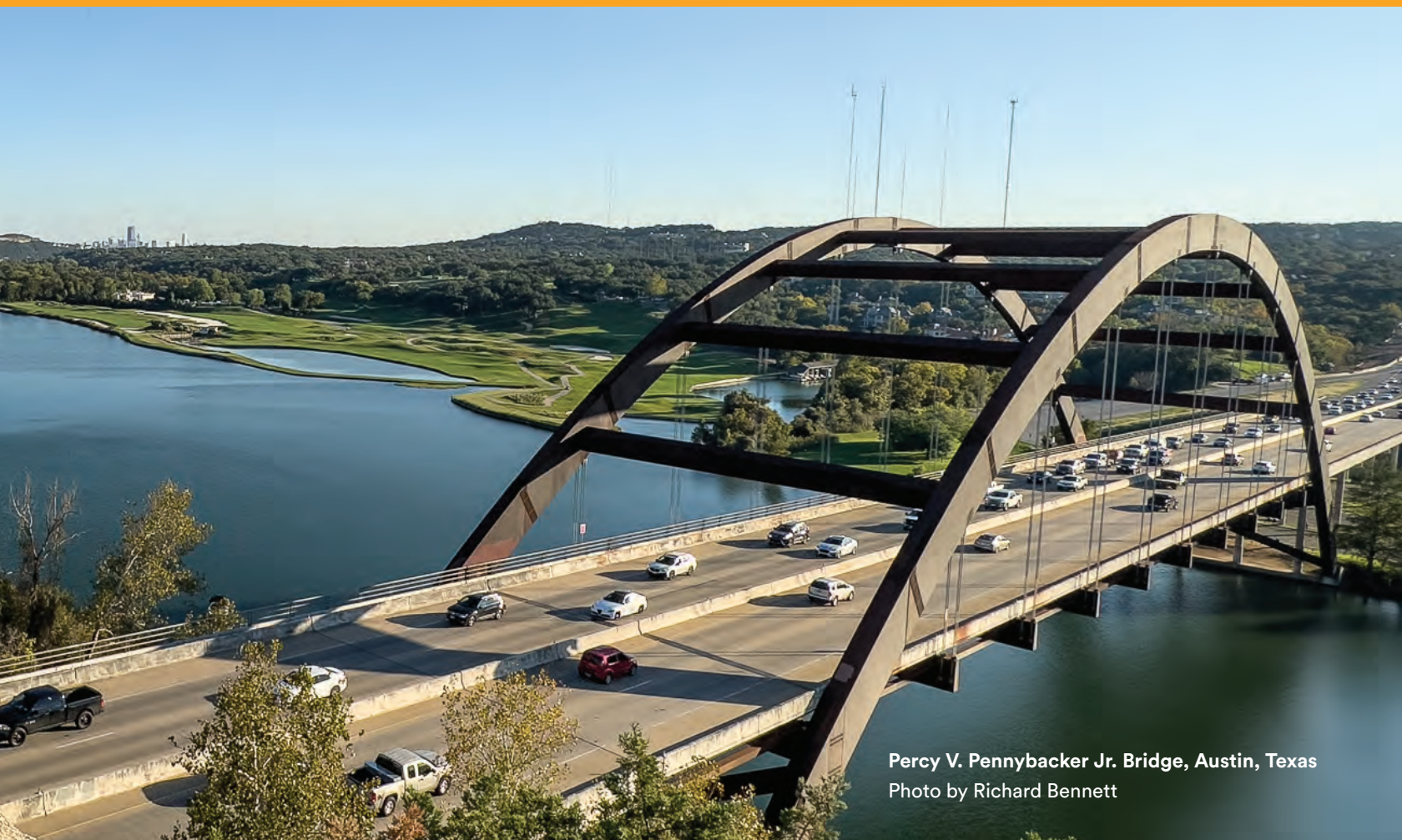


# The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 18 NO. 24

JULY 9, 2025



**AUSTIN BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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# A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

1 John 1:7 says, “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” God wants His children to have fellowship with one another. Church is not merely a product to be consumed. The Church is a body of believers connected to Jesus and to each other. We love one another (John 13:34-35), encourage one another (Hebrews 10:25), and bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2) in this life.

