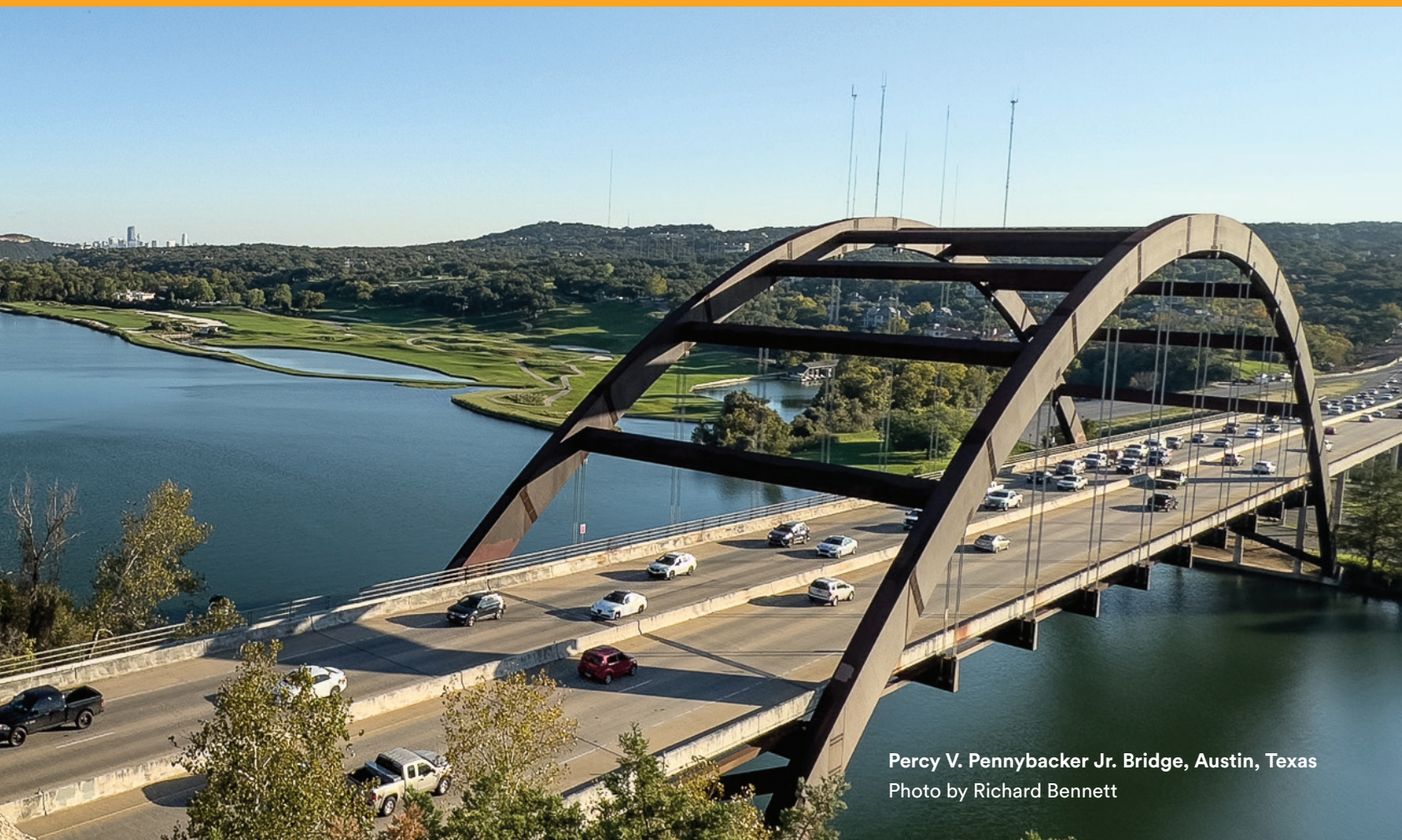


# The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 18 NO. 29

AUGUST 13, 2025



**AUSTIN BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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# A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Our mission at ABC is “to lead people into a life-changing relationship with the Light of the World, Jesus Christ.” Did you know Jesus wants to change your life? He wants lost people to be saved, and the saved to become more like Him. This is why we must always remain focused on the mission of our church. Our ministries, our strategies, and our budget dollars should always be focused on advancing this mission forward together.

This weekend we will have our annual “Vision Sunday.” I look forward to coming back to the basics for one Sunday to review our mission, vision, and core values. As we review these big picture ideas together, we will also pray for God to bring about more life change this Fall through the ministries of ABC. This Sunday will also be themed as our “Back to School” Sunday. I hope you plan to join us as we recognize and pray over our students and teachers in both services.

