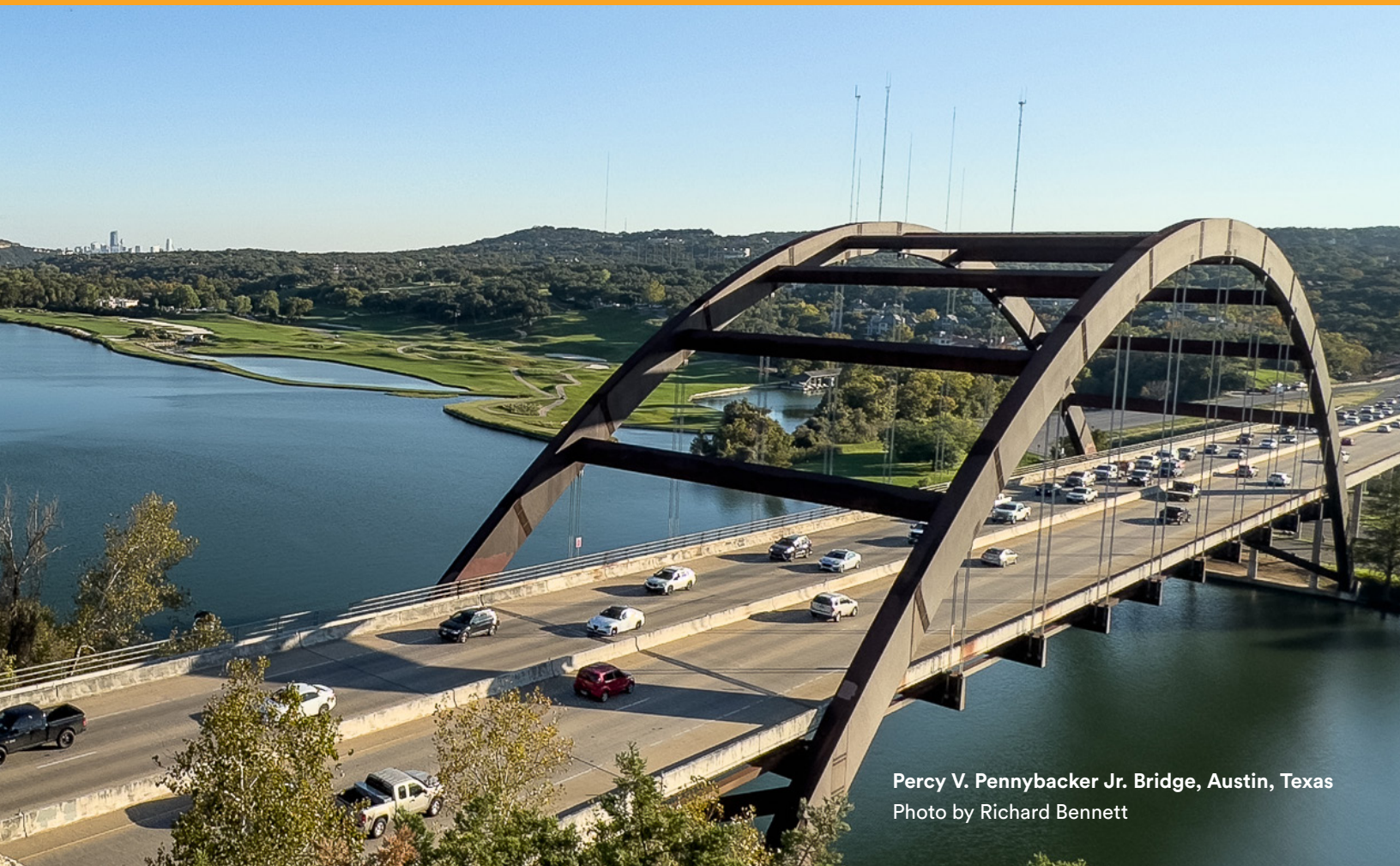


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 31

AUGUST 19, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Hebrews 6:19 says, *“We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain.”* Storms will come in our lives, but Jesus is always our steadfast anchor. As we cling to Him, He begins to calm the waves in our hearts and minds.