This is why one of our four core values is *authenticity*. We want everyone at ABC to be authentically known. We don’t want you to just attend a worship service, we want you to be connected with other believers. BFGs serve as the backbone of community here at ABC. Every Sunday, groups of all ages from the nursery to our senior adults gather at 10am to study God’s word and build community. In these groups, support systems are built, friendships are forged, and true fellowship begins to take place.

Do you belong to a group at ABC? If not, I’d encourage you to try a class this Sunday at 10am. All groups are open to visitors, and we have something to offer every age and stage of life. If you’re looking for something new, Dr. Matt Gillum is organizing a new BFG that will launch next month. An interest meeting is taking place this Sunday, July 13th, in the Great Hall (where Starting Point regularly meets) immediately following the 11:15am service.

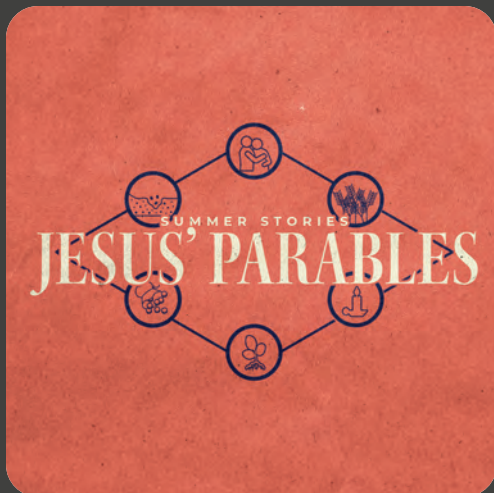
Life is better when we do it together. I look forward to seeing you this Sunday at 8:45am or 11:15am.

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 7, 2025



**Mark Donaldson**

432-664-1651

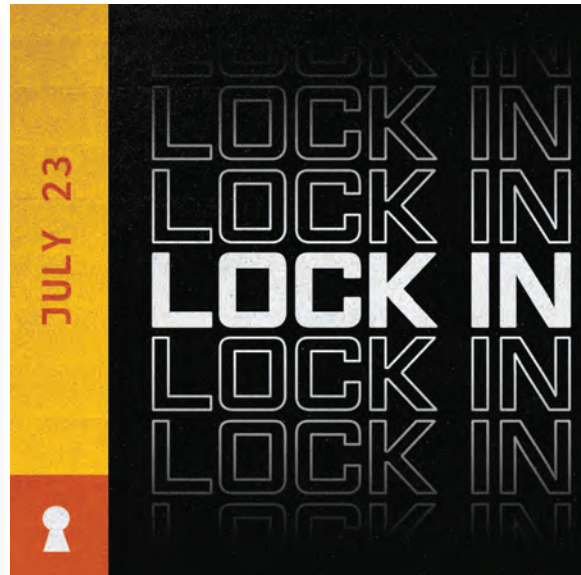


**John Rausch**

281-814-4819



# UPCOMING EVENTS



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

# WEEKLY REMINDERS



## CREATIVE ARTS CAMP IS ALMOST HERE!

Our 1st-5th grade campers are excited to begin Creative Arts Camp on Monday, July 14th! They will be spending the week learning the musical “Back to the Cross” while also expanding their creative abilities through elective activities.

The ABC Worship Ministry wants to invite everyone to come to our musical presentation this **Friday, July 18th, at 6:30pm** and see all the hard work our 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!

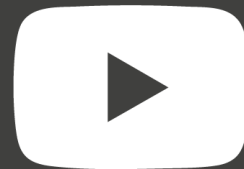
Follow us on social media and keep up with everything happening at ABC.



Austin Baptist Church



@austinbaptistchurch



@austinbaptistchurch7837



# ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE



## Hello Ladies!

It's finally time for our Sweet Sunday with Salads, Sandals, Stories, and of course sweets! Mark your calendars and invite a friend to come enjoy a sweet time of fellowship on Sunday, July 20th, from 4-6pm in the Skylight Room. Invite cards will be available this Sunday — take some to share with your friends.

This is always a fun time to catch up with friends and meet new ones. Wear your favorite summer sandals, enjoy some fresh summer salads and sweets, and sit back to hear a story from one of our own that will encourage you in your journey with the Lord. Sweet Sundays are always my favorite!

While you're marking your calendar, make plans to **Picnic & Plug-In** at this year's Women's Ministry kick-off on Sunday, August 24th! Doors will open at 3:45pm and we will conclude by 6:30pm. We are changing things up a bit this year, so stay tuned for more details! You'll find out all the ways you can get *plugged in* this coming year.