Invite a friend, and I look forward to seeing you Sunday at 8:45am or 11:15am.

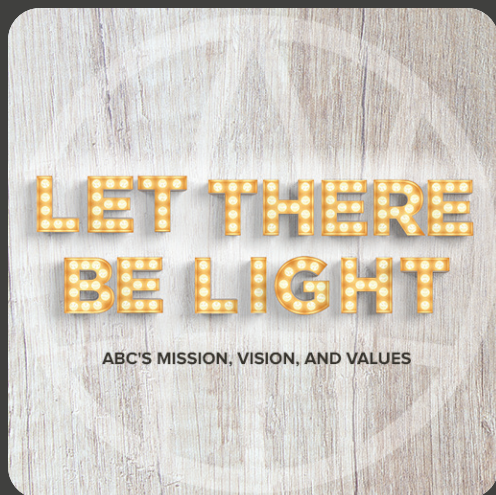
Onward and Upward,

**DR. JONATHAN SPENCER**

**SENIOR PASTOR**







## THIS SUNDAY

### Let There Be Light

ABC's Mission, Vision, and Values

## DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 11, 2025



### Jeff Bonham

512-844-7879



### Jorge Tovar

512-658-3713

JORGE TOVAR spent three years at the University of Texas at Austin before joining UPS, where he has spent 25 years as a feeder driver. He is married to Rachel, Director of ABC Kids. They have a son, Timothy, a daughter, Bethanee, and one grandson, Teddy. They joined ABC in 2009.



# CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025



**Breanna  
Partridge**



**Nick, Crystal, Levi  
& Elijah Wilson**



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**



# EXPENDITURES REPORT

*As of July 31, 2025*

TOTAL GIVEN TO  
**LIGHT THE WAY**  
*Since initiative beginning*

\$4,068,215

## EXPAND THE MISSION

### BAPTIST COMMUNITY CENTER

\$20,700

Backpack program that feeds  
240 children + improvements to  
the facilities

### NAMB SEND L.A. - CHURCH PLANT

\$47,162

Support of local Church  
Planter residency + Seminary  
Scholarships for Church Planters

### LOVE FOR MYANMAR TRAUMA CENTER

\$76,190

Purchase of land for the  
Trauma Center in Yangon

## EXTEND THE MESSAGE

\$461,322

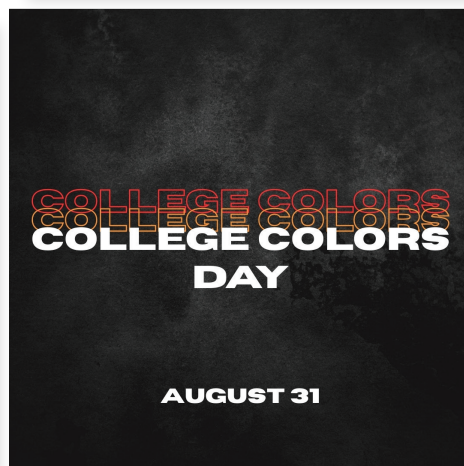
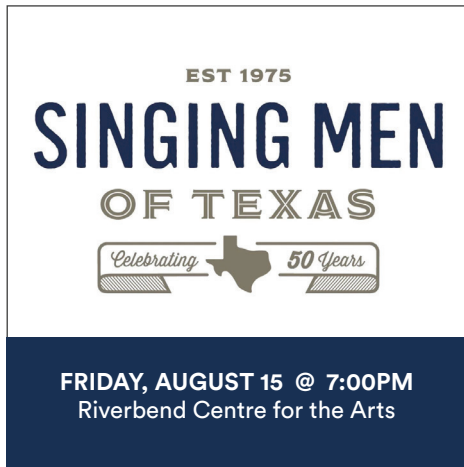
AUDIO, VISUAL & LIGHTING  
EQUIPMENT UPGRADES

## ELIMINATE THE DEBT

\$3,350,038

GIVEN TOWARDS  
DEBT REDUCTION

# UPCOMING EVENTS



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



# STAFF NEWS

AUGUST 13, 2025

## Hello Church Family,

On August 1st, Corbin Smith celebrated his first year on staff at ABC as our Student Minister. Corbin has brought great energy to our team and a devotion to discipling our students well. He has quickly become a vital part of our staff, and it's been a joy to see him shepherding our students toward maturity in Christ. We look forward to what the Lord will continue to do through Corbin in the future. Please take time this week to congratulate him on a great first year!

