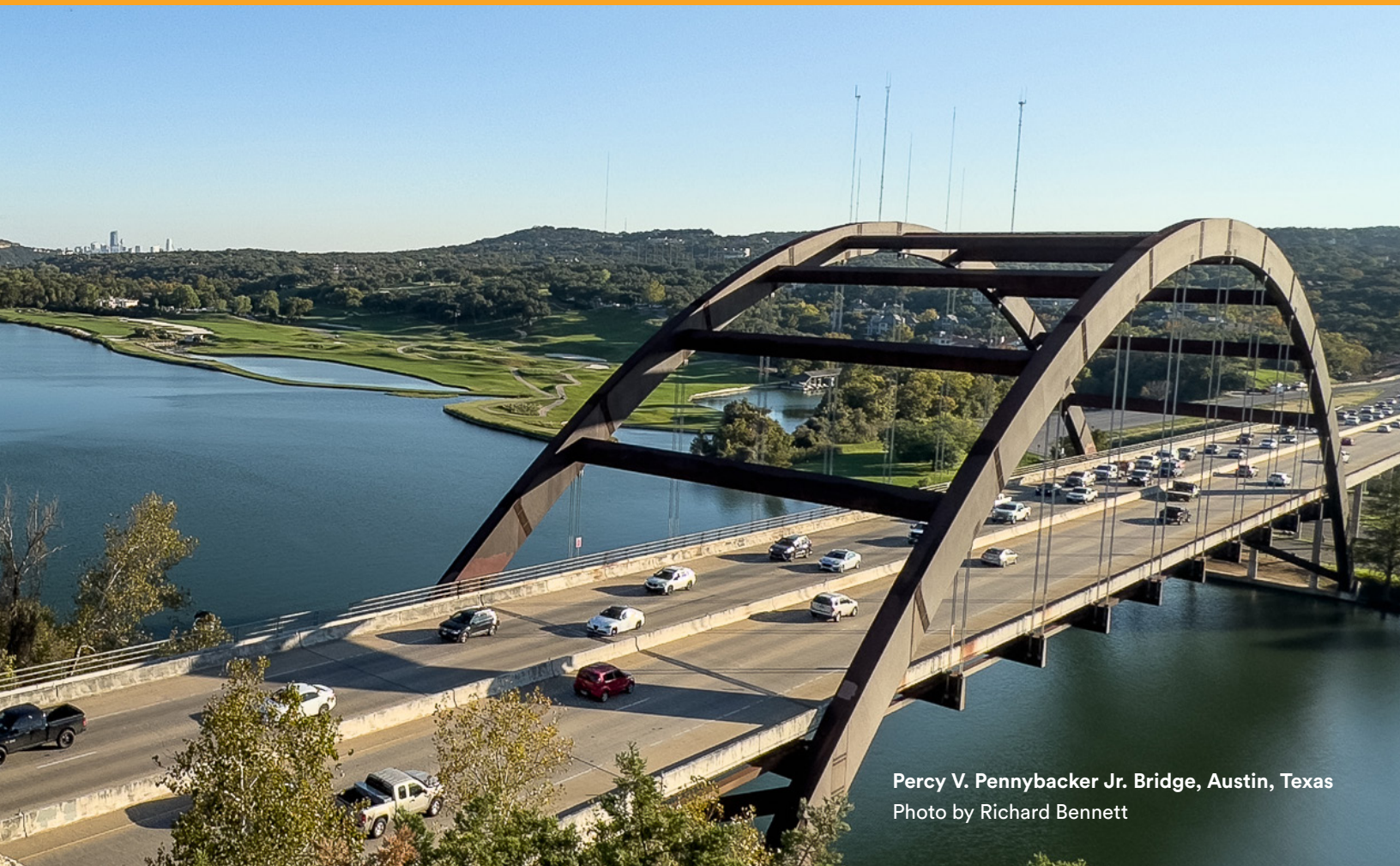


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 30

AUGUST 12, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

School is back in session, and the rhythms of routine have returned. Early morning carpools have commenced, sports practices are up and running, and everyone is getting busy with life's regularly scheduled activities. I personally love this kind of predictable routine. The spontaneity of summer is refreshing, but I am always comforted by the presence of structure and discipline.

