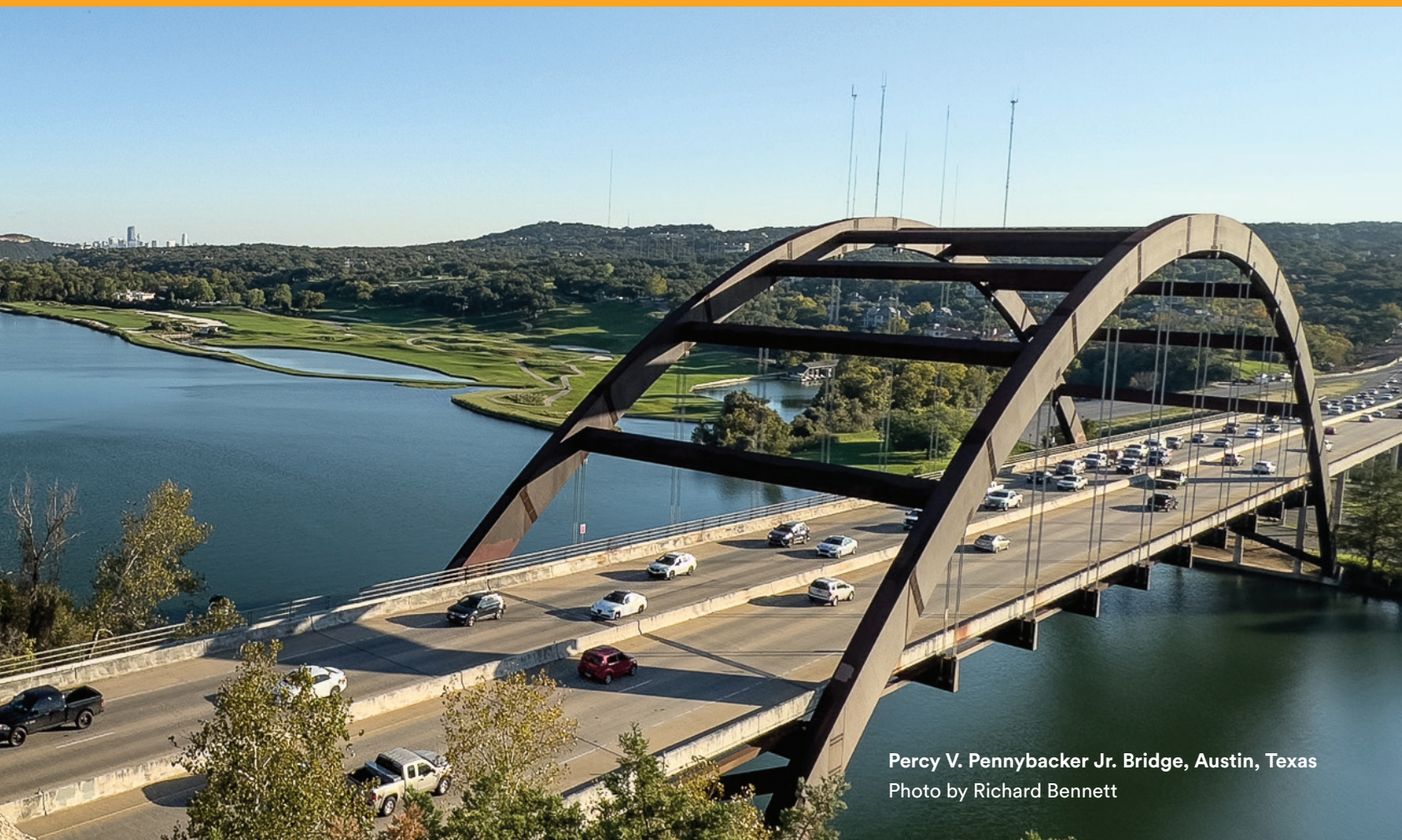


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 18 NO. 30 ————— AUGUST 20, 2025



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

I'm looking forward to seeing you this Sunday as we kick off our new sermon series, "The One Anothers." The Bible teaches that we do not just go to church, but we are the church. The Spirit of God dwells in each of us, and we are united by the same confession of Jesus Christ. As Christ-followers, the Scriptures provide instruction for how we should interact with one another as His church.