In Christ's Love,

**DR. MATT GILLUM**

EXECUTIVE PASTOR



ABC KIDS

**PRESCHOOL SPECIAL  
NEEDS MINISTRY**

**LAUNCHES SUNDAY, AUG. 17  
ROOM 131**

We are excited to announce our new Preschool Special Needs Ministry, SOAR, this Sunday, August 17th! This ministry was designed to foster an environment of inclusion that brings Christ's love and value to each person.

We have created a space that will provide a supportive and inclusive atmosphere where young learners can grow and explore. We have a room filled with activities tailored to help each child learn more about Jesus. We are committed to fostering each child's unique potential in a faith-based setting.

Our nurturing preschool program welcomes children with special needs and is available every Sunday during the Bible Fellowship Group hour at 10am or during the 11:15am worship service only.

**All children must complete a registration form in advance for admission into the program so that specific needs can be met.** Space is limited. Sign up and let your little one SOAR with us!

Please reach out to our Director of ABC Kids, Rachel Tovar at [rachel@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:rachel@austinbaptistchurch.com) for more information.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20TH

# MIDWEEK

## FALL SCHEDULE

**5:55 PM**

ABC Kids Choir  
Rooms 143, 144 & 145

**6:15 PM**

Divorce Care  
Room 201

**6:30 PM**

Encounter: Kids  
and Preschool  
Elevate/Uplift Rooms

Help That Hurts  
The Great Hall

Women's Bible Study  
Room 243A/B

**6:30 PM**

Men's Bible Study  
Room 242

Experiencing God  
Room 248

Embrace Grace  
TBD

*Sherlock Jesus:*  
Evangelism Essentials  
Room 240

*Enviados:*  
Spanish Bible Study  
Room 238

AXIS for Students  
Student Ministry Suite

**6:30 PM**

Choir Rehearsals  
Worship Ministry Suite

**7:00 PM**

The Summit Young Adults  
Heritage Hall

**7:30 PM**

Orchestra Rehearsals  
The Worship Center

[austinbaptistchurch.com/MIDWEEK](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/MIDWEEK)

## MIDWEEK MENU

**FIRST MIDWEEK MENU**  
AUGUST 20

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

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** Kids' meal will be chicken strips and french fries every week. Cooked to order, so please be aware of a 10 minute wait. Only for children ages 12 and under.



## ABC Kids Choir

**Begins Wednesday, August 20th @ 5:55pm**

The ABC Kids Choir welcomes all kids in grades Kindergarten-5th for our weekly Midweek choir rehearsal. We use songs, games, and other activities to develop singing and music abilities. Our focus is on the joy of participating in and leading worship! We will meet in **Rooms 143, 144, and 145** in the Kids' wing. Want to join? Sign up at the link below, scan the QR Code, or reach out to our Worship Ministry Associate, Lynn Wood.

Every Wednesday night during ABC Midweek activities, check-in kiosks will open at 5:50pm. Kids are welcome into their classrooms once they have been checked in by a parent. Kids Choir will run from 5:55pm-6:25pm. At the conclusion of rehearsal, kids will be taken to Kids Encounter starting at 6:30pm unless picked up by their parent.



**CONTACT:** Lynn Wood | [lynnw@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:lynnw@austinbaptistchurch.com)

**REGISTER HERE**

## Sherlock Jesus: Evangelism Essentials

**Begins Wednesday, August 20th | Room 240 @ 6:30pm**

Are you a believer of any age wanting to level up in outreach and your personal evangelism? Does God bring people near for conversations, but you feel awkward getting started? Can you receive new information? Can you see with your eyes and hear with your ears? Come learn how to approach evangelism by thinking like Jesus, as if Sherlock Holmes was under the power of the Holy Spirit, solving spiritual mysteries through careful observation and wise understanding about our fellow men and women. There's no cost, no books to read, and only a minimal time commitment, so join us!

**Week 1 Topic:** What do people need to believe to receive the Gospel? *Questions and prompts to remember for instructing the willing seeker.*

**Future weekly topics include:** The 4-point model to understand people's internal POV or spirit life. Top 5 Overlooked & Underrated Ways to Show Love with Evangelism. Good Questions to Use & Re-Use. Apologetic & Bible Study Resources.

**CONTACT:** Thom Kurtz | [thom\\_kurtz@hotmail.com](mailto:thom_kurtz@hotmail.com)





# ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Hello ladies!

I always say, "It's the most wonderful time of the year," because the Women's Ministry is kicking off a brand new season of connection, growth, and fun!

