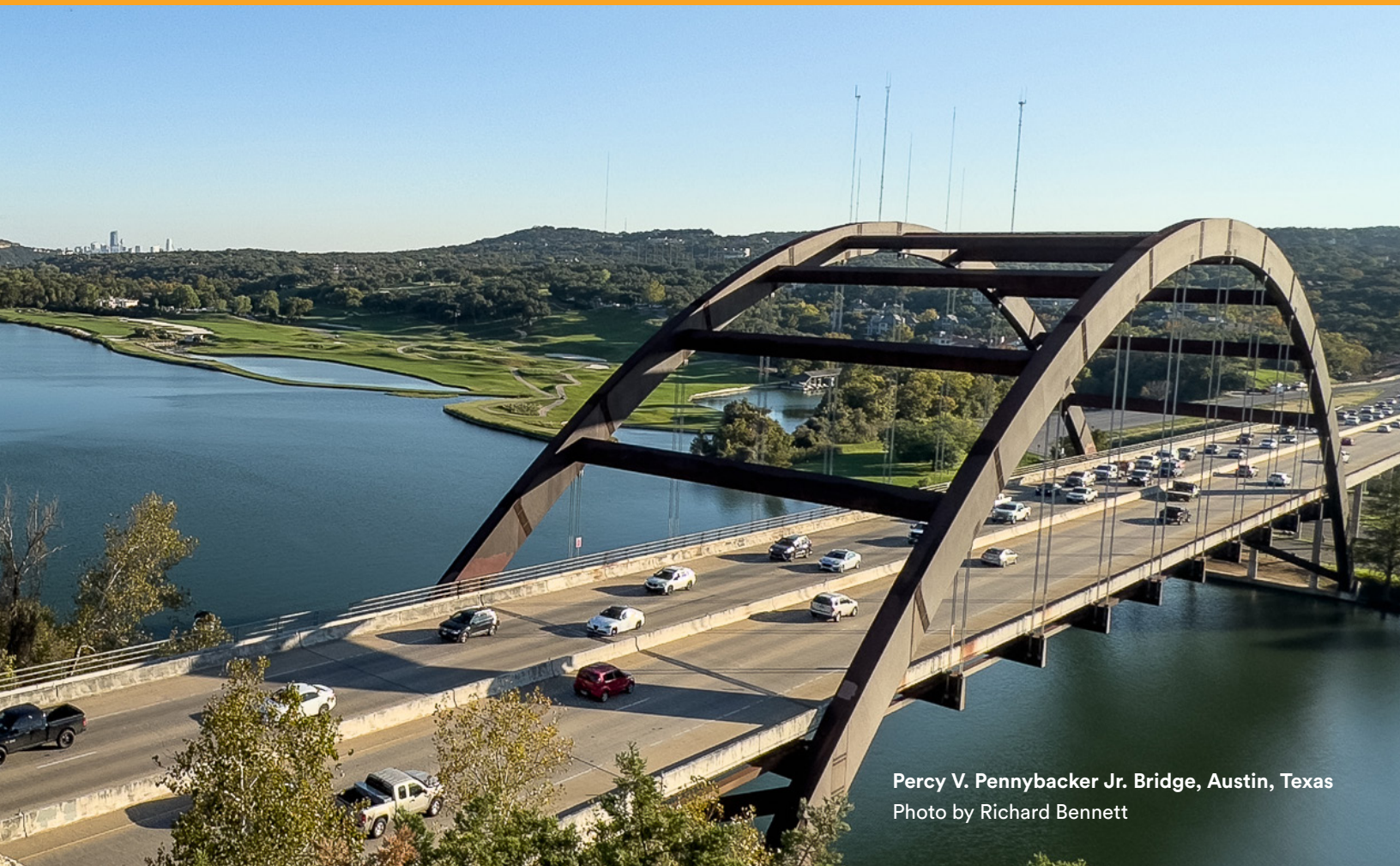


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 33

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Praise the Lord, football is back! Week one of college football kicks off this weekend, and all sports fans are cautiously optimistic. After all, our teams are currently undefeated, all opponents look beatable, and we are quietly making our plans for conference championship games. That optimism will, of course, fade by Monday. Some teams will indeed be discouraged and defeated this Saturday. Others will celebrate a victory only to have their hearts broken in the upcoming weeks.