Lastly, if you have any scrap material at least 28" long, or ribbon at least 1" wide, you would like to donate to the women's ministry please leave it in the bin marked *Women's Ministry* on the desk in the lobby. We will put it to use 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***, is being deployed to bring disaster relief to victims of the flash floods. 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**

### GET INVOLVED

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

## *A Special Invitation*



You are cordially invited to the wedding of

*Sarah Anne Moody*  
&  
*Dennis Richard Hunsberger*

Saturday, July 12, 2025 | 4:00 PM

Ceremony will be held in the Sanctuary  
with a receiving line to follow in the Great Hall

Sarah and Dennis would like to invite their ABC Family to celebrate their marriage. The gift of your love, prayers, and presence at the ceremony would be a cherished blessing to them both.



## VBS Week: Part 2

June 25th-26th



WEEK IN REVIEW



## VBS Family Night Thursday, June 26th, 2025





**Freedom Over Austin**  
Wednesday, July 2nd, 2025



WEEK IN REVIEW



## Camp Mabry Donation Packing

Monday, July 7th, 2025

31 boxes were packed and delivered to Camp Mabry with donations collected for troops stationed at the Texas border. The boxes will be shipped out to Laredo, Eagle Pass, and McAllen, Texas in the coming days.



# From the Pages of Bill's Notebook



In 1976, when I was 12 years old, there was a huge Bicentennial celebration in our country. The celebration of our 200 years of independence was nationwide. The day had been anticipated and planned for years. There were 13 starred and striped Grand Union flags with the Betsy Ross design on decals, fabric, and t-shirts, each with a 76 on it. The great seal of the United States was everywhere. The seal featured a bald eagle carrying 13 arrows for the 13 colonies coming together in

unified strength, but it also carried an olive branch. This showed that the U.S. would seek peace and diplomacy, but was always unified and ready to defend itself from enemies, foreign or domestic. The U.S. seal features the Latin words “E Pluribus Unum” which in English means, “Out of many, one.” The national motto of the United States, “In God we trust,” was proudly displayed. There was a lot of pride about how God had blessed our country at that time. Everything was red, white, and blue. The number 76 and the Liberty Bell were proudly displayed everywhere. On July 4th, many famous musicians performed, including Elvis, Aerosmith, Eagles, Loggins and Messina, and many more. President Gerald Ford addressed the Nation. There were War of Independence re-enactments, a huge fireworks show in New York Harbor near the Statue of Liberty, and almost every city hosted a celebration. The huge nationwide party was a spectacle to watch on network television. Next year, 2026, will be The United States’ 250th anniversary of independence. I am eager to see the kinds of celebrations we will have.

King David reminds God’s people to keep trusting in God. He says, “The LORD foils the plans of the nations; He thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He chose for his inheritance” (Psalm 33:10-12). Many things have changed in the last 50 years and I pray we remain “one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” I hope that we can still be “E Pluribus Unum” and even with our differences we can continue to help make the world a better place.

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 Secret of the Hidden Scrolls by M.J. Thomas

This week the highlighted book is a children's series called *The Secret of the Hidden Scrolls* by M.J. Thomas. Thomas earned his bachelor's degree in Bible Studies at Liberty University. After Thomas' first son turned nine years old, he had a hard time finding books that taught children about the Bible in a fun, engaging way, so, he decided to try his hand at writing children's books. These books are Biblically accurate and tell the stories of the Bible by using imaginative and adventurous characters. This set of nine books is made up of short novels for children ages 6-9 with reading levels appropriate for first through third grades. These books are highly rated on Goodreads and would be great for summer reading!

**The Beginning**



**Race to the Ark**



**The Great Escape**



**Journey to Jericho**



**The Shepherd's Stone**



**The Lion's Roar**



**The King is Born**



**Miracles by the Sea**



**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**

**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

ATTENDANCE07.06.2025

8:45 AM WORSHIP	.....	528
11:15 AM WORSHIP	.....	244
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	.....	599

FINANCIAL REPORT07.06.2025

ACCOUNT	JULY 6, 2025	YTD
GENERAL FUND	90,196.55	\$3,143,201.58
DESIGNATED	\$3,890.00	\$92,333.50
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$26,793.89	\$868,924.08
TOTAL GIVING	\$120,880.44	\$4,104,459.16

## 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)**

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- **CALL:** **512.334.8247**

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



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