## First up: Picnic & Plug-In

On August 24th from 4-6pm we're kicking off the year with a picnic—indoors, in the cool comfort of the Great Hall. Invite your friends, host a table, and bring along your favorite picnic-style food to share, or simply swing by a drive-thru on your way. The Women's Ministry will provide the tables with white tablecloths, plus a lemonade station, popcorn, and ice cream. Feel free to pick a creative table theme

After our picnic, we'll transition into the Worship Center for a lively skit, worship, and a vision-casting session to help you discover where you can plug in this year to serve and grow in your faith. Want to host a table or register? Click [HERE](#) for details.

## Next: GAIT Bible Studies

Our GAIT Bible studies are back! "GAIT" reflects ABC's core values—Grace, Authenticity, Impact, and Truth—all woven into each study. Starting in August, choose from several new studies that are intentional, welcoming, conversational, fun, and encouraging. The Wednesday night table leaders gathered this last Sunday to prepare for the upcoming semester. We hope to see many of you around the tables sharing in fellowship and God's Word coming up August 20th at 6:30 pm.

No matter your pace or season of life, there's a place for you at the table. See the next page for a list of places for you to get connected. Register today and find your seat! I pray you find your place to plug-in with ABC Women's ministry this year. Please reach out and let me know if you have any questions at [anitam@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:anitam@austinbaptistchurch.com).



With love,

**ANITA MCGINNIS**  
WOMEN'S MINISTER

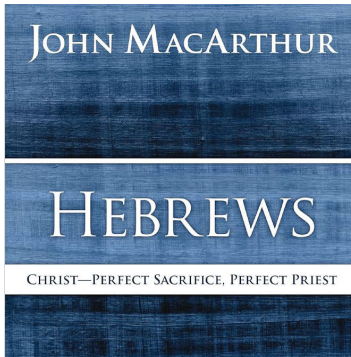


# ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

## FALL 2025 GAIT BIBLE STUDIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ANITA MCGINNIS

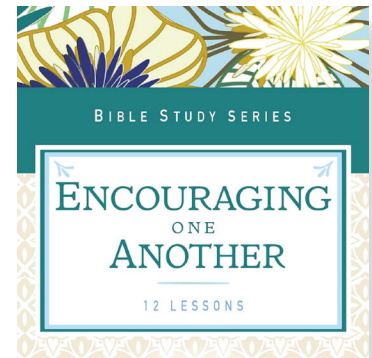


### INDUCTIVE: HEBREWS - MONDAYS & TUESDAYS

Join Marcia Furrow for this semester's inductive study into the book of Hebrews. Study for **Mondays** begins **August 25th at 6:30pm**; **Tuesdays** begin **August 26th at 9:30am**; and **Tuesday evenings via Zoom** will begin **August 26th at 6:30pm**. Please note the date changes from last week. *No childcare will be provided.*

### TOPICAL & DISCUSSION: WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30PM

Join Anita McGinnis and our table leaders beginning **Wednesday, August 20th**, for ***Encouraging One Another***, a Bible study on how God lifts us up and how we can do the same for others. This study deals with issues that women wrestle with today, such as friendship, encouragement, managing moods, finding contentment, and how to live out your faith. One verse, so much depth! *Childcare for all ages will be available through our Midweek Children and Youth Ministry programming.*



### MENTORSHIP: MOMQ - THURSDAYS @ 9:45AM

Join Ginger Tew and her mentoring moms beginning **Thursday, September 4th**, as they study ***Building a Stronger Family***. MomQ is an intergenerational community designed to encourage and support women in their roles as mothers. This study and small group time exist to equip mothers with the spiritual intelligence needed to build strong families and raise children of character. You will find a place to connect, encourage, and support each other through the journey of motherhood.

Register for any one of these studies at [austinbaptistchurch.com/womensbiblestudies](https://austinbaptistchurch.com/womensbiblestudies)

