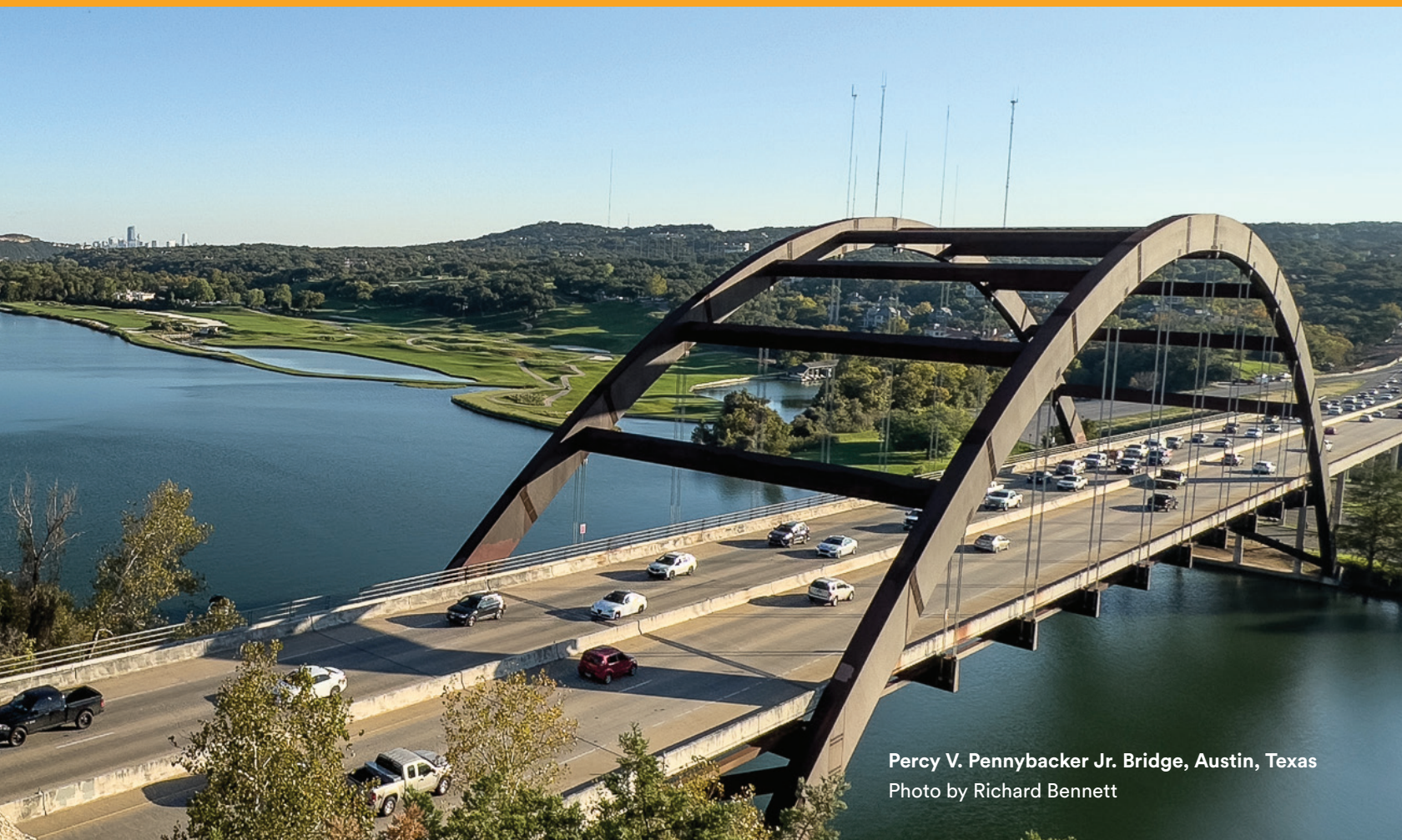


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 18 NO. 28

AUGUST 6, 2025



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Our fourth core value at ABC is ***authenticity***. 1 John 1:7 says, “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” God wants us to be authentically known by Him and by others. We were made for relationships, and thankfully the Gospel reconciles us back to God and to each other.

When we surrender to Christ, He begins to light up our lives. We then walk in the light as He is in the light and have fellowship with Him. But John takes it a step further and says we also begin to have fellowship with one another. The body of Christ is a beautiful thing. Within the church, we do not need to hide in darkness because we are all reconciled sinners by God’s grace. Instead, we can build meaningful fellowship with one another through the unity of Jesus Christ.

Do you have authentic Christian community here at ABC? Admittedly, we are too big of a church for everyone to know everyone. However, we are NOT too big for everyone to be known by someone. I encourage you to establish rhythms of community this fall semester. Join a BFG group at 10am. We have groups for every age and stage of life. Join us for Midweek when it returns on August 20th. We’ll have dinner every Wednesday night at 5:30pm, with discipleship classes and ministries available for all at 6:30pm.

