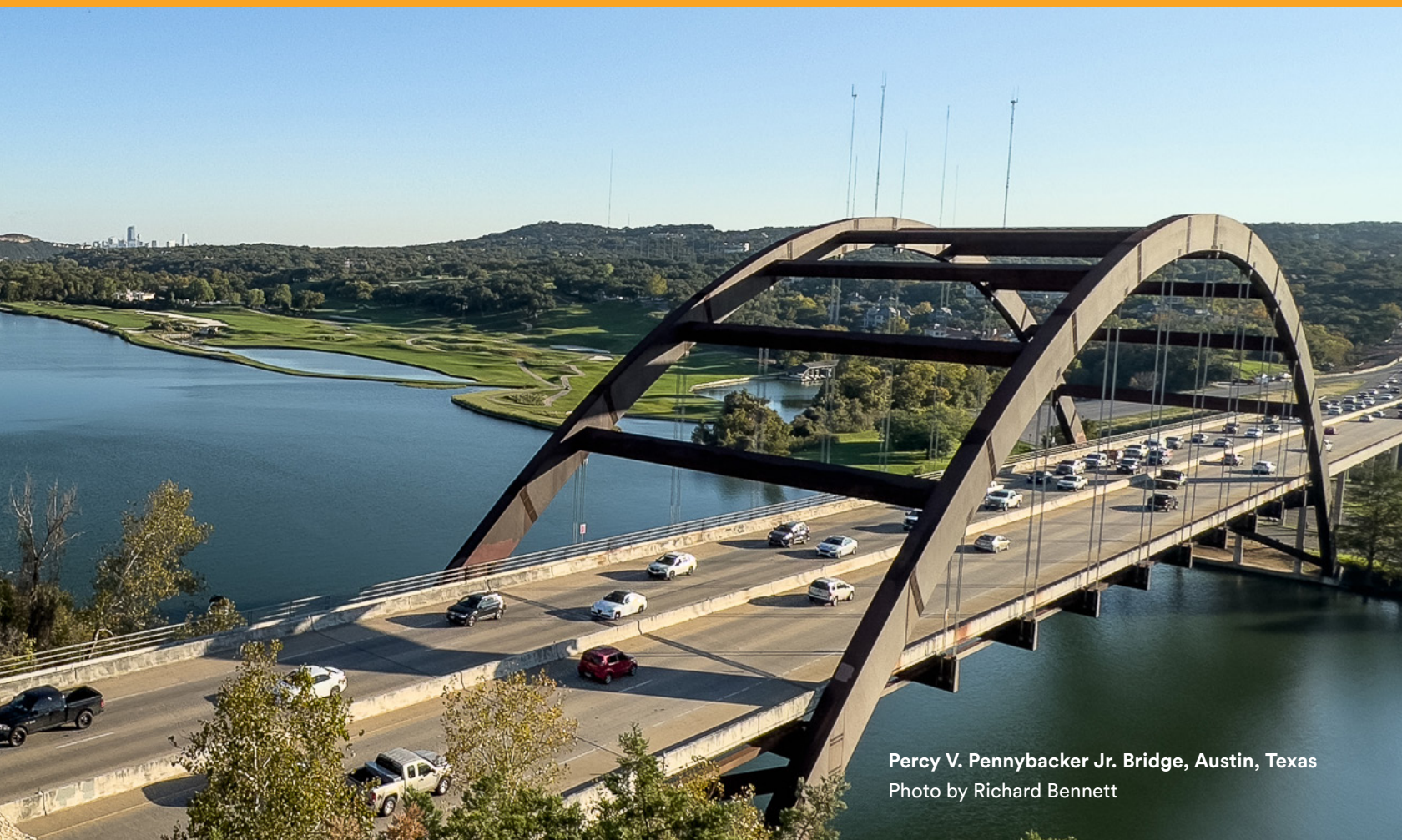


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 34 ————— SEPTEMBER 16, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). One of our core values at ABC is impact. We believe Jesus wants His church to be an impactful people. His light is in us, and He shines through us to push back darkness in our world.

Last Sunday we were able to celebrate the ways we are making an impact together. God continues to financially provide through the generosity of His church. Our financial gifts are making an eternal impact, but our spiritual gifts should, too. Spirit-filled believers are called to use their gifts to make an impact in the church. As Peter says, “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10).

