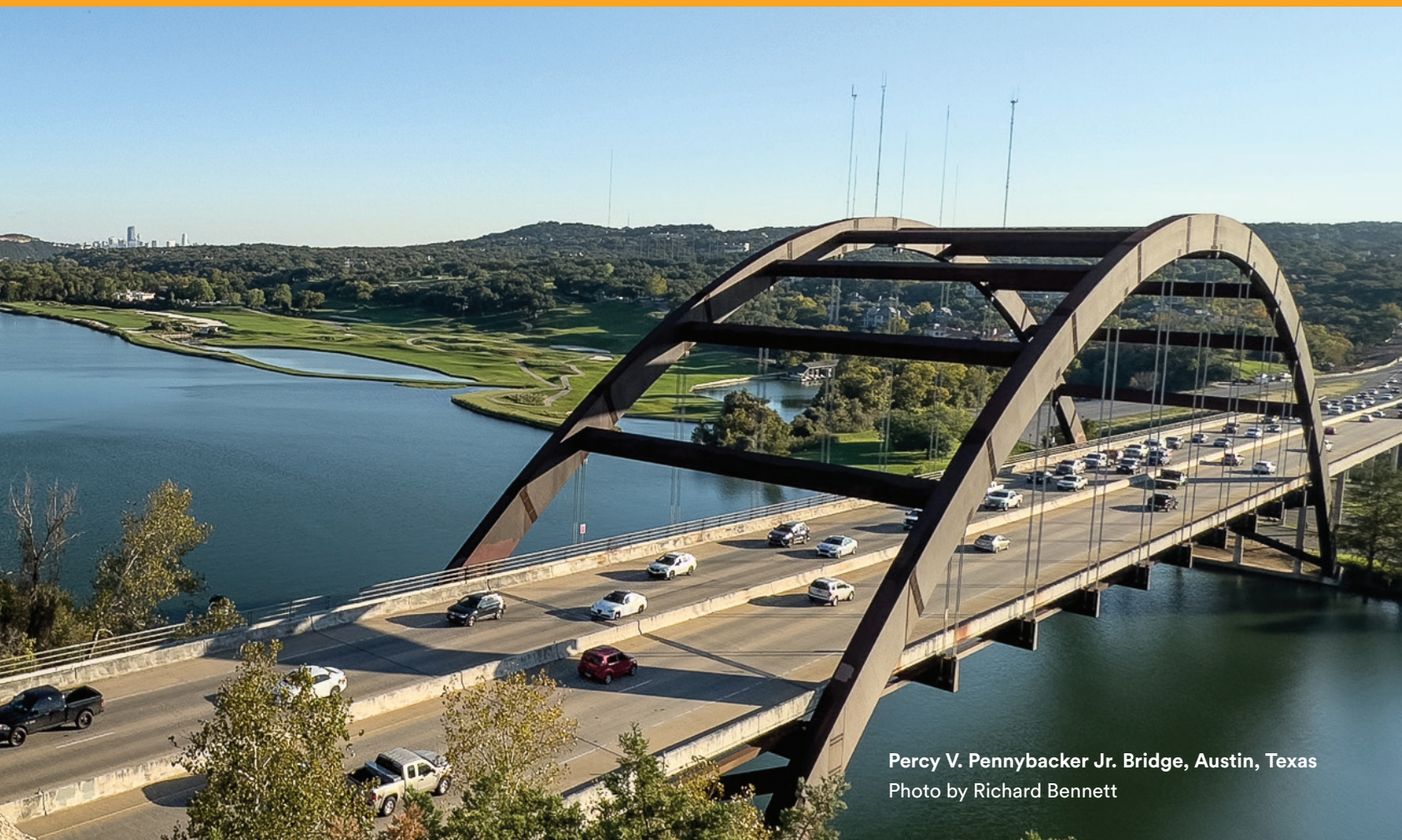


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 18 NO. 31

AUGUST 27, 2025



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

School is back in full swing which means the college football season is upon us! This Sunday is College Colors Day, and we are inviting you to wear your favorite team's colors. Most of you know I enjoy watching college football, but I also love how football brings a community together. It gives a reason for people to come together and watch a game. It also gives a conversation starter for people to build connections with others. I hope many connections are made this Sunday as we represent our favorite teams and perhaps even enjoy some friendly banter.

Even though we will represent many different teams this Sunday, our sermon series will remain focused on the one team we are all a part of: Austin Baptist Church. *The One Anothers* sermon series is focused on how we can be the church here at ABC. Last Sunday we saw we are called to "love one another," and this weekend we will focus on the New Testament's instruction to "welcome one another." How can you make someone feel welcome this Sunday? It all begins with intentionality.