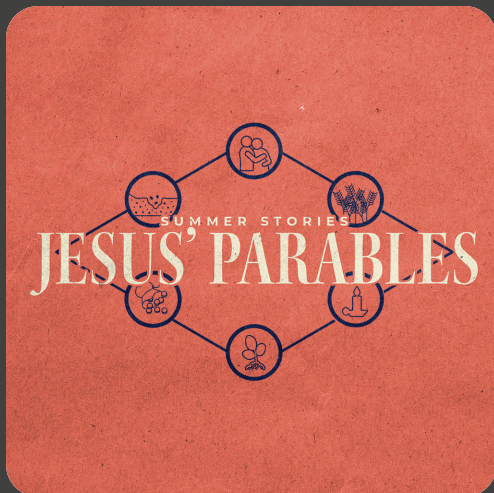
Take a step of faith this week and build fellowship in our church. Don’t just go to church. Become a part of the family because we have room for you.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER

SENIOR PASTOR





CURRENT SERMON SERIES

Summer Stories: Jesus' Parables

A summer study through the Parables of Jesus

DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 4, 2025



Rodney Tew

512-626-8655



Brian Furrow

847-404-9375

BRIAN FURROW graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a B.A. in Psychology. He is a retired human resources executive. He and Marcia have two sons, Daniel and Robert, and seven grandchildren. They joined ABC in 2021.



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

STAFF NEWS

AUGUST 6, 2025

Hello Church Family,

On August 12th, Kati McCray will complete her last day on staff at ABC as our Girls' Minister. Since 2015 Kati has served in a staff capacity, from Children's Minister to Girl's Minister, and throughout she has loved our church family well. Though she is transitioning to staying home with her son, Kati will still be a part of ABC in a volunteer capacity. We're so appreciative of her years of service with us at ABC, and we hope that you'll join us in honoring her 10 years of loving service at ABC and the many years ahead of ministry together.



In Christ's Love,

DR. MATT GILLUM

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

UPCOMING EVENTS



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



ABC WORSHIP MINISTRY

Want to join us for *The Sights & Sounds of Christmas*?

2025 FALL KICKOFF

SEPTEMBER 14TH @ 5PM-7PM

If you would like to join the ABC Worship Ministry for *The Sights & Sounds of Christmas* this year, then you are invited to join the ABC Choir and Orchestra for the Fall Kickoff on Sunday, September 14th, from 5-7pm. At the Kickoff, we will go over the music and rehearsal schedule for this year's production. We hope you will consider joining us!

CONTACT: Dr. Todd Stearns | todds@austinbaptistchurch.com

EST 1975

SINGING MEN OF TEXAS



FRIDAY, AUGUST 15 @ 7:00PM

The 2024-25 concert season marks the 50th year of ministry for the Singing Men of Texas. In celebration, ***all six chapters will combine*** for a special concert on August 15, 2025 at Riverbend Centre in Austin, TX.

Buy tickets at txb.org/smot

Friday, August 15 | 7:00pm

Riverbend Centre for the Arts
4214 N Capital of Texas Hwy
Austin, TX 78746

TICKET PRICES:

Ages 13 - adult: \$15.00

Ages 3 - 12: \$10.00

Ages 2 and under: Free

TICKET PROCEEDS

Proceeds go to support the Prestidge Endowment Scholarship Fund, named in memory of Sam Prestidge, the founder of the Singing Men of Texas. A scholarship is awarded annually to a student preparing for full-time music and worship ministry at a Baptist university.



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE



Dear Ladies,

You're invited to something fresh, fun, and full of connection — our Women's Ministry Kick-Off: **Picnic & Plug-In on Sunday, August 24th!**

Step out of the summer heat and into a cozy, indoor picnic — complete with tables, laughter, worship, and vision. This is your chance to plug in, find your place at ABC, and hear where God is leading our women's ministry this year — including two brand new ways to serve and connect! We're mixing things up this time and want you to grab your gals and gather around the table with your own picnic! It's super simple:

- Pack your own picnic basket (or bag!) — homemade or drive-thru, it's totally up to you.
- Invite friends to join you, or come ready to meet new ones.
- Want to go all out? Provide the picnic spread yourself, or make it a potluck picnic with each table guest bringing something to share.
- Each table will be covered in a white tablecloth, and we'll provide a lemonade station, popcorn, and ice cream for everyone!

If you'd like to host a table and want more details click [HERE](#). If you're ready to register, click [HERE](#)! For more information, check out our website at austinbaptistchurch.com/PICNIC. If you have any questions at all, I'm just an email away at anitam@austinbaptistchurch.com.