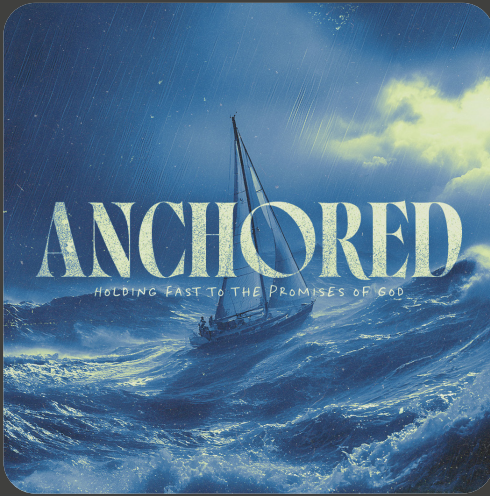
Where are you making an impact in our church? Just as God wants us to steward the financial gifts He has given us, He also wants us to steward the spiritual gifts He has given us. You have a role to play at ABC. The church should be a blessing to the church member, but the member is designed to also be a blessing to the church. As we continue to grow, we need every member to find their way to use their gifts.

Prayerfully consider where you can serve. The opportunities are there, and you can make an impact in our church family. Explore opportunities **HERE** and take a step of faith this week. We are always stronger when we come together on mission as one. Invite a friend, and I look forward to seeing you 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 SEPTEMBER 14, 2026



Parker Blevins

512-971-7163



Stanley Wood

737-309-6938

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



Cindy Morpew



Danna Castagna



Thuy Le



**Haddon and Leigh
McKinney**
with son Vaughn



Benjamin Hansen

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

WEEKLY REMINDERS



MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
SEPTEMBER 23

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

Grilled chicken, mashed potatoes,
mixed vegetables, and salad bar

Please note that Midweek dinner is served in the Café.
Seating for dinner is in the *Heritage Hall* until 6:30pm.

TRUNK OR TREAT | OCTOBER 25

Candy Collection COMPETITION

IT'S TIME FOR OUR FRIENDLY BFG CANDY COMPETITION

READY, SET, GOOO!

We have set out buckets in every BFG classroom to collect individually wrapped, prepackaged candy from now until **Wednesday, October 21st** for Trunk or Treat!

The BFG class that donates the most pounds of candy will win a special prize on **November 1st!** It will be delivered by the cutest little children on campus and given with love and gratitude.

We hope you join in on the fun and donate candy!



EVALUATION DAY RECAP

UPWARD SPORTS IS UNDERWAY AT ABC!

This past Saturday, we kicked off our Upward Sports fall season at Austin Baptist Church, and it was a wonderful start! We welcomed 30 kids, along with 20 incredible coaches and volunteers, for an exciting morning of Flag Football and Cheer.

During evaluations, our players and cheerleaders had the opportunity to show off their skills while our coaches prepared teams for the season ahead.

We wrapped up the morning with popcorn, snow cones, and a brief parent meeting as families got to know more about what they can expect this fall.

We are so excited for the weeks ahead! Through Upward Sports, our hope is to help kids develop their skills, build friendships, grow in confidence, and experience Christ-centered community, all while having a lot of fun!

We are grateful for every family, coach, and volunteer who is helping make this season possible, and we can't wait to see what God does through Upward Sports at ABC!



BE A LITERACY PARTNER IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Austin Baptist Church is committed to serving the community where we live. Education Connection is a program in our elementary schools to help improve literacy. Research has shown that children not reading at grade level by the end of 3rd grade are four times more likely to drop out of school. We need volunteers to help these young students work on improving their reading skills. The program involves a **WEEKLY one-on-one reading session** with **TWO children** for **15 MINUTES EACH (30 minutes total)** during the school year from mid-October to the beginning of May.

Since the program began, ABC has been a community partner for Grandview Hills Elementary and has recently added Laura Bush Elementary, both located in Leander ISD. We are looking for volunteers from our church to send into these schools to help students develop their literacy skills. Education Connection will be happy to match you to a school that is near your home or place of work.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Sue Holstrom

holstrom@gmail.com
512-820-2724



SCAN OR CLICK HERE
TO SIGN UP!



LET'S PRAY Together

Grab a prayer guide to read eight Texas Missions stories and pray with us for more lives to be changed across the state.

WEEK OF PRAYER

SEPTEMBER 13-20, 2026

OUR CHURCH GOAL

\$15,000



QUESTIONS?