Did you know the New Testament has over 50 "one another" commandments? These commandments shine light on what it looks like to live in Biblical community. For the next six weeks, we will examine six of the most important "one another" commandments, starting with the biggest one: "love one another." I hope you plan to join us this weekend for a special Lord's Supper Sunday.

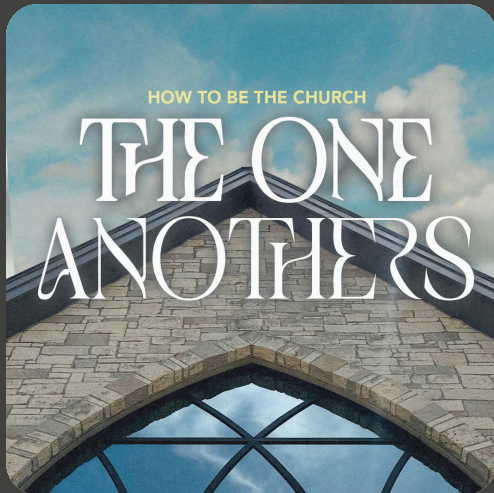
Don't forget Midweek is back Wednesday nights! Come experience the life of our church at 5:30pm for dinner and 6:30pm for classes with all ages. Go *be* the church this week and invite a friend to join you at 8:45am or 11:15am.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER

SENIOR PASTOR





UPCOMING SERIES

The One Others

How To *Be* The Church

DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 18, 2025



Hayden Gilbert

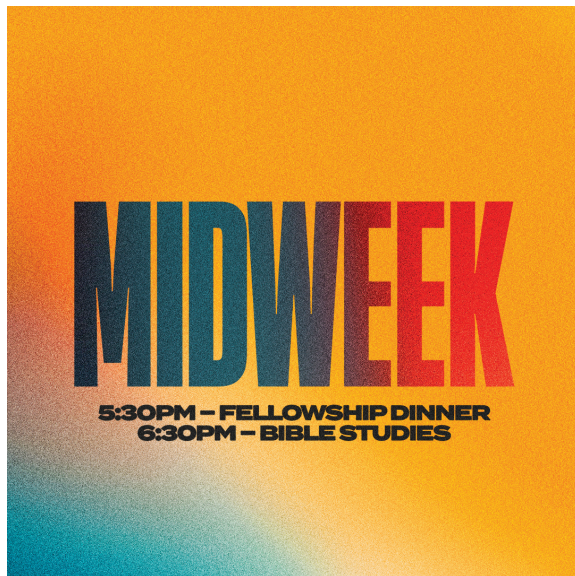
512-839-3662



Robert Walters

512-922-9368

UPCOMING EVENTS



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



ABC KIDS
**PRESCHOOL SPECIAL
NEEDS MINISTRY**

**SUNDAYS @ 10AM AND 11:15AM
ROOM 131**

We are excited to announce our new Preschool Special Needs Ministry, **SOAR**! 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 for more information.



little lights preschool

AT FOUR POINTS

Austin Baptist Church

SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION!

Little Lights Preschool is looking forward to another great school year for 2025-2026! If you or someone you know has a preschool-aged child, consider enrolling at Little Lights!

Eby Whatley

DIRECTOR OF LITTLE LIGHTS PRESCHOOL

ebyw@austinbaptistchurch.com

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
Room 202

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
ABC Library open from 5pm-7:30pm

MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
AUGUST 27

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

Grilled chicken, mashed potato, corn,
bread roll, and salad bar

Please note that Midweek dinner will now be served in The Café.
Seating for dinner will still be in The Great Hall until 6:30pm.



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE



Hello ladies!

If you've been thinking about joining us for the *Picnic & Plug-In* this Sunday but haven't registered yet—this is your sign! We'd love for you to be there, and it helps us so much to know you're coming ahead of time. As I always say, we will have a seat at the table for you!

