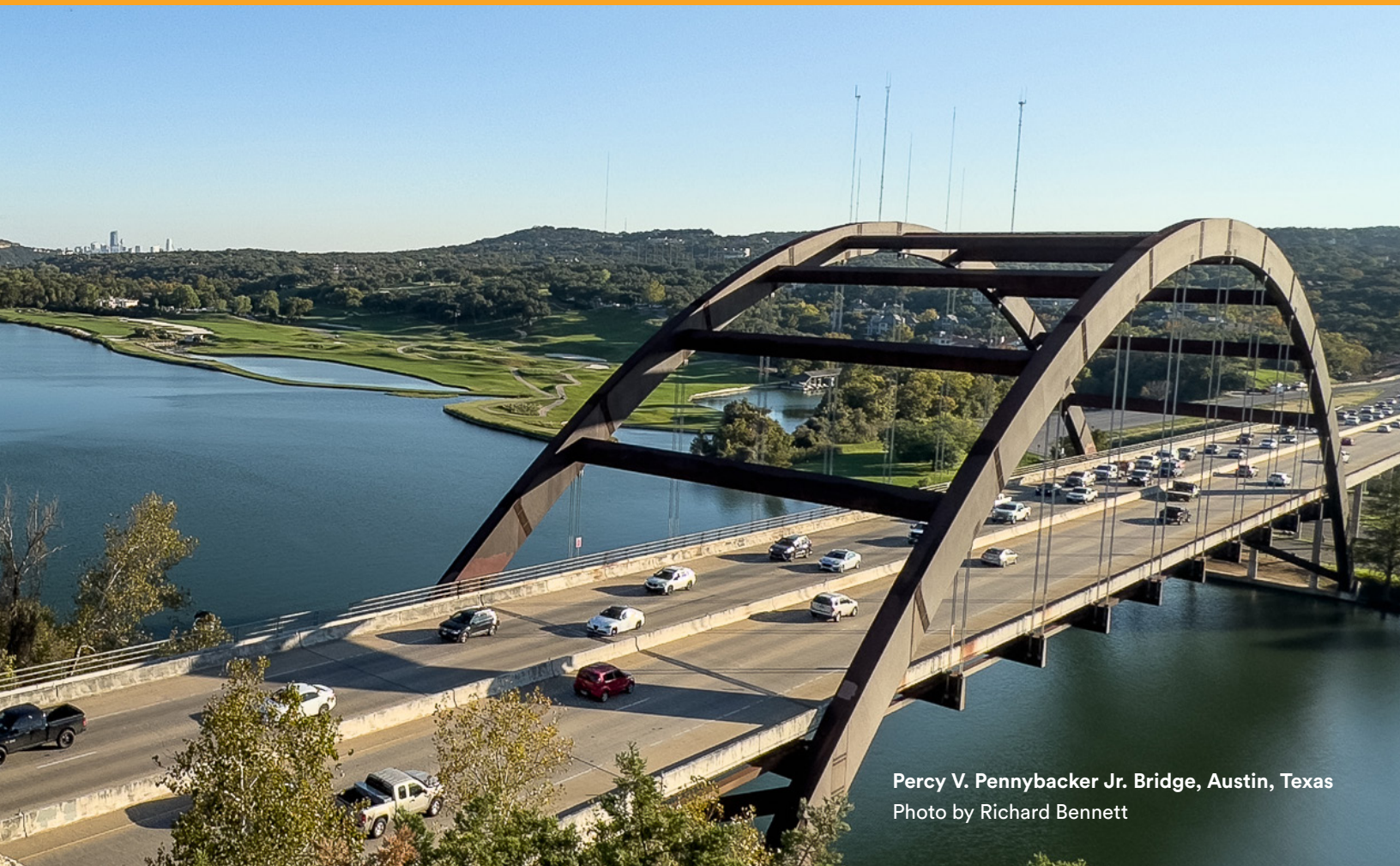


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 26

JULY 8, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

It has been a very meaningful and busy month of ministry at ABC. We have built Gospel bridges to our community through Vacation Bible School and Freedom Over Austin. We have deployed families to Boston for our Family Mission Trip. We have disciplined children and teenagers at our Preteen Camp and Peak Week. We will soon send a team of young adults to Los Angeles for a mission trip, and we will host more than 100 children for our Creative Arts Camp.

We have been doing a lot this summer. That is why I want to remind you to not only focus on “doing,” but also on “being.” God has good works for us to do, but He first calls us to simply be with Him. It is easy to miss this and just become a busy-bodied Christian, always seeking achievement and moving on to the next ministry item. The problem is busy-bodied Christians are rarely fruitful and fulfilled Christians because they never find time to get still before the God who satisfies.