Virginia Kreimeyer
vkreimeyer@gmail.com

REGISTER TO VOTE

OR UPDATE VOTER ADDRESS

Are you new to the Travis or Williamson County area? Or have you moved since the last election? Do you plan to vote November 3rd? ***You must register to vote by October 5th to vote in the November election.***

Good news! **You can register to vote or update your registration here at ABC on September 20th or 27th from 8:30am to 11:30am.** There will be a table set up in the Great Hall where forms and Voter Deputy Registers will be available to help you. Bring proof of citizenship, proof of address, or certified photo ID.

Upward Sports Evaluation Day
September 12, 2026



WEEK IN REVIEW

From the Pages of Bill's Notebook



When my oldest daughter was getting married, she decided to wear Anita's wedding dress. Anita and I were honored and thrilled that she would wear the classic gown from 1990. Anita pulled it out of its storage box and had it altered by an incredibly talented seamstress. The puffy sleeves were removed and made more fitting. The train was adjusted and the bodice was fitted to Mary Allyson's frame. Just before Mary A was going to leave the bride's room, walk out the door, and down the stairs to the outdoor venue, the bridesmaids stopped and circled around the bride to say a prayer.

Her lifelong best friend and maid of honor, eager to join in the prayer, walked around behind Mary A and accidentally stepped on the train. The 30-year-old fabric ripped loudly at the waist. Her friend felt horrible. Panic was about to ensue because the music had started and the nuptial clock was at T-minus 5 and counting. At that moment Mary A's hairdresser and friend, Brian, who would also be singing as Mary A walked down the aisle, stepped in with a needle and thread from his "emergency kit." As he quickly stitched the compromised vintage bridal gown, he calmly and softly sang a hymn, putting the bride and whole party of bridesmaids at ease. He hid the repair, tied off the last thread, and everyone walked down to the venue where the wedding guests had no clue of the incident that could have wrecked the big moment. The tears that flowed that day came from joy and not anxiousness or disappointment.

The Apostle Paul tells his favorite church, at a moment when anxiety was running high amongst the congregation, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:6-7 ESV). With a calm prayer or calming hymn, God can change our perspective of any situation. When we recognize that Immanuel, "God With Us," is present, a flood of peace and comfort overwhelms us and the feelings of upset are washed away. It just took one believer in that bride's room to bring peace by turning the focus from the distressing incident to the One who is always glad to be with us.

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

In His Joy,

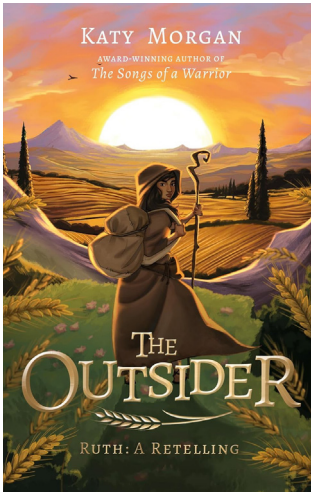
BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



The Outsider: Ruth - A Retelling by Katy Morgan

Katy Morgan is a senior editor at The Good Book Company; she holds a master's degree in classical Greek literature from Cambridge University. Morgan attends King's Church Chessington in Surrey, UK where she volunteers in youth work. Morgan has written two other books in the Retelling Series; ***The Promise and The Light: A Christmas Retelling*** and ***The Songs of a Warrior: Saul and David***. ***The Songs of a Warrior*** won the 2024 Christian Book Award for Young People's Literature.

In ***The Outsider***, written for children 8 to 12 years of age, Morgan imaginatively retells the story of Ruth while staying faithful to the Biblical narrative. This book is written for children 8 to 12 years of age. Ruth decides to leave everything she has known to go to live in a country as an outsider among people who probably do not want her there. Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz will face challenges, danger, and rescue. Morgan focuses on God's relationship with His people and His love for them, showing "...that God's providence, provision, and kindness extend to all kinds of people, even those who are outsiders." This book includes notes that distinguish the known facts in the Book of Ruth from the imaginative parts that Morgan used in her retelling. There is also a Book Club Discussion Guide and a Bible-reading plan.

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

ATTENDANCE09.13.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP		543
11:15 AM WORSHIP		359
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		771

FINANCIAL REPORT09.13.2026

ACCOUNT	SEPT. 13, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND (GENERAL)	\$117,449.59	\$3,394,962.96
DESIGNATED		\$131,444.11
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED		\$729,608.68
TOTAL GIVING	\$121,634.59	\$4,262,910.75

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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