This will be a casual, joy-filled evening with time to unwind, worship, and be woven together. So don't overthink it — just come as you are and invite a friend along for the ride. I truly hope to see you there!

With love,

ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER

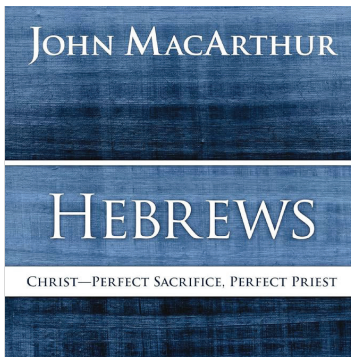


ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

FALL 2025 BIBLE STUDIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ANITA MCGINNIS

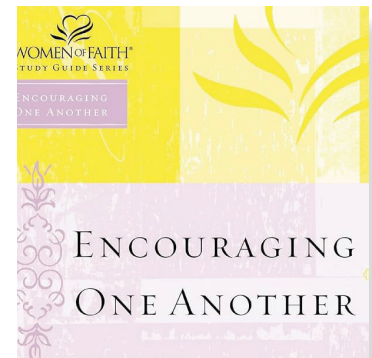


INDUCTIVE: HEBREWS - MONDAYS & TUESDAYS

Join Marcia Furrow for this semester's inductive study into the book of Hebrews. Study for **Mondays** begins **September 8th at 6:30pm**; **Tuesdays** begin **September 9th at 9:30am**; and **Tuesday evenings via Zoom** will begin **September 9th at 6:30pm**. *No childcare is provided.*

TOPICAL & DISCUSSION: WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30PM

Join Anita McGinnis and our table leaders every Midweek 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 programing.*



MENTORSHIP: MOMQ - THURSDAYS @ 9:45AM

Join Ginger Tew and her mentoring moms 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. *Childcare available for ages 3 months to 5 years.*

Register for any one of these studies at austinbaptistchurch.com/womensbiblestudies



You are invited to attend one (or more) of the following mini-mester classes with Dallas Theological Seminary being hosted here at ABC this fall. **Contact Dr. Matt Gillum at mattg@austinbaptistchurch.com if you are interested.**

ST5101 THEOLOGICAL METHOD AND BIBLIOLOGY | SEPT. 11-13 (TH. 6-9, FRI 8-5, SAT 8-3)

DR. KEVIN WONG

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. *Required prerequisite to all Systematic Theology (ST) courses.*

EML5331 PERSONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT | SEPT. 25-27 (TH. 6-9, FRI. 8-5, SAT. 8-3)

DR. KEVIN GANDY

This course will help leaders understand the complexities of personal leadership development, including how one's personality, temperament, and strengths impact a leader within personal, ministry, parachurch, and other contexts. *Online enrollment limited to 16 students.*

ST5105 SANCTIFICATION & ECCLESIOLOGY | OCTOBER 9-11 (TH. 6-9, FRI. 8-5, SAT. 8-3)

DR. TIMOTHY YODER

A study of sanctification, the doctrine of the spiritual life, and ecclesiology, the doctrines of the body of Christ and the local church, including its organization, ministry, ordinances, government, and purpose. *Prerequisite: ST5101 Theological Method and Bibliology.*



NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK
NOVEMBER 17-24

*Consider packing a box
for this year's
Operation Christmas Child
shoebox collection!*

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

PACK A BOX, CHANGE A LIFE

Did you know it is only a few short months until ABC's annual **Operation Christmas Child** shoebox collection? If you have not packed a shoebox in the past, we encourage you to pray about and consider packing one this year. This impactful ministry, through Samaritan's Purse, delivers shoeboxes of donated items to children around the world and brings the Gospel to the communities in which they live.

If you are looking to get ahead on packing your box this year, we recommend you taking advantage of back-to-school sales on supplies and clothing to pick up some extra items for your shoebox. You can purchase some items tax-free this weekend, August 8-10. To see a list of suggested items to include, visit samaritanspurse.org/OCC.

Be on the lookout for future Operation Christmas Child updates, including when we will begin collecting filled shoeboxes and other ways you can help make this a successful ministry of ABC. If you have any questions, contact **Denise Delphen** (denise.delphen@yahoo.org) or **Suzy Wright** (suzanne.p.wright@gmail.com) for more information.