As you determine your upcoming rhythms, be sure to create margin for God and for the church. Begin your day with Jesus. Mark 1:35 says, *"And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed."* Jesus seemingly was an early riser. He understood the demands ahead of Him each day, so He began His morning being filled up by the Father. Sometimes we neglect time with God because we are too busy, but being busy is actually more reason for why we need God. He gives us the peace, wisdom, and comfort we so desperately need.

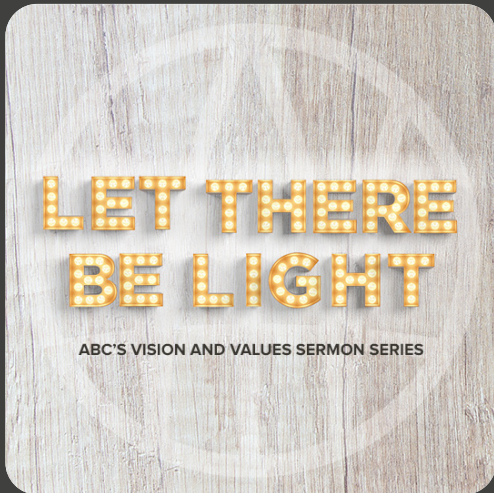
Be grounded in your devotional life, but also in your church life this fall. Hebrews 10:24-25 says, *"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some."* We uniquely experience God's presence through God's people. Life has a way of discouraging us, but the body of Christ has a way of encouraging us. Choose now to prioritize Sunday morning services this fall. If you have extra bandwidth, consider also joining us on Wednesday nights for Midweek, beginning August 19th.

Exciting ministry opportunities are on the horizon for our church, and I believe the Spirit of God can grow us in depth and width in these coming days. Commit to be a part of His work. Spend time with God and spend time with God's people. Invite a friend and I look forward to growing with you at 8:45 or 11:15am this Sunday.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER
SENIOR PASTOR





THIS SUNDAY

ABC's Mission, Vision & Values

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 AUGUST 10, 2026



Rick Dobbs

512-431-0730



John Spears

512-514-3018

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026



Christine Blair



**James & Brianna
Hendricks**



**Thomas & Karen
Kiraly**



**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

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

MIDWEEK FALL SCHEDULE

FALL 2026 SCHEDULE

5:55 PM

ABC Kids Choir
Room 126, 201
& The Chapel

6:00 PM

Divorce Care
Room 227

GriefShare
Room 238

6:30 PM

Encounter: Kids
and Preschool
Elevate/Uplift Rooms

AXIS for Students
Student Ministry Suite

A Men's Bible Study
with Matt Cushing
Room 245

6:30 PM

The Stories of Women:
A Women's Bible Study
with Anita McGinnis
Room 243A/B

MomQ with Kay Leitch
(*Working Moms*)
Room 242

Embrace Grace/Life
Room 247 / 248

*Experiencing God in
Everyday Life* with Bill
McGinnis
Room 239

To Love & Cherish: A
Couples Bible Study
with Lindsey Werner
Room 246

Enviados:
Spanish Bible Study with
Jorge and Ivonne Garcia
Room 244

6:30 PM

Choir Rehearsal
Worship Ministry Suite

7:30 PM

Orchestra Rehearsal
The Worship Center

MIDWEEK

KICKOFF ON AUG 19TH
CLASSES BEGIN
AUG 26TH

WEEKLY REMINDERS



You are invited to attend (audit) one of the following mini-mester classes with Dallas Theological Seminary being hosted here at ABC in September. **Contact Lisa Campbell at lisac@austinbaptistchurch.com if you are interested.**

ST5101 THEOLOGICAL METHOD AND BIBLIOLOGY | SEPT. 3-5 (TH 6-8:30, FRI 8-5, SAT 8-3)
DR. KYLE DiROBERTS

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.

