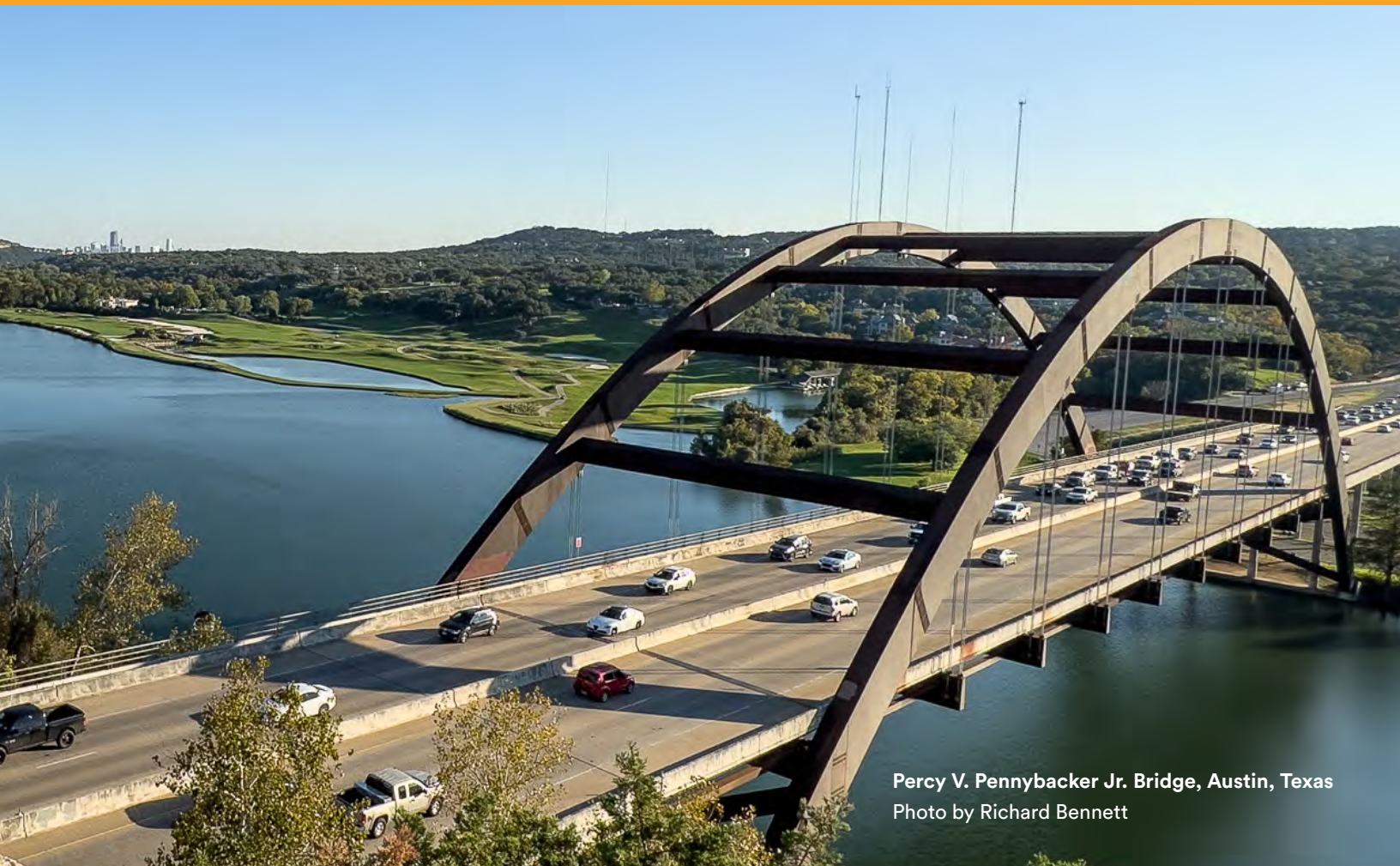


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 29

AUGUST 5, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

August is officially here. This weekend is Promotion Sunday on August 9th, and school will be starting up before you know it. New school years provide new opportunities. New routines will be established, and new ministries will begin. I encourage you to incorporate our church gatherings into your family's rhythms this fall.

Every Sunday is an opportunity to worship Christ, but it is also an opportunity to connect with others. Have you found a Bible Fellowship Group? We have groups for all ages from preschool to senior adults. Our groups meet at 10am every Sunday here on campus. These small groups are where we make a big church feel small. If you haven't found a group, this is the perfect opportunity to start fresh on Promotion Sunday.