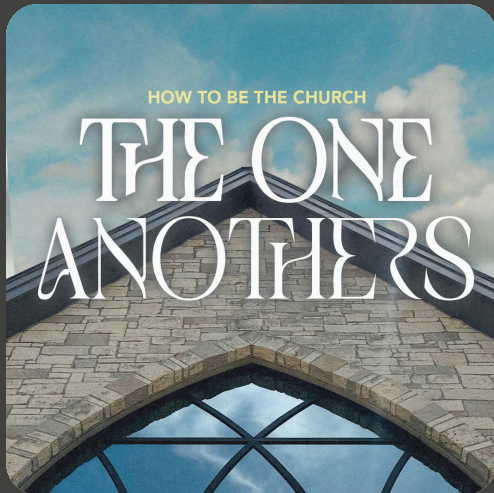
We must always be a church that exists for those who are not here yet. Welcome someone this Sunday, as Christ has welcomed you into His family. If you are heading out of town for this three-day Labor Day weekend, I wish you safe travels on the road. For those of us who are staying in town, I encourage you to invite a friend to church, and I look forward to seeing you at 8:45am or 11:15am.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER

SENIOR PASTOR





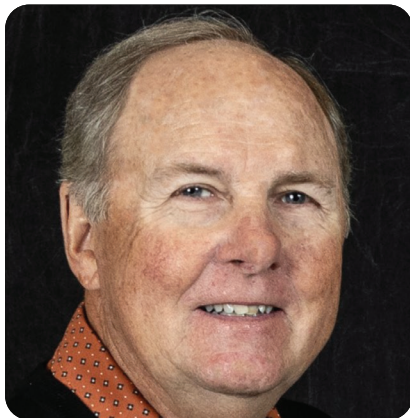
CURRENT SERIES

The One Another

How To *Be* The Church

DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 24, 2025



Gary Grissom

512-656-1414

GARY GRISSOM earned a B.A. degree from Hardin-Simmons University and pursued a successful career in insurance as a managing partner and as owner of his own agencies. He and Janan are the proud parents of Julie, Greg, and Grant. They joined ABC in 2012.



Russell Walters

512-922-3289

RUSSELL WALTERS is a graduate of Baylor University and works as a real estate associate broker. He and Laura have two sons, Wyatt and Rhett, and joined ABC in 2007.

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025



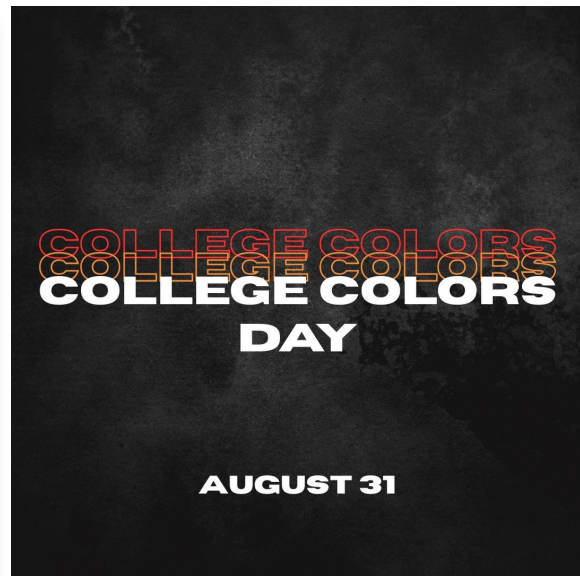
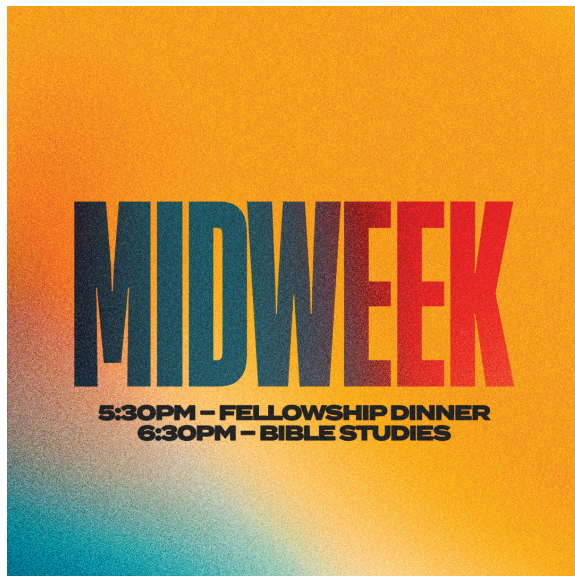
Laurie Shelton



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

COME JOIN US FOR 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

MIDWEEK

ABC LIBRARY
Open 5pm-7:30pm

MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
SEPTEMBER 3

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

Fajitas (chicken or beef), rice, beans,
queso, and chips

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.