ST5104 SOTERIOLOGY | SEPT. 3-5 (TH 6-8:30, FRI 8-5, SAT 8-3)
DR. SAMUEL LEE

A study of the grace of God in salvation, including election, the ministry of the Savior in His humiliation and exaltation, the nature and extent of the Atonement, efficacious grace, justification, regeneration, the salvation ministries of the Holy Spirit (including Spirit baptism, indwelling, and sealing), and eternal security.

MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
AUGUST 19

COST: \$10 per person;
\$5 for kids' meal (12 & under)

Steak, baked potato, green beans,
bread roll, and salad bar

Please note that Midweek dinner is served in the Café.
Seating for dinner is in the *Heritage Hall* until 6:30pm.



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Hello ladies!

Join us for **“Step Into the Story”**, the ABC Women's Fall Kick-Off, on Sunday, August 30, at 5:00pm. This year, leave the food and decorating to us! Come enjoy dinner, worship, laughter, and an inspiring look at what God has ahead for ABC Women this year. You'll discover opportunities to grow, connect, and serve, and find your perfect fit for this season.

Gather with your BFG, friends, or let us know if you'd love to meet new women, and we'll make sure you feel right at home! Afterward, explore our ministry “fitting rooms” to discover Bible studies, events, discipleship groups, and serving opportunities.

Come step into the story God is writing and find your place in it. Reserve your seat today, and be sure to check out our Fall Bible Study options, too!

~Anita McGinnis

ABC WOMEN'S MINISTRY
INVITES YOU TO

“Step into the Story”

FALL KICKOFF - SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH
5PM-7:30PM IN THE GREAT HALL



find your fit to grow, connect, and serve...



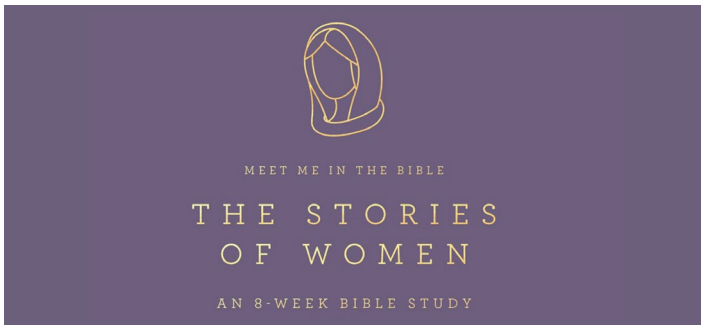


ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Fall Studies to be a part of!

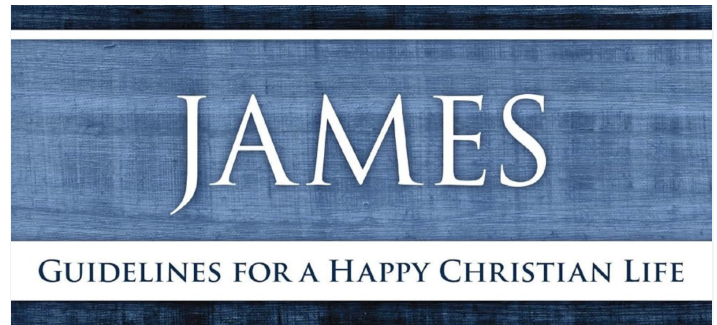
Register online at austinbaptistchurch.com/womensbiblestudies



Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays @ 6:30pm

Beginning **August 26th**, join Anita McGinnis and our table leaders for for **Meet Me in the Bible / The Stories of Women!** Come explore the stories of Scripture's daughters, sisters, mothers, single women, and wives. Through these stories we will see how God engages with women and invites them into His work.



Study of James with Marcia Furrow

Mondays @ 6:30pm

Tuesdays @ 9:30am / Zoom @ 6:30pm

Beginning **August 24th and 25th**, this Study of James gives practical guidance on issues that measure our true faith and our spiritual fruitfulness. James calls all believers—then and now—to live a life that demonstrates saving faith marked by godly behavior.