# From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

When my sister and I were in our early teens, my mother thought it would be a good idea to give us some diverse and character building experiences, so she worked it out with a family friend who had just bought a tomato farm for us to help with the harvest. The farm was in Walland, Tennessee between Pigeon Forge and Maryville (pronounced “Murvul” by the locals). The tomatoes were headed for the cannery so we had to pick them when they were just starting to ripen so they could continue to ripen on the truck and not spoil before they got there. The owner told us, “Turn the green tomato over before picking it and see if there is a red/pink star on the bottom.” This seemed easy enough to me. So, I was assigned a row and given a five-gallon bucket to fill just like the 20 or so migrant pickers. When the bucket was full, a runner would come down my row, pick it up, and take it to the truck. By the way, I was much slower than the migrant workers who were experts and very fast. There were about 20 Hispanic workers who lived in one mobile home on the farm for the harvest season before they would move on to live at the next farm to pick another crop. They were very hard workers, and they were very kind to me and my sister. They shared their homemade burritos with us at lunch time. The burritos were so spicy and hot that they chuckled at us gringos when we asked for water (¡Agua, por favor!). As we were picking, the owner asked, “Who is picking the green tomatoes?” I thought this was funny because they all looked green to me except for the red/pink star on the bottom. Well, they followed the buckets back the next round and identified me as the “green picker,” because all my stars were green, not red. It was at that moment I realized that I was red/green color blind. Guess who became the bucket carrier? Yep, the harvesters would yell, “Bucket!” and I would run down the row with an empty bucket and exchange it for the full one, which I then took to the tractor-trailer truck and handed it up to the one who poured them gently in. The days were hot, so after a day of picking we would go to the cold mountain water of Walland Creek nearby to cool off before heading home to eat, sleep, and do it again the next day. After some days of bucket carrying, the owner decided it was a better idea to send me and my sister to the farmers market to generate another income stream by selling the tomatoes too ripe for the truck. I think the real reason was because about ten more workers had arrived from another farm and we were picking much too slowly and hindering the operation.

The Apostle Paul encouraged the early church to keep going, keep picking good things to do, and keep choosing to live right so they could enjoy a harvest of real life and true blessings from God. He says to the Galatian church, “Don’t be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up” (Galatians 6:7-9 NLT). It is our connection with the Spirit of God that changes who we are and how we live, so we can enjoy the blessings that come from those changes.

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

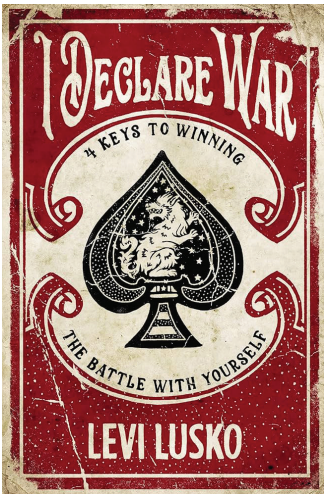
In His Joy,  
**BILL MCGINNIS**  
PASTOR OF CARE







# ABC Library



## ***I Declare War: 4 Keys to Winning The Battle With Yourself***

by Levi Lusko

Levi Lusko is the founder and lead pastor of Fresh Life Church in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and “everywhere” online. He is the author of books and devotionals for adults and children. He co-hosts a podcast with his wife, Jennie, called, *Hey It's the Luskos*. He and his wife have one son, four daughters, and one daughter in heaven. “Levi travels the world speaking about Jesus.”

In *I Declare War*, Lusko says, “Whether you recognize it or not, you’re at war with yourself.” He shares his struggle with moodiness, bullying, suicidal thoughts, night terrors, and difficulty managing himself. He hopes this book will help you to win the battles within yourself. The title has four syllables I / De / Clare / War; each syllable becomes a section of the book. Lusko urges you to write down the things that hold you back from overcoming your difficulties and your declaration of war on those things. The four sections of the book are Card 1: Declare War On What You Think - Your Thought Life Impacts All Of Your Life; Card 2: Declare War On What You Say - What You Say Determines What You See; Card 3: Declare War On What You Do - Decisions You Repeat Will Form The Life You Lead, and the last section which Lusko says is the most important of all; Card 4: Phantom Power (What You Have) - The Help You Need To Win This War. These four sections identify, “four weapons you have at your disposal and ...illustrate how to use them to achieve victory.” Lusko emphasizes the memorization of scripture at his church and at the end of the book lists scriptures to memorize. He says, “It’s time to stop being your own worst enemy. Declare war and become the person, the spouse, the parent, and the leader God intends you to be.”

### **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

ATTENDANCE08.10.2025

8:45 AM WORSHIP	.....	567
11:15 AM WORSHIP	.....	369
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	.....	782

FINANCIAL REPORT08.10.2025

ACCOUNT	AUG. 10, 2025	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$55,957.77	\$3,452,802.97
DESIGNATED	\$600.00	\$100,147.50
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$137,302.00	\$1,199,304
TOTAL GIVING	\$143,614.12	\$4,558,394.81

## 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)**

### **FOR PUBLICATION CONSIDERATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Mariah Parker, Director of Communications

- **EMAIL:** **[mariahp@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:mariahp@austinbaptistchurch.com)**
- **CALL:** **512.334.8247**

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



**7016 RIBELIN RANCH DR. AUSTIN, TX, 78750**