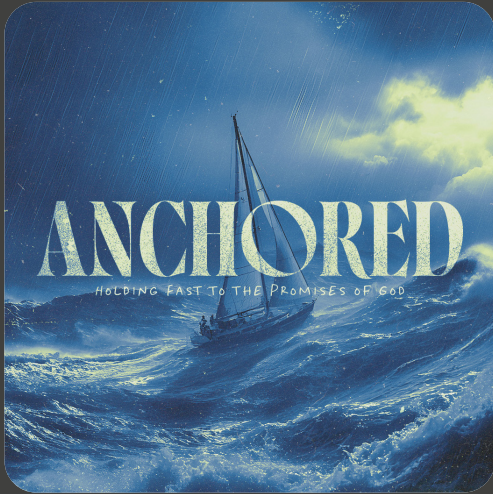
This Sunday I will begin a new sermon series called “Anchored.” For the next six weeks, we will study six big promises Jesus has given to His church. As we cling to these promises, we will be renewed with hope through the power of His word. This Sunday we will look at perhaps the most comforting promise of all, “He is with us always.”

Midweek returns this week! Now is the time to connect and plant roots at ABC. Visit a BFG this Sunday and recharge on Wednesdays. We would love to grow with you this fall semester. I look forward to seeing you at 8:45am or 11:15am.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER
SENIOR PASTOR





UPCOMING SERIES

Anchored

Holding Fast to the Promises of God

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 17, 2026



Larry Hart

512-632-1591



John Rausch

281-814-4819

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026



**Dawud & Jessica
Beyah**



**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/Legacy
Room 247 / 248 / 240

*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

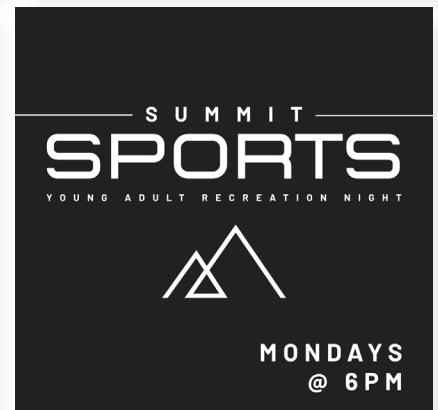
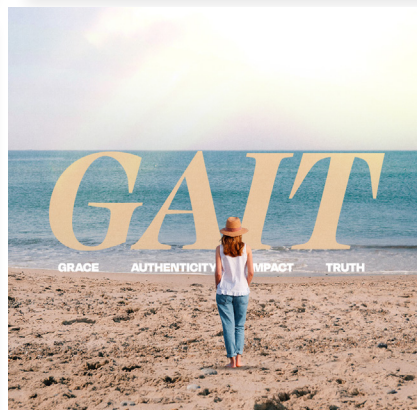
Orchestra Rehearsal
The Worship Center

MIDWEEK

KICKOFF ON AUG 19TH

CLASSES BEGIN
AUG 26TH

WEEKLY REMINDERS



MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
AUGUST 26

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

Chicken fried chicken, mashed potatoes,
mac & cheese, 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!

We're getting closer to ***Step Into the Story***, and we'd love for you to be part of this special evening coming up on Sunday, August 30th, beginning at 5:00pm!

We'll share the vision for the year ahead, enjoy dinner together, worship, laugh, and give you a chance to find your perfect fit to grow, connect, and serve with other ABC Women.

You won't want to miss hearing about the two exciting new areas of ministry we'll be introducing! They're opportunities you'll want to invite your friends to. You may even discover something new along the way. Come find out what they're all about!

Please register by this Sunday, August 23rd, so we can have enough food for everyone. If you've been meaning to sign up—now's the time!

While you're registering, take a look at our fall Bible studies and find one that fits you. Whether you're ready to dive into Scripture, meet new women, or simply take your next step, there's a place for you.

Come Step Into the Story with us—we can't wait to see you!

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...

REGISTER FOR THE KICKOFF HERE!

GRACE AUTHENTICITY IMPACT TRUTH

REGISTER FOR WOMEN'S BIBLE
STUDIES HERE



COME JOIN US FOR
MERRY CHRISTMAS, Y'ALL!

Austin Baptist Church Choir & Orchestra are gearing up for a **special Christmas presentation in 2026**, and we want YOU to be part of it!