The Lord tells us, “Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world” (Psalm 46:10). It is good to slow down and remind yourself that He is God. Sometimes in life He calls us to sprint. But there are also seasons where He calls us to pause and reflect. He calls us to remember His glory and to be refilled through His Spirit. Spend time with the Lord this week. He is indeed doing a great work through our church. But He also wants to do a great work in you.

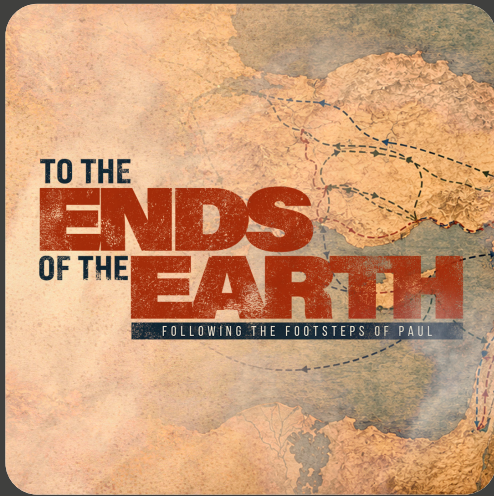
This Sunday marks six years of me serving as your pastor. As I pause and reflect on that time, I give glory for what God has done through ABC these six years. But I also pause and give thanks to God for what He has done in me. He has sharpened me, grown my love for Him, and grown my love for you. May we never forget that the goal of ministry is not spiritual production; it is spiritual transformation. Spend time with Jesus this week and be transformed by Him.

I look forward to seeing you at either the 8:45am or 11:15am service this Sunday as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER
SENIOR PASTOR





CURRENT SERIES

To The Ends of The Earth

Following the Footsteps of Paul

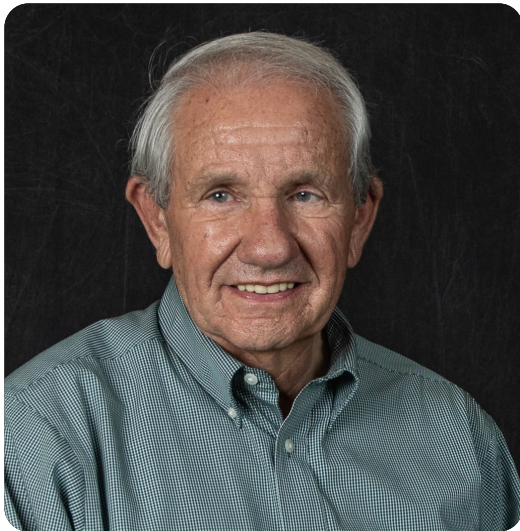
WEEKLY SERMON CONTENT

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 6, 2026



Richard Bennett

713-410-3839



Jake Ross

214-802-7927

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026



Astrid Johnson



Anna Watson



Olivia Lenzi



**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 8, 2026

Hey Church Family,

Today I'm writing to let you know that **Lila Luper**, who has served ABC Kids Associate for the past year, will be stepping down from her part-time role. We are so thankful for the time and excellent ministry that Lila has performed on staff with ABC Kids, and are glad that she and her family will continue to be a part of ABC as well as Little Lights Preschool. I hope you'll join with me in thanking Lila for her service.



With this change, **Jana Bolin** will move into a permanent position as ABC Kids Associate. Jana began serving with ABC Kids this past fall and will now continue in the part-time role this coming fall. Jana is a wonderful minister and has already begun serving in a meaningful way alongside the ABC Kids team. We're delighted that the Lord will continue to empower her to serve well with ABC Kids. I hope you'll congratulate Jana as she steps into this new role.

It's such a joy to see how the Lord continues to build and grow the Kingdom through ABC Kids. Let's commit together to pray for the ABC Kids Team and to serve alongside them. We're expectant of great things ahead at ABC!