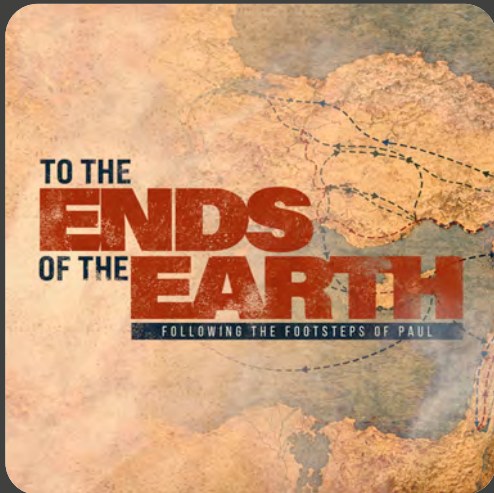
Midweek will also return on Wednesday, August 19th. We will offer dinner at 5:30pm, followed by a Fall Kickoff at 6:30pm where representatives from the different groups will come share about their classes. Children and adult classes officially begin August 19th while adult classes/groups begin on August 26th. Midweek is the perfect way to recharge your faith amidst a busy school and work week. We will have children's, youth, and adult activities happening each Wednesday night. I encourage you to prioritize this opportunity to connect with God and others.

Summer has been an amazing season, but I am looking forward to returning to regular rhythms in the coming weeks. I encourage you to plant roots firmly this fall because I believe God is preparing to do something special in our midst these coming months. *"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen"* (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER
SENIOR PASTOR





CURRENT SERIES

To The Ends of The Earth

Following the Footsteps of Paul

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 3, 2026



Paul Hamlin

512-431-2065



Mitchel Wong

512-940-0688

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026



Adrienne Barclay



Jo Hobbs



Edward Wensley



Sarah Stoermer



Chloe Mendez

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

AUGUST 5, 2026

Hey there Church Family,

On August 1st, **Corbin Smith** celebrated his second anniversary with us here at ABC as our Student Minister. Corbin does an excellent job of taking the truths and exhortations of Scripture and making them applicable for the lives of students. He cares about the students and about calling them to higher discipleship in Christ.

It's been a joy watching him and Emily live out their calling with us. I hope this week you'll take time to congratulate him on his second year of service with us.

Thankful for a great staff that loves the Lord and loves you!

In Christ's Love,

DR. MATT GILLUM
EXECUTIVE PASTOR



You are invited to attend (audit) one (or more) of the following mini-mester classes with Dallas Theological Seminary being hosted here at ABC in September. **Contact Lisa Campbell at lisac@austinbaptistchurch.com if you are interested.**

ST5101 THEOLOGICAL METHOD AND BIBLIOLOGY | SEPTEMBER 3-5 (TH 6-8:30, FRI 8-5, SAT 8-3)
DR. KYLE DIROBERTS

A study of prolegomena as the nature, method, and sources of theology; revelation, especially the inspiration, authority, sufficiency, inerrancy, and canonicity of the Bible; and theological hermeneutics, including an introduction to dispensationalism.

ST5104 SOTERIOLOGY | SEPTEMBER 3-5 (TH 6-8:30, FRI 8-5, SAT 8-3)
DR. JOSEPH LEE

A study of the grace of God in salvation, including election, the ministry of the Savior in His humiliation and exaltation, the nature and extent of the Atonement, efficacious grace, justification, regeneration, the salvation ministries of the Holy Spirit (including Spirit baptism, indwelling, and sealing), and eternal security.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

WEEKLY REMINDERS

FALL SCHEDULE

5:55 PM

ABC Kids Choir
Rooms TBD

6:30 PM

Encounter: Kids
and Preschool
Elevate/Uplift Rooms

AXIS for Students
Student Ministry Suite

Women's Bible Study
Room 243A/B

Men's Bible Study
Room 245

MomQ (*Working Moms*)
Room 242

6:30 PM

Embrace Grace/Life
Room 247 / 248

Experiencing God in
Everyday Life
Room 239

To Love & Cherish: A
Couples Bible Study
Room 246

Divorce Care
Room 200

Grief Share
Room 238

Enviados:
Spanish Bible Study
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



IT'S TIME TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL!

It is hard to believe, but our Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection is just around the corner!

During back to school season, many retailers are offering discounts on school supplies. When you are shopping for your children, consider picking up some extra school supplies for your family's Operation Christmas Child family shoebox which will be collected later this fall!



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

FALL STUDIES TO BE APART OF!

