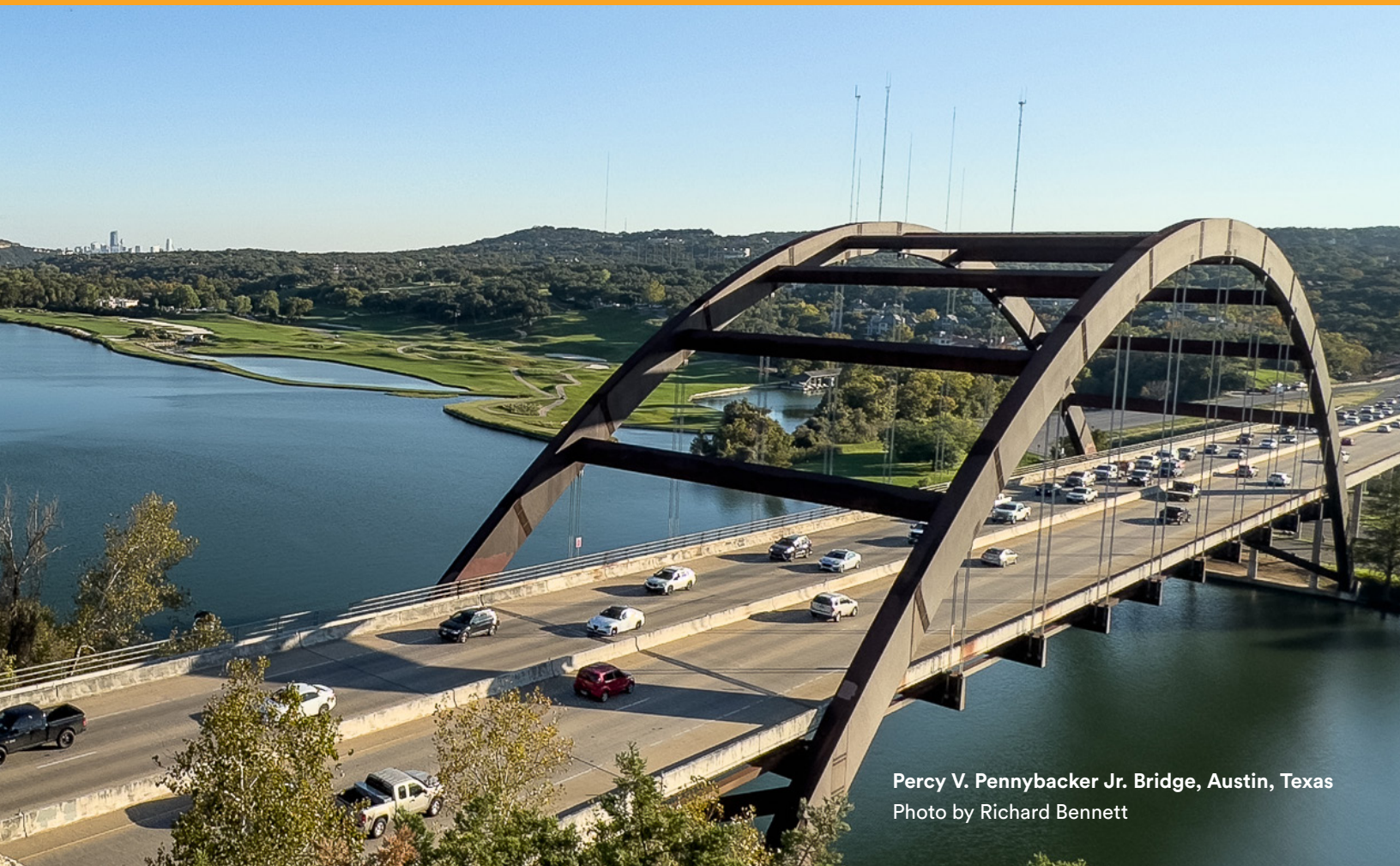


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 32

AUGUST 26, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Last Sunday, we were reminded that Jesus is always with us (Matthew 28:20). Storms will come in this life, but we can rest assured knowing the Spirit of God is always in us and with us. God is our refuge (Psalm 46:1), and His church serves as a spirit-filled city on a hill we can turn to (Matthew 5:14).

While we are never alone, the reality is God's people do feel lonely at times. In this week's Citizen ATX podcast episode, we talk about that tension. We kicked off a new podcast series titled, "Things Jesus Did Not Say." On Sundays, we are highlighting anchor verses we can hold fast to. During the week, we are highlighting things Jesus did not actually say, but sometimes we deceive ourselves into believing He did.