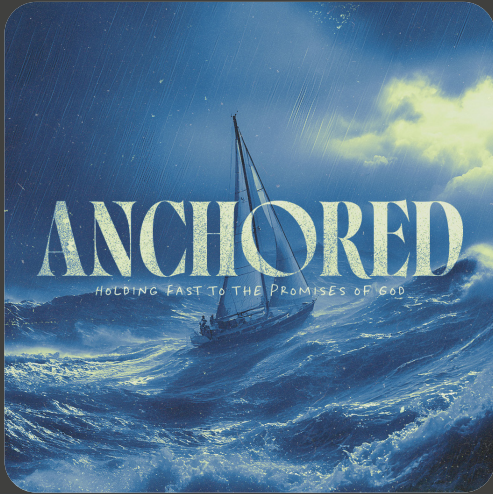
I have found life can be much like a college football season. One moment we are optimistic and celebratory, only to soon be discouraged by life's disappointments. Jesus warned us we will feel this way, but He also encouraged us with hope we need to persevere: *"In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33).

Every Sunday we are looking at anchor verses Jesus has given us to weather life's storms. So far, we have been reminded that He is with us, no one can snatch us from His hand, and this Sunday we see He can give us true rest in the storms. I encourage you to invite someone to join you this Sunday. Perhaps you have a friend who is stuck in a storm. You could be the lifeboat God sends to help them find their anchor. I look forward to continuing the series with you at 8:45am or 11:15am this weekend.

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 31, 2026



Michael Day

512-567-4726



Demetrius Loukas

512-750-4796

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026



Grace Baker



Rachel Carroll



Luis Carlos Quitian

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Enoch Sanya

Born: April 30, 2026

Proud Parents: Duncan & Miriam Sanya

Siblings: Gabriella & Hannah



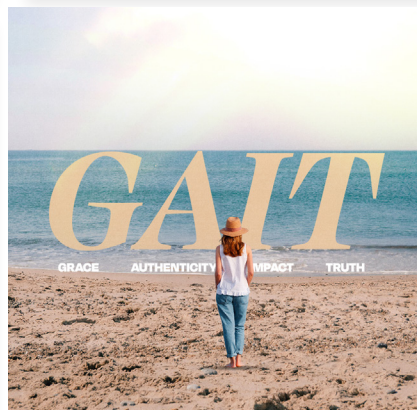
**LIGHT UP
YOUR *Home***

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

WEEKLY REMINDERS



MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
SEPTEMBER 9

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

Cheeseburgers, fries, and onion rings

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!

We kicked off our Women's Ministry Cinderella-style! It was so much fun to have our "sisters" back together again, even if, for just one night, they happened to be stepsisters! And just when we thought the night couldn't get any better, Cinderella herself even made an appearance!

What a joy it was to see so many of you "Step Into the Story" and discover the many ways to connect, grow, and serve - from Bible studies and special events, to becoming an encourager, and even trying something new with our two newest ministry opportunities: pickleball and mahjong!

If you weren't able to join us for the kickoff, don't worry, you haven't missed your chance! There is still plenty of time to find your place and step into the story. Visit us [here](#) to explore all the opportunities and find your fit!

New This Fall: Pickleball & Mahjong

Both pickleball and mahjong will meet on the **4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm**, beginning *September 22nd*.

Pickleball will be played on the courts outside Heritage Hall. Mahjong will meet inside Heritage Hall. No experience is necessary for either one! We'll have instructors available to help you learn, so whether you're a seasoned player or have never picked up a paddle or tile, you are welcome. So grab a friend and come join us! There's a place for you, and a seat at the table.

Whatever chapter your story is in right now, we believe there is a place for you to connect, grow, and serve. There is a fit for everyone. Come find yours!

Stepping in,

ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER

WHAT IS THE TEXAS MISSIONS OFFERING?

To fulfill the Great Commission, WMU of Texas created the Mary Hill Davis Offering® to empower Texas Baptists' ministries, churches, and missionaries to reach beyond their four walls — advancing Texas mission efforts and leading people to Christ.

SEPTEMBER 13-20, 2026

WEEK OF PRAYER

IAMTEXASMISSIONS.ORG • WMUTX.ORG

Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions



LADIES GAME DAY

EVERY TUESDAY @ 11:30AM // BEGINNING SEPT. 15

ROOM 248

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH AND FAVORITE GAMES
ALL AGES INVITED!