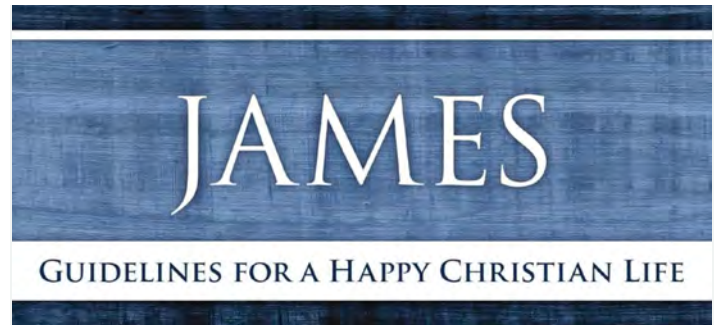
Register online at austinbaptistchurch.com/womensbiblestudies



Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays @ 6:30pm

Beginning **August 26th**, join Anita McGinnis and our table leaders for for **Meet Me in the Bible / The Stories of Women!** Come explore the stories of Scripture's daughters, sisters, mothers, single women, and wives. Through these stories we will see how God engages with women and invites them into His work.



Study of James with Marcia Furrow

Mondays @ 6:30pm

Tuesdays @ 9:30am / Zoom @ 6:30pm

Beginning **August 24th and 25th**, this Study of James gives practical guidance on issues that measure our true faith and our spiritual fruitfulness. James calls all believers—then and now—to live a life that demonstrates saving faith marked by godly behavior.



MomQ with Ginger Tew & Kay Leitch

Wednesdays @ 6:30pm (designed for working moms)

Thursdays @ 9:45am

MomQ (think IQ or EQ but MomQ) is an intergenerational community (beginning **August 26th** and **September 3rd**) designed to encourage and support women in their role as mothers, whether they are stay-at-home or working moms. The module this semester is strategically geared to grow us spiritually both individually and for our families.



C.O.R.D.

Encouragement Program

This ministry is to designed to create community within ABC where one woman (the encourager) shares her story, experience, and wisdom, to help another woman (the encouragee) learn to live her life in a faithful and practical way. Come learn how you can be a part!

ON MISSION IN **Los Angeles**

Church Family,

Last week, a small group from our Young Adult Ministry and I went on a mission trip to LA to partner with SEND Relief and our church planting partner, Pastor Derek Berry and his wife Krystal. It was a phenomenal week of ministry and one that was physically tiring, emotionally taxing, and spiritually invigorating.

Physically Tiring

Anytime you go on a mission trip, you want to be of as much help as possible and to serve as much as you can while you are there. This past week we got to serve alongside several ministries and churches. We did everything from demolishing a large cinderblock wall and cleaning up the debris to serving meals on Skid Row. We helped prepare fifty backpacks for Pastor Derek's Back-2-School event, canvassed a park and apartment complex spreading the word, served dinner at a women's and children's shelter, put on a church service for the homeless, and whatever else we could do to serve. The days were full, but the work was good.

Emotionally Taxing

I struggled to think of the right way to phrase this section. I do not mean it in a negative way, but seeing the suffering of so many souls through our work on Skid Row was hard. Seeing people have all their worldly possessions wrapped up in a small trash bag, dealing with addiction, and struggling with a litany of mental health issues was challenging to witness. However, the most difficult part was not the people we were serving; it was seeing the callous way that they were treated by the people passing through. Frustration at slight inconveniences, complete disregard for suffering, and I was even berated for serving meals to "those snakes" and "drains on society." It was a convicting reminder to remember that even the least of these are made in the image of God and worthy of dignity and respect.

Spiritually Invigorating

One of our favorite parts of the trip was how many different ministries and churches we got to partner with. What stood out to me was that every single group we served with was united in their purpose to see lives transformed by Christ. They did not seek to only meet the physical needs, but also to see people encounter Jesus and get into better situations. We saw a strong church-planting culture, where the expectation was that everyone pitched in and served. Members were expected to be present and have jobs, not merely attend. I personally left LA spiritually refreshed and excited to bring some of the same ideas and passion to Austin.

Prayer Requests

While meeting with Derek and Krystal, I asked them for a list of their top prayer requests, and I want to ask all of you to join us in prayer for them:

- That God would give them a building
- Prayer for the Back-2-School event, Aug. 9
- Evangelistic Fervor
- Ministry Partnerships
- Opportunities for Evangelism

Thank you, church family, for praying for us while we served this week!