This special kickoff is all about gathering the women of ABC for a night of connection, encouragement, and fun. We'll begin with an indoor picnic in the Great Hall, complete with a few new surprises like our refreshing Lemonade Station! Then we'll head to the Worship Center for a skit, vision message, uplifting worship, and ways to get plugged in this year.

It's the perfect time to enjoy fellowship with friends, meet new faces, and discover how you can grow in your walk with the Lord while serving alongside others at ABC.

Don't forget—GAIT Bible studies are starting soon! Whether you're looking for an inductive study, a topical focus, or a group for moms, we have a study that fits your season of life. Every group is intentional, authentic, and centered on God's Word. There's no better way to grow in faith and friendship than by studying Scripture together.

So go ahead—register today for the *Picnic & Plug-In* and find your place in a Bible study. My prayer is that both will be a source of encouragement, community, and deeper love for God's Word.

With love,

ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER



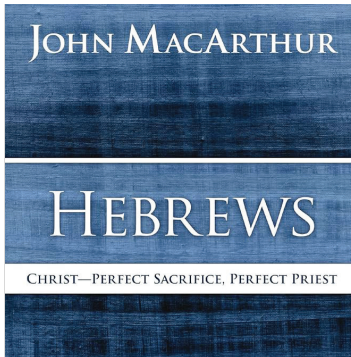


ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

FALL 2025 GAIT BIBLE STUDIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ANITA MCGINNIS

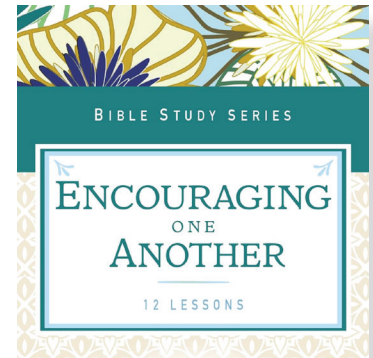


INDUCTIVE: HEBREWS - MONDAYS & TUESDAYS

Join Marcia Furrow for this semester's inductive study into the book of Hebrews. The study on **Mondays begins August 25th at 6:30pm**; **Tuesday mornings 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



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 musical 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 welcomed 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

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 minimal time commitment, so join us!

August 27th - Week 2 Topic: The 4-point model to understand people's internal POV or spiritual life.

Future weekly topics include: 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



Understanding that missions is what believers do to reach beyond the needs of their congregations to witness and minister for the purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission, WMU of Texas designed the Mary Hill Davis Offering® to advance Texas Baptists missions in leading people to know Christ and developing a missional lifestyle.

WE ARE TEXAS MISSIONS

MARY HILL DAVIS OFFERING® FOR TEXAS MISSIONS | IAMTEXASMISSIONS.ORG

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFTS

Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions

\$5 provides a new Bible for a family on the border.

\$15 provides food for the homeless in Houston, Texas.

\$50 provides a one-on-one counseling session for a discouraged pastor.

Give online at iamtexasmissions.org/give

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WMU of Texas

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WMU of Texas

WEEK OF PRAYER
FOR TEXAS MISSIONS

SEPTEMBER 14-21, 2025

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook



Almost a train wreck! Once, when I was a young driver, my mind was doing what teens with undiagnosed ADHD do. My 1967 Convertible Mustang was all over the place! I was in traffic and late for something to which I should have left 15 minutes earlier. Because I thought I owned the road I had no doubt I could outsmart any traffic. I quickly decided to take an alternative route, thinking it would be faster. But NOPE! There was even more traffic on this street. Eager to make it through the next stop light, I didn't notice the rather large sign that said, "Danger, Do Not Stop on Tracks!" Of course, the light turned yellow, and I was shouting at the cars in