Preteen Camp
July 27-30, 2025



WEEK IN REVIEW

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook



After my father's early retirement from medicine and his 35 different missionary travels around the world, my mother found a piece of land on the French Broad River near Knoxville that she knew he would love. My father, realizing her brilliance, bought the 18 acres of farm and woodland. We instantly knew God had blessed it, and it became affectionately known as "Tuckahoe," named for the creek that laves its north boundary line. My father hunted, fished, farmed, built a log home and a barn, all while he became the primary caregiver for my mother who declined there with Alzheimer's for 17 years until her passing. The family loved

and enjoyed my father's refreshing place of solace. The rich bottom land had apparently been enjoyed by the indigenous people many years before, because we found many flint arrowheads when we tilled the garden. The property brought great joy to all those who visited. The peace that settled over you as you drove the gravel road, stepped onto the wraparound porch, and heard the flowing river would lower your blood pressure by ten points. We canoed, tubed, waded, and fished in that cool, rolling river. We hunted deer, turkey, and other game birds. We drove the old John Deere and helped plant and harvest the yearly garden. Writing this, I am filled with nostalgia for the life events we celebrated with family and friends there: birthdays, holidays, graduations, funerals, reunions, and more. We also celebrated God's creation itself from season to season, year to year, high water and low water, living and dying. We watched as bucks jostled in rut and as speckled fawns emerged in the spring. We watched the spectacle of a firefly show, as millions covered the field in spring. It was better than any firework show I had ever seen and much more calming. A few years ago, tortured by the prospect of having to sell the place when my parents had both passed away, we tried to make the property a vacation rental. Though it was a popular spot that received high ratings, this became untenable because it exhausted my sister. I was in ministry a thousand miles away and couldn't help care for the place or the guests. After much prayer and wringing of hands, we sold the beloved property. We decided it was time for someone else's family to celebrate life and God's creation there, while we continued to cling tightly to the memories and tell the stories.

As King David was speaking to Israel, he said, "We are here for only a moment, visitors and strangers in the land as our ancestors were before us. Our days on earth are like a passing shadow, gone so soon without a trace" (1 Chronicles 29:15 NLT-SE). And the writer of Hebrews, speaking of heaven, picking up where the words of the Hebrew King left off, says, "For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come" (Hebrews 13:14 NLT-SE). My family is forever thankful for the blessings and memories from Tuckahoe, "Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart" (Ecc. 3:11a).

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

In His Joy,

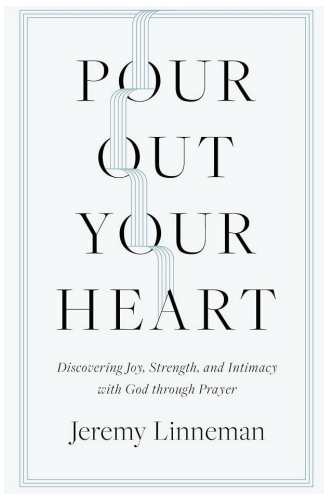
BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



Pour Out Your Heart: Discovering Joy, Strength, and Intimacy with God Through Prayer by Jeremy Linneman

Jeremy Linneman is the Lead Pastor of Trinity Community Church in Columbia, Missouri. He also served for seven years as a staff pastor of Sojourn Church in Louisville, Kentucky. This is Jeremy's second book. Trinity Community Church is known for emphasizing prayer and spiritual renewal. As a pastor he says that often he has a conversation with a Christian new to Trinity who tells him that they have never learned how to pray.

In ***Pour Out Your Heart***, Linneman "approaches prayer as both communion with God and an act of boldness seeking God's transformative power to work mightily in our world." In Chapter 1, Receiving the Father's Embrace, Linneman discusses our spiritual insecurities and points us to loving "the Father on an Abba level." Chapter 2, What Do You Want?, focuses on God meeting our needs and wants. In Chapters 3-9, Nine Ways/Practices to Pour Out Your Heart are presented and discussed. These Practices include: #1 Reorienting to God - Adoration, #2 Descending with the Mind into the Heart - Contemplation, #3 Collapsing into Jesus - Confession, #4 On Earth as in Heaven - Intercession, #5 The Most Basic and Important of Prayers - Petition, #6 Praying through Heartache - Lament, #7 Cultivating a Hunger for God - Fasting, #8 Giving Up Control of Your Life - Surrender, and #9 The Path to Joy and Celebration - Thanksgiving. Linneman says, "Pour out your heart, and God will pour something back into your heart. He will fill it with joy, peace, and strength. He will pour His very own love and power into your life."

Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin: pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. -Lamentations 2:19

CONTACT: Rita Ervin

Email library@austinbaptistchurch.com

or visit us online at austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY

LIBRARY HOURS

SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM

WEDNESDAYS - CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM: austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS: austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG

ABC PODCASTS: austinbaptistchurch.com/PODCASTS

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE08.03.2025

8:45 AM WORSHIP	586
11:15 AM WORSHIP	299
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	731

FINANCIAL REPORT08.03.2025

ACCOUNT	AUG. 3, 2025	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$88,657.77	\$3,396,845.20
DESIGNATED	\$1,650.00	\$99,547.50
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$53,306.35	\$1,062,002.11
TOTAL GIVING	\$143,614.12	\$4,558,394.81

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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