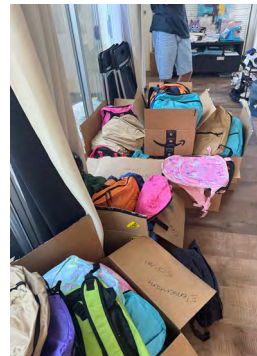
NATHAN WOOD

YOUNG ADULTS & CONNECTIONS PASTOR



Young Adults LA Mission Trip

July 25-31, 2026



WEEK IN REVIEW

Creative Arts Camp Camp Days July 20-24, 2026



**Creative Arts Camp
Performance**
Friday, July 24, 2026



WEEK IN REVIEW

ABC Women's Riverboat Cruise

August 2, 2026



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

Parents, is it time for a checkup? My father was a physician and worked a lot to help restore people to health. As a young child, I was thrilled when we would go see him for a moment at his Doctor's office... until those times when we HAD to go see him, then I was conflicted. I loved my daddy and going to his office for a checkup was exciting! The smells of cleansing alcohol, medicine, and old medical books, the sights of medical graphics on the walls and sculptures on the tables showing different parts and systems of the body. There were the classic *Highlights* magazine in the waiting room (though we doctor's kids, aka DK's, never waited in the the waiting room, we just came in a the back door and waited in his office). We heard the sounds of a medical centrifuge and stool rolling across the floor in the exam room. Everything was all clean, sterile, and shiny. I recall the feel of the squishy foam, cool clean vinyl, and crinkly paper of the exam table. There was the bitter taste of a wooden tongue depressor, the feel of a otoscope in your ear, and a cold stethoscope on your chest and back. But then... ouch...the sharp sting of a needle filled with something to help make me healthy. I still loved my daddy, but the nurses I wasn't so sure of! (My dad had wonderful and capable nurses who cared about us and all the patients). What is it in us that doesn't always want a checkup? Why do we let the possibility of bad news or a shot ruin the adventure of a checkup and prospect of being more healthy? I sometimes do the same thing with an emotional and spiritual checkup. I love the Great Physician, and love to hang out with Him. He has me on a great adventure, but sometimes I am not healthy and need a checkup. Sometimes it is easy to become depressed, angry, or struggling to maintain a healthy relationship with God, with those around us, or even with ourselves. If that's the case, it may be time for a checkup.

The apostle Paul reminds us to do a self-checkup when times are tough. He says, *"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is"* (Ephesians 5:15-17 NKJV). He's saying to look around at how you are walking, examine how you are living life and compare it to the Lord's will. What is the Lord's will? It's all about healthy relationships; to love God and love others as yourself. If your relationship with God, people, or yourself is unhealthy, it's not a good idea to avoid confronting the problem or run away from it. Walk toward health. Talk to God, read His Word, let Him remind you of who you really are as His child. Let Him remind you how valuable you and the people around you are to Him. Let Him help you become more healthy.

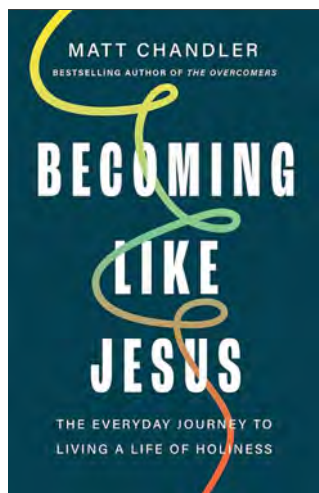
Hang in there people! God is glad to be with us! I'm praying for us all!

In His Joy,
BILL MCGINNIS
PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



***A Becoming Like Jesus: The Everyday Journey to Living a Life of Holiness* by Matt Chandler**

Matt Chandler has been the lead pastor at The Village Church in Flower Mound, Texas for over 20 years. He is the Executive Chairman of the Acts 29 Network, a global church-planting network. He is also an author, speaker, and podcast host. Matt Chandler is, "...known for his clear, gospel-centered preaching, deep commitment to Biblical theology, and passion for forming healthy disciples and churches."

In *Becoming Like Jesus*, Matt Chandler, takes you through a study of the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:3-10, exploring them as a way to understand sanctification. Each of the eight Beatitudes has a chapter, but Chandler shows how they build on one another instead of teaching about each one in isolation. He believes they are, "...a divine blueprint for becoming Christlike." From this book you will learn: "why the Beatitudes fit together so beautifully and bring lasting change; how Jesus meets us with comfort in grief, sadness, and loss; how humility, mercy, purity, and peacemaking lead to deeper joy; why spiritual growth takes time and can't be rushed; and why growing in faith with others in community matters so much." This book will challenge and encourage you in your journey to become more like Jesus.

CONTACT: Rita Ervin

Email library@austinbaptistchurch.com

or visit us online at austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY

LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS

SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM: austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS: austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG

ABC PODCASTS: austinbaptistchurch.com/PODCASTS

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE08.02.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP		637
11:15 AM WORSHIP		402
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		820

FINANCIAL REPORT08.02.2026

ACCOUNT	AUG. 02, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND (GENERAL)	\$82,147.24	\$2,862,314.87
DESIGNATED		\$111,129.11
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED		\$690,529.68
TOTAL GIVING	\$103,556.24	\$3,663,973.66

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:

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- **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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