PROJECT HOMEBUILD

Hello Church Family,

Many of you will remember that in 2022, ABC participated in a missions effort called *Project Homebuild*, where we literally built a home in the Great Hall for a family of

12 residing in the Valley in South Texas. Recently, we received communication from our mission partner, Buckner International, that the family is thriving and doing well in the home and that they wish to express their gratitude to the church. Thank you to everyone who participated for the legacy and meaning that comes with providing this kind of ministry.

On that note, I am working with Derek Tackett and Chip Graves on developing a mission project in the month of October designed to help a family in the Hill Country rebuild after the devastating July floods. We are still working on specifics, but I hope that you'll start prayerfully considering how you can help us raise a family up after experiencing catastrophe for the glory of Jesus' Name. Stay tuned and keep praying!

In Christ's Love,

DR. MATT GILLUM

EXECUTIVE PASTOR



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.

[Watch MHDO Video Content](#)

Week of Prayer: September 14-21

WE ARE TEXAS MISSIONS

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



NUMBERS & DEUTERONOMY

FALL INTO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS:

A JOURNEY THROUGH NUMBERS AND DEUTERONOMY

This fall, Abundant Living BFG will journey through Numbers and Deuteronomy beginning Sunday, September 7th. We will learn how to navigate life's challenges with faith, preparing you to claim God's promises for your own life.

Abundant Living is a multigenerational class focusing on expository Bible study, prayer, relationships, and service leveraging the Lifeway Explore the Bible study guides. Abundant Living meets in Room 228 every Sunday at 10am.

CONTACT: David McClung
david.mcclung@hotmail.com

Sherlock Jesus: Evangelism Essentials

Wednesdays at Midweek | 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!

September 3rd - Week 3 Topic: Top 5 Overlooked & Underrated Ways to Show Love with Evangelism

Future weekly topics include:

- Good Questions to Use & Re-Use.
- Apologetic & Bible Study Resources.

CONTACT: Thom Kurtz | thom_kurtz@hotmail.com



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

The goodness of God was beautifully evident as over 270 women gathered for our Picnic & Plug-In fall kickoff! This year, the Lord has led us to the theme of **WOVEN**, a word rooted in our women's ministry verse: *"A cord of three strands is not quickly broken"* (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

When our lives are woven together with Christ and one another, we grow stronger and shine brighter, impacting our homes, neighborhoods, and the world for His glory. Our new women's ministry logo reflects this truth, reminding us that in Christ, every strand matters. Colossians 2:2 echoes this calling: *"...that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love (woven in a tapestry of love), to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ."*

As a symbol of this truth, each woman wove a piece of fabric into a collective tapestry — tangible proof that every thread has value, purpose, and strength when joined together in Christ. As we step into this new season, our prayer is that every woman at ABC would see her life as a thread that both strengthens others and is strengthened by them. United in love, women of all ages and stages will be woven together in Christ's grace, reflecting His glory inside our ABC family and beyond.

This special night was made possible through the dedication of our ABC Women's Ministry team and our amazing team lead, Stephanie Foster, whose creativity, organization, and heart for women steered the evening with excellence. A big thank you also goes to our table hostesses who prepared such beautiful and joy-filled picnic tables, and also to sisters Adrian Gillum and Christa Ratcliff, who delighted us with their original and entertaining rendition of *Sisters* from White Christmas, arranged by Kay Leitch.

Beyond the fun, the Spirit of God moved as we worshipped, embraced the vision for this year, and connected with ministries that help us serve and grow. Two new ministries were also launched:

- **Embrace Grace** – a discipleship program walking alongside women experiencing unexpected pregnancies.
- **C.O.R.D. (Connecting Others Relationally through Discipleship in Christ)** – a ministry that pairs women seeking encouragement with sisters ready to come alongside for a season of support and growth.

If you'd like to learn more about either ministry, or other ways to connect, including our Bible studies, check out austinbaptistchurch.com/women or contact me at anitam@austinbaptistchurch.com. Thank you to everyone who helped make Picnic & Plug-In such a purposeful, joy-filled night. May this year be a testimony of what God does when His daughters are **WOVEN** together in love.