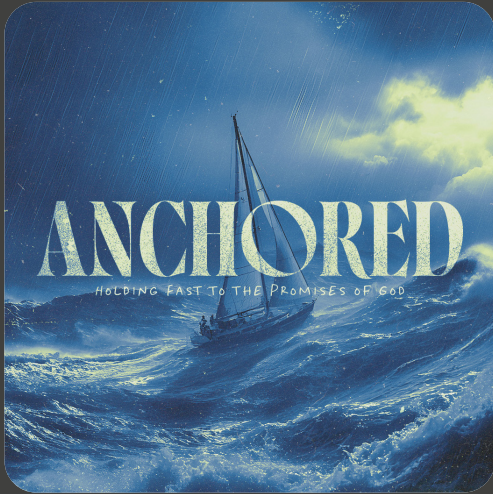
For instance, while Jesus promised we would never be alone, He did not promise that we will never feel lonely. Most of the heroes of the faith in scripture went through desert seasons and dealt with those feelings. How do we navigate through that and find connection when we feel alone? You can engage in the conversation by going to the podcast channel. The new episode is online at the link [here](#).

This Sunday we will shift our focus to a second key promise Jesus has given us: "*No one can snatch us from His hand*" (John 10:28). 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





CURRENT 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 24, 2026



Jim Deis
512-788-2628



Bill Love
512-413-1040

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026



**Chip & Laurie
Fichtner**

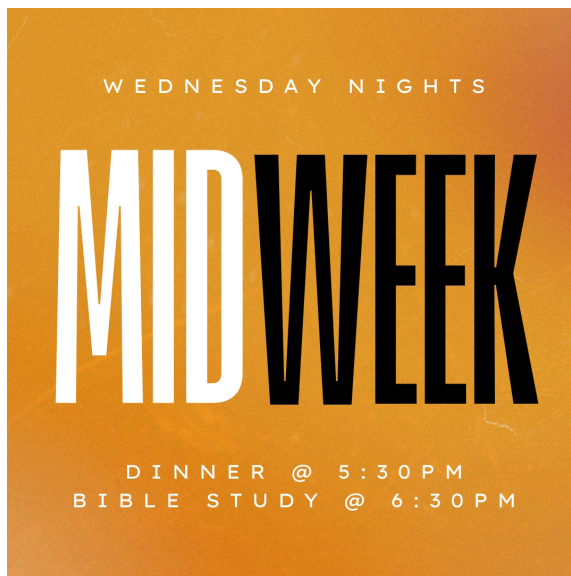


**LIGHT UP
YOUR *Life***

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

Regular fall schedule resumes tonight, August 26th.

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

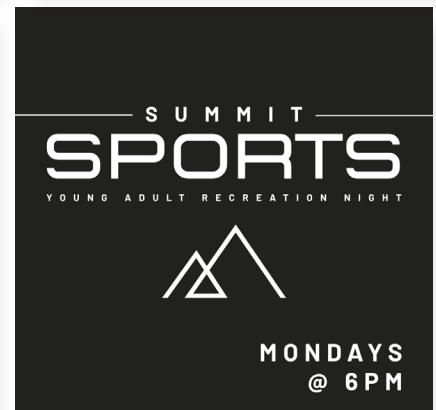
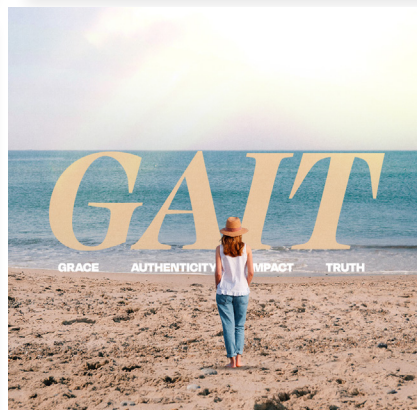
7:30 PM

Orchestra Rehearsal
The Worship Center

MIDWEEK

KICKOFF ON AUG 19TH
CLASSES BEGIN
AUG 26TH

WEEKLY REMINDERS



MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
SEPTEMBER 2

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

Beef soft tacos (corn & flour tortillas), rice,
beans, guacamole, and chips

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!

Our caterer has graciously given us a little more time. If you had trouble registering for *Step Into the Story: Women's Fall Kickoff*, you now have until **Thursday, August 27th, at noon!**

If you've been putting it off, wondering if you should come...well, here's your sign!

I'm not sure how many more ways I can say it or spin it, but I really do believe it's going to be a fun and meaningful night. We'll laugh, connect, worship, and hear about the many ways you can make an impact through ABC Women.

No matter what chapter your story is in right now, there is a place for you. Maybe your next step is to:

- **Connect** — find community and build meaningful friendships.
- **Grow** — deepen your relationship with Christ.
- **Serve** — use the gifts and experiences God has given you to make a difference.

Wherever you are and whatever chapter you're in, there's a place for you in the story. So slow down, say yes, and take a step into God's story. We'd love to have you with us!

Stepping in,

ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER



Register Here
...and step into the story!