In Christ's Love,

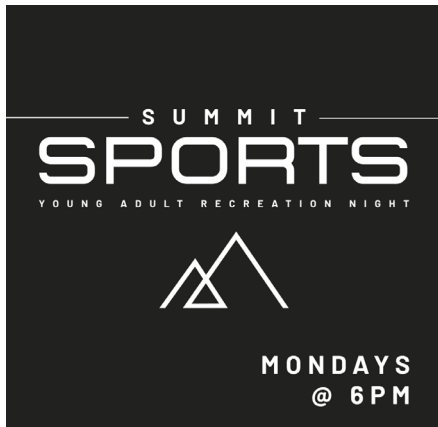
DR. MATT GILLUM
EXECUTIVE PASTOR

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

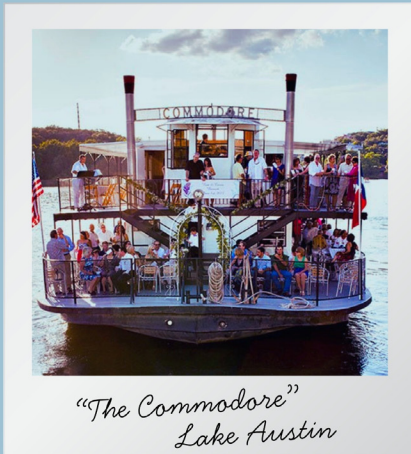


Austin Baptist Church



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

Freedom Over Austin

Friday, July 3, 2026



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

Hang on tight! Last week, I was taken back to my teendom in my mind. I was privileged to go “tubing”, something I hadn’t done in several years. I had great fun on this large inflatable sled tied to the boat as the boat driver zigged and circled up and down the lake, bouncing the two other riders and me into the air and skipping us across waves like a rock skips over the water when thrown just right. As I was slung off the tube by centrifugal force and a large wave, I had to check to make sure my britches were still on! I was whisked back to my teen years in my head when we used actual old tire inner tubes with an old rope tied to them. As a teen, I also had the privilege to be the boat driver (what were my parents thinking?). The object of tubing is to try to get the rider off the tube in some spectacular fashion, including, but not limited to, flipping the rider off the tube in a wild spin across the top of the water and/or a spectacular airborne body launch caused by the tube hitting a large wave sending the rider flailing into the air and splatting on the water. Some tube riders would hang on even when the tube flipped! The driver I had last week was a masterful boat driver who has been known to get a rider off the tube within the first 30 seconds of the ride. He had mercy on me as an old man and gave me and my two other tube-newbies a good long 10 minute ride before ejecting us from our air-filled raft with precision skill. Drivers are the ones who decide when it is time to let their next victims/riders have a try. I was like the carnival ride operator who decided when the “tilt-a-hurl” ride was over, even though someone was screaming to get off and about to lose the corndog they just ate. However, everyone on this trip came off the tube with a smile on their face. A great time was had by all, but I am a little sore from being flung gleefully around the lake.

Sometimes in our spiritual life, it feels like all we can do is hang on when the temporary ruler of this world is trying to get us to let go of God. The Apostle Paul reminds God’s people to hang on to Jesus, because Jesus is hanging on to us, ensuring our safe arrival to heaven when our ride around the sun comes to an end. Paul says, “...I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:12-14 NIV). When the evil one is trying to get us to fail spectacularly and let go of our faith, we can be reminded to keep hanging on because Jesus has a hold of us. He promises, “no one will snatch them out of my hand!”

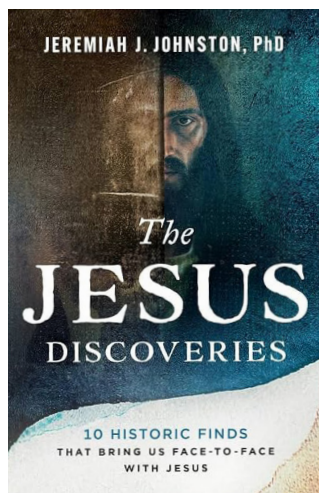
Hang in there people! God is Glad to be with us! I’m praying for us all!

In His Joy,
BILL MCGINNIS
PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



The Jesus Discoveries: 10 Historic Finds that Bring Us Face-to-Face With Jesus by Jeremiah J. Johnston, Ph.D.

Dr. Jeremiah J. Johnston serves as the Associate Pastor of Apologetics and Cultural Engagement at Prestonwood Baptist Church and as the Dean of Spiritual Development at Prestonwood Christian Academy. He is the author of fifteen books and Bible studies. Jeremiah also serves internationally as the president of the Christian Thinkers Society.

An excerpt from the back cover of his book, *The Jesus Discoveries*, states “Jesus is not legend. He is Lord. And the archaeological record bears this out.” Before skeptics will believe anything is true about Jesus and the Bible, they demand and need evidence that confirms the Biblical claims of Jesus. Part One, *The Ten Historic Finds*, presents, “...ten of the most significant finds that bring us face-to-face with Jesus of Nazareth.” Some of these finds are familiar to the general public, but others have only been recently discovered. Part Two, *Reflections On the Christian Mind*, presents what Johnston believes about “...the state of the Christian mind today, how Jesus himself is an intellectual, and the definition of Christian apologetics and its value to us as defenders of our faith.” Part Three, *Dig Deeper*, presents “...further content and context specific to the Shroud of Turin and burial customs of Jesus’ day.” This book brings history and faith together, showing why we can trust the Gospels and have confidence that Jesus is Lord.

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

ATTENDANCE07.05.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP		486
11:15 AM WORSHIP		316
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		622

FINANCIAL REPORT07.05.2026

ACCOUNT	JUL. 05, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND (GENERAL)	\$103,661.64	\$2,534,723.71
DESIGNATED		\$103,404.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED		\$644,490.13
TOTAL GIVING	\$73,395.72	\$3,282,617.84

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



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