CONTACT: CINDY ROSENTHAL
carosenthal@att.net
713-303-4993
(No childcare provided)

ABC Women's Ministry Kickoff "Step Into The Story" August 30, 2026



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

One evening when the kids were very young (all four under the age of five), Anita and I were exhausted and it was getting to be dinner time. We called that 5-6pm time period the “Witching Hour,” because everyone was tired and hangry, and toil and trouble were lurking just around the corner. This day we were all in the car, having been at a church event, but we knew we wouldn’t make it home to fix dinner before the wailing and gnashing of teeth would begin. We passed an Asian restaurant, I don’t even remember the name, but the sign said, “fine dining!” I was a little scared of the price and the impact four preschoolers may have on that pristine environment, but we had no more time to spare, and so we went in to feed our precious children before they became starved piranhas. I was surprised to find that the “fine dining” sign may have been a little misleading. It was just a regular restaurant. We asked for two highchairs and two booster seats and ordered quickly. The food came out in a timely manner, and the kids ate with relatively few toddler mealtime crises. I asked for the bill so we could get them home, bathed, and in bed to avert the bedtime landmine. I was feeling pretty good about the whole thing, until I got up and walked around the table to get my kids out of their highchairs and boosters. I don’t think I had ever seen so much rice on the floor in my life. Each chair had a small, conical mound around it (think Molokini Crater in Hawaii). My fatherly pride that we had accomplished an eating out event with no major incidents quickly turned to flush-faced embarrassment feeling the judgment of the other patrons of this fine dining establishment. I threw another \$10 dollar tip on the table and immediately scrambled my kids to the car. At that moment, God reminded me of all the times before I had kids that I said, “I will never let my kids _____!” Well, it had happened. I had let my kids _____, and there was nothing I could do about it. I felt the humbling remorse of wanting to take back all the times I had judged another parent without trying to understand their situation.

Jesus, in His famous Sermon on the Mount, warns us all about making judgment calls about others without taking a look at our own mess first. He says, *“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye”* (Matthew 7:3-5 NIV). Be careful never to use the phrase, “I will never...” because in my experience, Jesus will, at some point, give us the opportunity to prove ourselves wrong. *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you”* (Matthew 7:1-2 NIV).

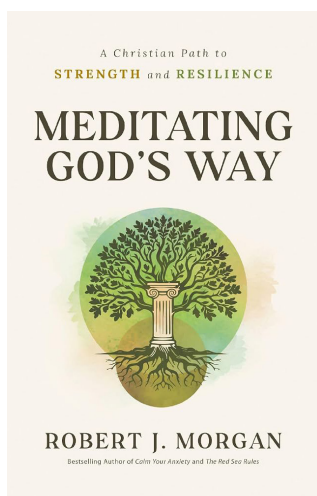
Hang in there people! God is glad to be with us! I’m praying for us all!

In His Joy,
BILL MCGINNIS
PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



Meditating God's Way: A Christian Path to Strength and Resilience by Robert J. Morgan

Robert J. Morgan is the Associate Pastor at World Outreach Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He also teaches the Bible on the Robert J. Morgan Podcast. Morgan has written more than forty books.

Morgan says, "The happiness of our lives may, in fact, depend upon the quality of our thoughts, but the quality of our thoughts absolutely depends on the true and transcendent wisdom found only in the Word of God." Chapter one discusses why we should meditate. ***Meditating God's Way*** says, "The word meditate or meditation occurs 21 times in the Bible; the words think, thinking, and thoughts, 252 times. Mind is mentioned 163 times, and the word ponder is found 9 times. God's approach to mindfulness is to have a mind full of His Word." The chapters give Scriptures on which to meditate that are related to specific life challenges such as anxiety, courage, and strengthening your faith. Each chapter ends with a Meditation Guide, asking you to *Ponder, Personalize, and Practice* the Scripture reference on that page. Psalms 1:1-2 says, "*Blessed is the one ...whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on His law day and night.*"

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

ATTENDANCE08.30.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP		628
11:15 AM WORSHIP		432
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		838

FINANCIAL REPORT08.30.2026

ACCOUNT	AUG. 30, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND (GENERAL)	\$74,679.34	\$3,180,387.94
DESIGNATED		\$2,540.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED		\$729,608.68
TOTAL GIVING	\$77,004.34	\$4,031,490.73

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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