MomQ with Ginger Tew & Kay Leitch

Wednesdays @ 6:30pm (designed for working moms)

Thursdays @ 9:45am

MomQ (think IQ or EQ but MomQ) is an intergenerational community (beginning **August 26th** and **September 3rd**) designed to encourage and support women in their role as mothers, whether they are stay-at-home or working moms. The module this semester is strategically geared to grow us spiritually both individually and for our families.



C.O.R.D.

Encouragement Program

This ministry is designed to create community within ABC where one woman (the encourager) shares her story, experience, and wisdom to help another woman (the encouragee) learn to live her life in a faithful and practical way. Come learn how you can be a part!

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

When things don't go our way... In elementary school, I participated in Royal Ambassador basketball. The "Royal Ambassadors" program, or "RAs" for short, was the Baptist missions training organization for boys. Every week we had a Bible Study and learned about people who were telling the Good News around the world. Every winter we had an RA basketball league where we competed with other RAs from other churches around the city. My church had some great coaches who were quite good at basketball, and they invested their time trying to teach us the game. We practiced on Sundays after church, which was kinda weird for the time (early 70s) in Knoxville, Tennessee, because there were still "blue laws" that limited what stores could be open on Sunday. So, Sundays were set aside for church, rest, and Sunday drives to the country-side. However, none of our coaches who had real jobs could practice any other time during the week. So, we brought our tennis shoes, knee socks, shorts, and t-shirts to change into from our "Sunday Best" and had practice after church. McDonald's was open on Sundays. After leaving church, we would drive to McDonald's, get a Big Mac, fries, and a Coke. We then devoured them quickly, changed clothes, and went to the gym. We tried to not hurl it back up when running laps, but sometimes we did. We learned to dribble, pass, shoot, and learned the rules of basketball. One year, our team was so good we defeated all the local teams and were invited to the State RA Basketball Tournament in Nashville. We were all giddy. We got there and, as I recall, won our first game on Friday night. Once, when we were all wired up about being in a hotel for a sleepover, juiced up on Coke and Cheetos, we somehow coerced our coaches into letting us watch the movie "Crack Through the World" on the television. It was a disturbing late 1960s apocalyptic movie about how the Earth was destroyed by an ill-fated plan to harness geothermal energy by shooting a nuclear bomb deep into the planet. This, of course, began the earth-ending crack through the world. The movie showed many people dying in horrific ways such as landslides, train wrecks, and molten hot lava, to which one of the boys quipped, "Fried to a crackly crunch. Cheetos, cheese that goes crunch!" We all laughed, but kind of guiltily.

Of course I didn't sleep at all because I was so disturbed by the apocalyptic images seared into my brain, not to mention the copious amounts of fizzy caffeine and sugar I'd consumed. Needless to say, we were all very tired the next morning. We played our next couple of games and won, which should have made us RA State Champions. However, the host church decided that their team needed one more chance to defend their title with their best player (read "ringer") who had not been able to play in the earlier game against us. So, they required a short playoff game; I knew that this was not right, and in my sleep-deprived elementary school immaturity, I threw a tantrum and began to cry, declaring that I would not play another game. (Not that my refusal had any impact on the outcome of the game, I wasn't that good). However, I did give myself a free pass to act badly, because I perceived someone had disrespected us. The coaches tried to remind me that we had come to play basketball and had agreed to all the rules of the tournament. They also reminded us that we needed to represent God and our church well, regardless of the situation. In my "self-righteousness," I still sulked and sat on the bench, while the rest of my team battled the state title holders. The host church's plan worked, they (the cheaters) won the game and we went home with a 2nd place trophy. But you know what, my little tantrum, justified or not, did nothing but make me look like a crybaby, and someone who abandoned my team.