front of me to keep going through the intersection. However, those drivers were also stuck in traffic. So, there I was, front tires on one side of the tracks and back tires on the other. Then, much like in a movie, the lights began flashing, the safety arms came down, and there I was right in the middle of the rails! I looked to my right, and there was the train headed towards me. The train horn blared, and I panicked. As the train approached, I had no place to go. I could only move forward or reverse in the bumper-to-bumper traffic. The safety arms in front and back seemed to hold me in place as the metal serpent slowly slithered toward me. Granted, it was a slow-moving train (which was fortunate for me, or I would not be here to tell you this story), but it was moving nonetheless. Each yard that it came closer, I imagined my life as a slow-motion train wreck... being folded into my convertible like a metal taco. At the last moment, inching forward and backward, I was able to drive off the tracks just enough to not be hit by the train. The train operator was none too happy with me, blaring the horn as the 1000 tons of steel missed my little car by inches. I arrived at my destination with no blood on my face, but humiliated, late, and shaky.

King Solomon, sharing his divinely gifted wisdom, says, "Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor" (Proverbs 18:12 ESV). God has always been faithful to humble me when my arrogance begins to rise. Though often it involves devastating embarrassment and sometimes bodily injury, I am grateful, because at least it keeps me from running headlong into destruction and it shows me how much He loves me. The writer of Hebrews says, "And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: 'My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son'" (Hebrews 12:5-6 NIV-GK). We can be thankful when we are headed for a train wreck and God humbles us and takes us off the tracks.

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

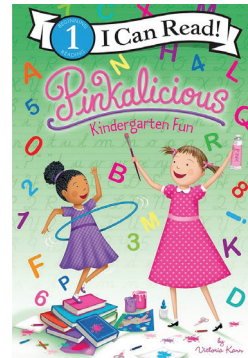
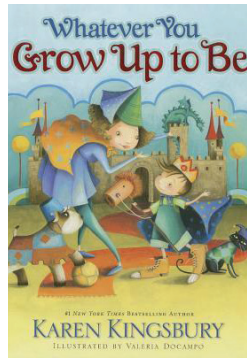
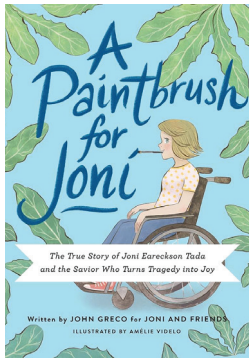
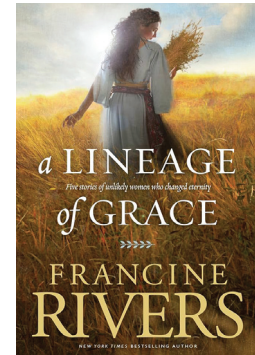
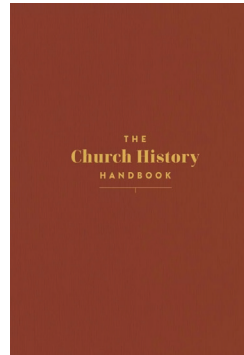
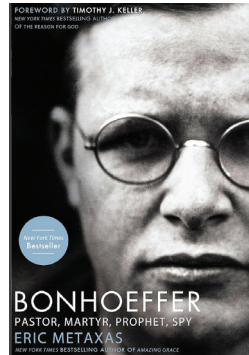
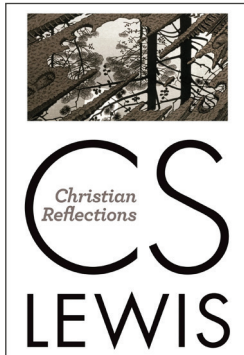
In His Joy,
BILL MCGINNIS
PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library

Starting this week, the library is once again open on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 to 7:30pm.
Below are a few of the books that have been added to the library this summer.



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



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

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE08.17.2025

8:45 AM WORSHIP	647
11:15 AM WORSHIP	371
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	876

FINANCIAL REPORT08.17.2025

ACCOUNT	AUG. 17, 2025	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$73,657.13	\$3,526,460.10
DESIGNATED	\$2,362.00	\$102,509.50
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$29,315.68	\$1,228,619.79
TOTAL GIVING	\$105,334.81	\$4,857,589.39

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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