We're inviting singers and instrumentalists to join us as we prepare to share the Good News of the Gospel through music this Christmas season. Whether you've been part of the choir or orchestra before or would love to join us for the first time, we'd love to have you!

- **Kickoff:** Sunday, September 13
- **5:00–7:00 PM**
- **Choir Room**
- **Western wear, hats & boots encouraged!**

Come ready to have some fun, fellowship, and begin preparing for a wonderful Christmas season of worship and ministry.

Let's make a joyful noise, and share the Good News of Jesus this Christmas!

We hope you'll join us!

DR. TODD F. STEARNS
WORSHIP PASTOR



agape
women's clinic

ATTENTION

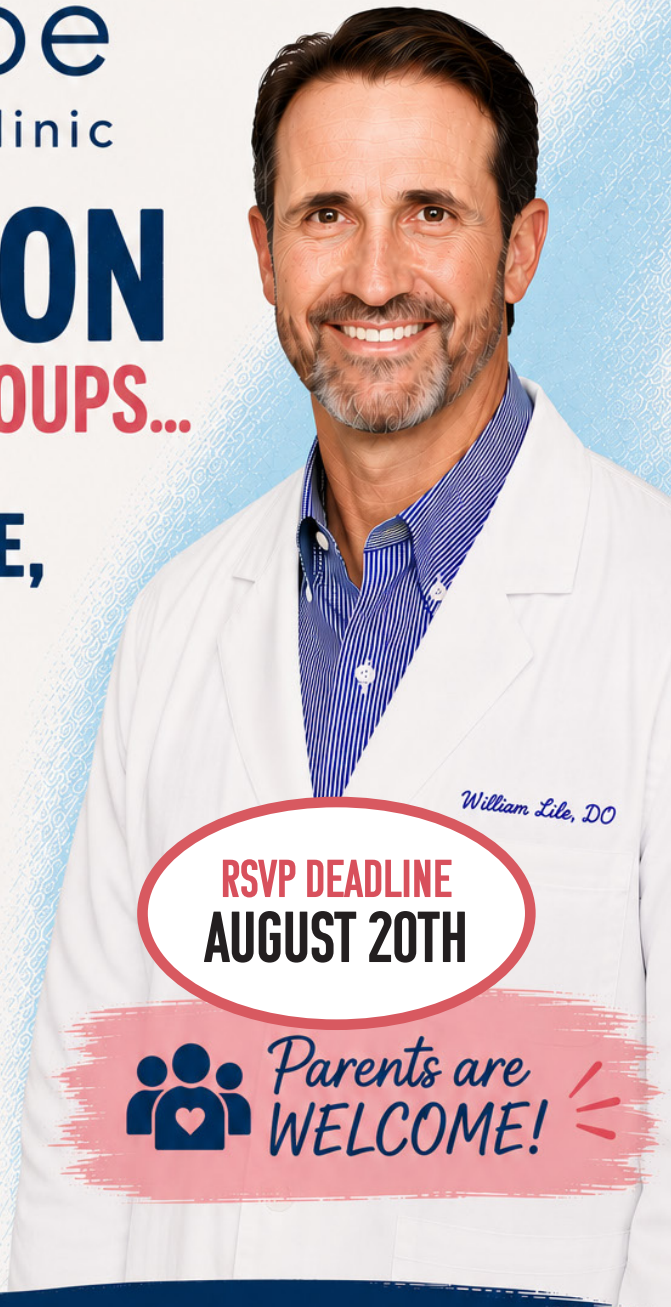
LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS...

DR. WILLIAM LILE,

the Pro-Life Doc,
will be in Round Rock on

**WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 26TH**

the day before Agape's
23rd Annual "*Pardners for
Life*" Banquet to speak
to local youth (middle-high
school) to share his
"*Abortion is Not Healthcare*"
tour info and the truth
about protecting life!



**RSVP DEADLINE
AUGUST 20TH**



*Parents are
WELCOME!*



DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

Bring your youth group and be encouraged,
equipped, and empowered to stand for life!



**WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 26TH
7:00-8:15 PM**



**CENTRAL BAPTIST
CHURCH**

301 N Lake Creek Dr,
Round Rock, TX 78681



Questions or to RSVP, contact Anastasia@agapewomensclinic.org

GOD'S CONTINUED WORK IN **Pasadena, California**

We are so thankful for Austin Baptist Church's partnership in our recent Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway!