With love,

ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER

Picnic & Plug-In
August 24, 2025



WEEK IN REVIEW

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook



What a great Saturday it was 15 years ago! My 15-year-old son had wanted to go to a University of Georgia game for a long time. One day my wife said, "Let's drive down and see if we can get tickets." We left Chattanooga, where we lived at the time, a little after 8:00 in the morning. We arrived on campus just before kickoff. Anita, my "Blonde Bombshell with Bible Power", jumped out of the car and secured a couple of tickets for us as I maneuvered through the game day traffic. A block later she chased us down, motioned me out of the driver's seat, and said, "Get going, you are about to miss kickoff!" She then switched with me in the driver's

seat and drove off. Price and I made our way to Sanford Stadium and went way up to where the air is clear (and hot). We both stood at the rail with goosebumps as the shouts crescendoed into, "Gooo Dawgs, Sick'em, Woof, Woof, Woof," when Georgia kicked off (*pictured above*).

It was a great day of SEC football...for my son. I, on the other hand, was kinda quiet as my grad school alma mater was being embarrassed. It was like a Georgia highlight reel the whole game, and a blooper reel for the University of Tennessee. UGA thoroughly thumped UT, 41-14. The Vols' performance was riddled with penalties, miscues, and mistakes. As one UT fan near us said, "Tennessee was playing 'flag' football," because they couldn't get through a single set of downs without a penalty flag. But I wasn't too upset by the loss. These teams have played each other for well over 100 years. There was always a next year for the rivalry, but enjoying the game with my teenage son had a much shorter shelf life.

I wouldn't have traded this day for anything. I will never forget the excitement on my son's face and the goosebumps we had as we watched the teams rush onto the field with the bands playing in loud competition. There was the sea of red shirts and pom-poms (with a few orange sections). There were Georgia flags, cheerleaders, mascots, painted fans, T-shirts, even pants with Georgia on them. This was a memory I hope he remembers fondly. I was so thankful for the opportunity to spend this time with him as the clock ticked down on his childhood years. He is 30 now, with two sons of his own to watch football with. I am proud to say that he finally saw the light and became a Tennessee fan when he earned a graduate degree from that Big Orange school on the banks of the beautiful Tennessee River.

Psalms 127:3 says, "Children are a blessing and a gift from the Lord." Enjoy the gifts while you've got them, because they will soon do what God designed them to do... grow up! They are still gifts, just maybe not in the same way they were.

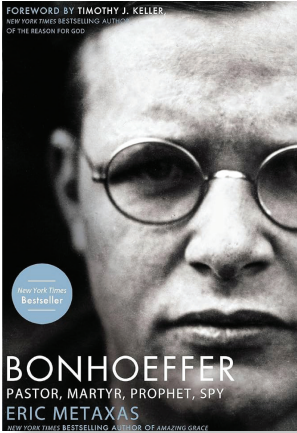
Hang in there people! God is glad to be with us! I'm praying for us all!

In His Joy,
BILL MCGINNIS
PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy by Eric Metaxas

This week's author, Eric Metaxas, has written fourteen books that include biographies, a memoir, several nonfiction books, and over thirty children's books. He is the host of a live broadcast series called *Socrates in the City: Conversations on the Examined Life*, where he interviews a wide variety of guests. Metaxas also hosts a nationally syndicated radio show, The Eric Metaxas Radio Show. Metaxas is known as a cultural commentator and has had his views published in many well-known newspapers and magazines. He lives in New York City with his family.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor (Pastor), a neo-orthodox theologian (Prophet), and an anti-Nazi dissident who worked from the inside of the Third Reich to dismantle it (Spy). His book, published in 1937, ***The Cost of Discipleship***, is considered a classic. Bonhoeffer was executed for his role in the plot to kill Hitler (Martyr), but his own parents, who were living in America, did not learn of his death until they heard about his funeral. Metaxas, who read other Bonhoeffer biographies and did extensive research, wanted to tell the story of Bonhoeffer's life that had not been told. He says in the introduction that in writing this book, "I hoped to tell Bonhoeffer's extraordinary story in a way that could introduce him to those who did not know him." Metaxas hopes to lead people to read Bonhoeffer's own works so, "...they might catch a measure of his love for God who was the undimmed source of his peace and courage." This book includes Notes, a Bibliography, an Index, and A Reading Group Guide.

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

ATTENDANCE08.24.2025

| | | |
|------------------|-------|-----|
| 8:45 AM WORSHIP | | 621 |
| 11:15 AM WORSHIP | | 355 |
| BIBLE FELLOWSHIP | | 791 |

FINANCIAL REPORT08.24.2025

| ACCOUNT | AUG. 24, 2025 | YTD |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | \$44,056.44 | \$3,570,566.54 |
| DESIGNATED | \$1,225.00 | \$103,734.50 |
| LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED | \$18,313.00 | \$1,246,882.79 |
| TOTAL GIVING | \$63,594.44 | \$4,921,183.83 |

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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