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

TEXAS MISSIONS OFFERING

2026 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR TEXAS MISSIONS

State Missions Goal: \$3.5 Million

I am the way, and the
truth, and the life.
– John 14:6 ESV



SPEAK
JESUS

WEEK OF PRAYER

SEPTEMBER
13-20, 2026

IAMTEXASMISSIONS.ORG • WMUTX.ORG

Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

As a sociology major in undergrad, personality inventories like the Myers-Briggs, DISC, and the MMPI have always been interesting to me. Though there are nearly infinite possibilities of personality traits, we humans seem to want a handle on how people typically behave or act in our world. We all have positive traits, but our negative traits can quickly reveal our fallenness. I took an inventory one time that put me into a category called the “The Enthusiast.” Apparently, we “Enthusiasts” respond to the challenges of our world by attempting to spin everything toward the positive, make everything fun, and keep people happy. We want people to see and experience the “upside”. We also, apparently, avoid negative feelings like the plague by running away to try as many fun new experiences as possible. One famous “Enthusiast” is children’s author E.B. White, who wrote *Charlotte’s Web* and *Stuart Little* among others. He is quoted as saying, “I get up every morning determined both to change the world and have a (expletive) of a good time. Sometimes this makes planning my day difficult.” Supposedly we enthusiasts are consistently inconsistent as we try to change the world for the better and have fun doing it. Sometimes it’s hard for us to focus because we are endlessly scanning the horizon for the next new, exciting thing, leaving some projects unfinished that are no longer exciting to us. Like gift wrapping Jell-O, we can be hard to pin down. As you can imagine, education or situations that require focus and putting our noses to the grindstone and finishing a task can be a challenge. (Though somehow, by God’s grace, He ushered me through three academic degrees. Though for one of them, I took a semester off to have fun and work at the World’s Fair in New Orleans.) I’m so grateful that God makes us a new creation and changes us when we become “one of His.” He takes the worst traits of our personality and makes us into new and whole creations, redeeming us for His great work as ambassadors for His Kingdom. As God continues to change me, He reminds me that a consistent, committed relationship with Him brings stability and peace to my life. He is sufficient for me.

Regardless of what category an inventory puts you in, God loves you and sees you for who you really are, and better yet, for who He created you to be in Christ. When we are redeemed, He sees us as untainted by our sin, our shortcomings, or our feeble attempts to respond in this fallen world. Paul reminds us of who we now are, the best expression of the person God made us to be, without the negative manifestations from our sinful nature. He says, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation”* - 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (CSB).

In difficult times we can be tempted to self-protect and respond to this world from the worst of our personality traits. However, we need to let God’s Spirit and His Word remind us of who we really are in Him.

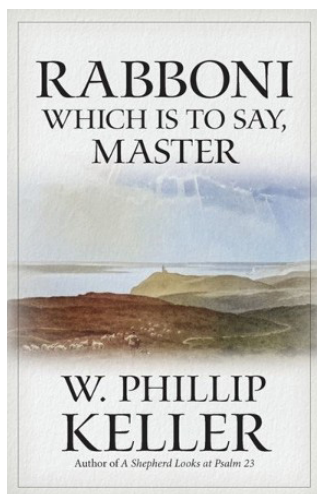
Hang in there people! God is glad to be with us!
I’m praying for us all!

In His Joy,
BILL MCGINNIS
PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



***Rabboni: Which is to Say, Master* by W. Phillip Keller**

W. Phillip Keller was the son of missionaries and raised in Kenya. He studied agriculture and animal husbandry in Toronto, Canada. Keller and his wife owned a sheep ranch in Canada, where he became recognized as an expert in raising sheep. After they lost their sheep ranch to the Canadian government, they moved to Kenya to serve the Maasai people. Keller's experience in land management helped to restore over-grazed and eroded pasture lands. The Kellers later returned to Canada because of poor health. Keller became an expert wildlife photographer and wrote a book about African land conservation. Later on, he started writing books about the things God had taught him. Keller has written fifty books. His best-known book is ***A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23***.

Rabboni...Which Is To Say, Master has forty-seven chapters. Keller lets the reader know that he is a layman without seminary training. The book begins with a page on which there is the definition of Rabboni; "My teacher, my master, the one for whom I hold the very highest esteem." He writes a biography of Jesus' life. The first chapter, *Before the Earth Was*, starts with Christ's role in Creation, emphasizing that before the earth existed, Jesus existed. The last chapter, *The Conqueror Returns*, points to the promise that Jesus will return in visible form and that every eye will see Him, every knee will bow before Him and every tongue will confess Him as Lord. Keller says that he has written this book about Jesus even though there are many other books about His life because, "...in dealing with Jesus Christ we are dealing with the greatest person to appear on the world's stage: He is the Almighty, the Infinite God, the One who is from eternity to eternity and who is therefore inexhaustible. ... At best all that any author can do is to portray in faltering fashion his own picture of the Christ from his personal viewpoint."

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

ATTENDANCE08.23.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP		573
11:15 AM WORSHIP		340
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		787

FINANCIAL REPORT08.23.2026

ACCOUNT	AUG. 23, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND (GENERAL)	\$112,027.63	\$3,104,708.60
DESIGNATED		\$114,149.11
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED		\$729,608.68
TOTAL GIVING	\$114,107.63	\$3,952,986.39

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**

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



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