By God's grace, we had a strong turnout and we were able to gift backpacks filled with school supplies to families in our community. More importantly, the outreach event gave us opportunities to build relationships and share the gospel with people who may not otherwise have walked through the doors of our church. One young man named Myles, who recently graduated from high school, attended church for the first time in his life. He heard the gospel preached and afterward asked questions about Jesus. We also met a father who came with his girlfriend and their four children. He had never attended a Protestant church before, and we were able to spend a significant amount of time talking with him about the gospel of grace.

We are praying that the Lord will use the seeds planted that day and give us opportunities to continue building relationships with these individuals and families. Our desire is not simply to meet a temporary need, but to make disciples and see people come to know and follow Christ here in Pasadena. We are incredibly grateful to Austin Baptist Church for sending a team to help us canvass the neighborhood and distribute flyers in preparation for the event. Your partnership helped make this outreach event possible, and we thank God for your investment in the work He is doing through Gospel of Christ Church. Please pray with us that the Lord would bring lasting spiritual fruit from these new relationships!

In Christ Alone,

DEREK BERRY

PASTOR OF GOSPEL OF CHRIST CHURCH, PASADENA



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

One time, when we had four kids under the age of five, Anita had gone on a women's retreat and left all four of our little angels with me. How we survived was only by the grace of God. I had kept them by myself for two days, but not very well. At the end of the two days, Anita walked in the door smiling in the afterglow from the wonderful weekend of spiritual blessings, physical rest, and social connections. I was so done at that moment, I was no longer able to "use my words." So, without a word, no greeting, no "how was your weekend?", no "I'm so glad you are home!" I simply handed her a diaper and the wipes that I had been carrying around for 30 minutes and the smallest child in great need of a change. I walked out the door, jumped on my bike and rode for about an hour before I could "find my words" again. I had had about all of my little blessings I could stand. It was a great opportunity for me to realize what a great mother Anita is. She used to keep them for days on end without complaining a bit. However, after two long, hard days of being home together, I was ready to "lay hands on" my children, but not to bless them like Jesus. They were really pretty good kids most of the time, but after many hours together with no breaks, we were all pretty ill with each other. I was so tired, I had lost sight of the fact that those years were short, even if the days were long. When there were dirty diapers, spilled milk, crayon drawings on the wall, and I had just pierced a hole in my foot with another one of those "cursed Legos!", I needed to remember that these times were like the marble that one of them swallowed, because "this too shall pass." When I was ready to have a "come to Jesus" meeting, I needed to remember how much Jesus loves us all, holds us in His arms, lays hands on us and blesses us. Thank goodness our kids turned out to be better adults than me, because of Jesus and their mother.

Jesus loves all His children well. Mark 10:13-16 tells us, *"People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' After taking them in his arms, he laid his hands on them and blessed them"* (CSB).

So, if you are still parenting (or grandparenting), and you are ready to lay hands on the little cherubs, just bring them to Jesus in prayer. Let Him remind you that they are so precious in His sight and how much He loves them.

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



COME CHECK OUT THE ABC LIBRARY!

The Austin Baptist Church library is open on Wednesday evenings during Midweek from 5:00pm to 7:30pm and on Sunday mornings from 9:45am to 11:15am. The online library catalog is available at austinbaptistchurch.com/library. We have over 4,000 items in the collection just waiting to be checked out!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

We're looking for more volunteers in the library! If you have an interest in helping out, please contact Rita Ervin at raervin1@sbcglobal.net.

CONTACT: Rita Ervin

Email library@austinbaptistchurch.com

or visit us online at austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY

LIBRARY HOURS

SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM

WEDNESDAYS - 5:00PM-7:30PM

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM: austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS: austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG

ABC PODCASTS: austinbaptistchurch.com/PODCASTS

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE08.16.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP		596
11:15 AM WORSHIP		454
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		813

FINANCIAL REPORT08.16.2026

ACCOUNT	AUG. 16, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND (GENERAL)	\$70,016.73	\$2,992,710.97
DESIGNATED		\$113,469.11
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED		\$729,608.68
TOTAL GIVING	\$74,646.73	\$3,838,878.76

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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