We were supposedly "Royal Ambassadors," and we represented The King of Kings. Our motto was, "*We are ambassadors for Christ,*" taken from 2 Corinthians 5:20 in which Paul was reminding the young and immature church at Corinth that they belonged to Jesus and they represent Him now, so their bad behaviors had to change. Their own selfish, childish ways in which they used to live were not okay anymore. Paul tells them, "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV) Things don't always go our way, but we don't get a free pass to act badly. When we belong to Jesus, we act like Him even in difficult situations, like when sleep deprived, wronged by someone else, angry, tired, or whatever. Our identity changes when we are "in Christ," we begin to behave more like Him regardless of our circumstances.

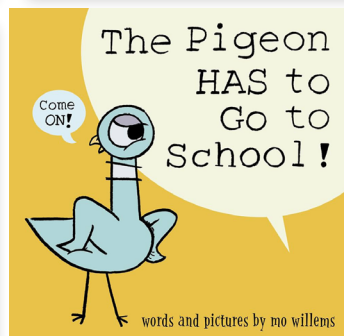
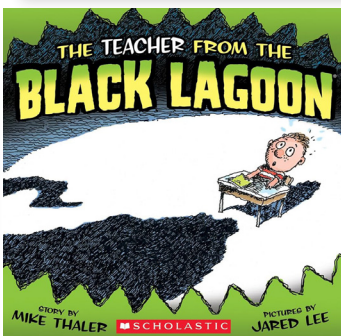
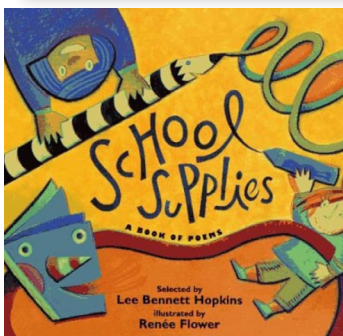
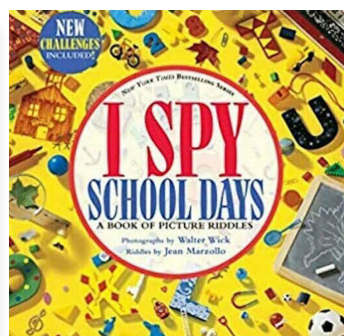
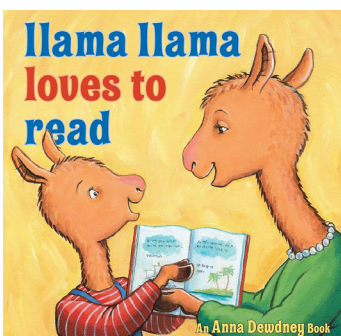
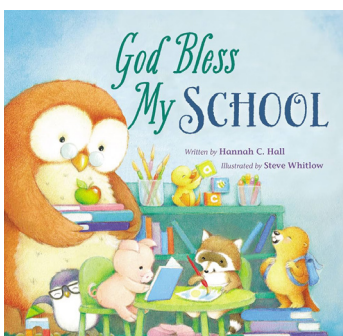
Hang in there people! God is glad to be with us! I'm praying for us all!





ABC Library

School might not be a popular topic with everyone right now, but the new school year is here! The library has many books about school. Some of these books are classics, some provide encouragement, and some are just fun! Some pictures of the covers of a few of those books are shown below. Teachers and students have many different feelings about the start of a new school year, maybe excitement or even anxiety! Hopefully, these books will remind everyone of the joyous parts of school. Pray for our students and teachers as they start school this year. Come by and check out a book!



CONTACT: Rita Ervin

Email library@austinbaptistchurch.com

or visit us online at austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY

LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS

SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE08.09.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP		608
11:15 AM WORSHIP		361
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		782

FINANCIAL REPORT08.09.2026

ACCOUNT	AUG. 09, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND (GENERAL)	\$60,017.98	\$2,922,332.85
DESIGNATED		\$111,929.11
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED		\$729,608.68
TOTAL GIVING	\$99,896.98	\$3,763,870.64

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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