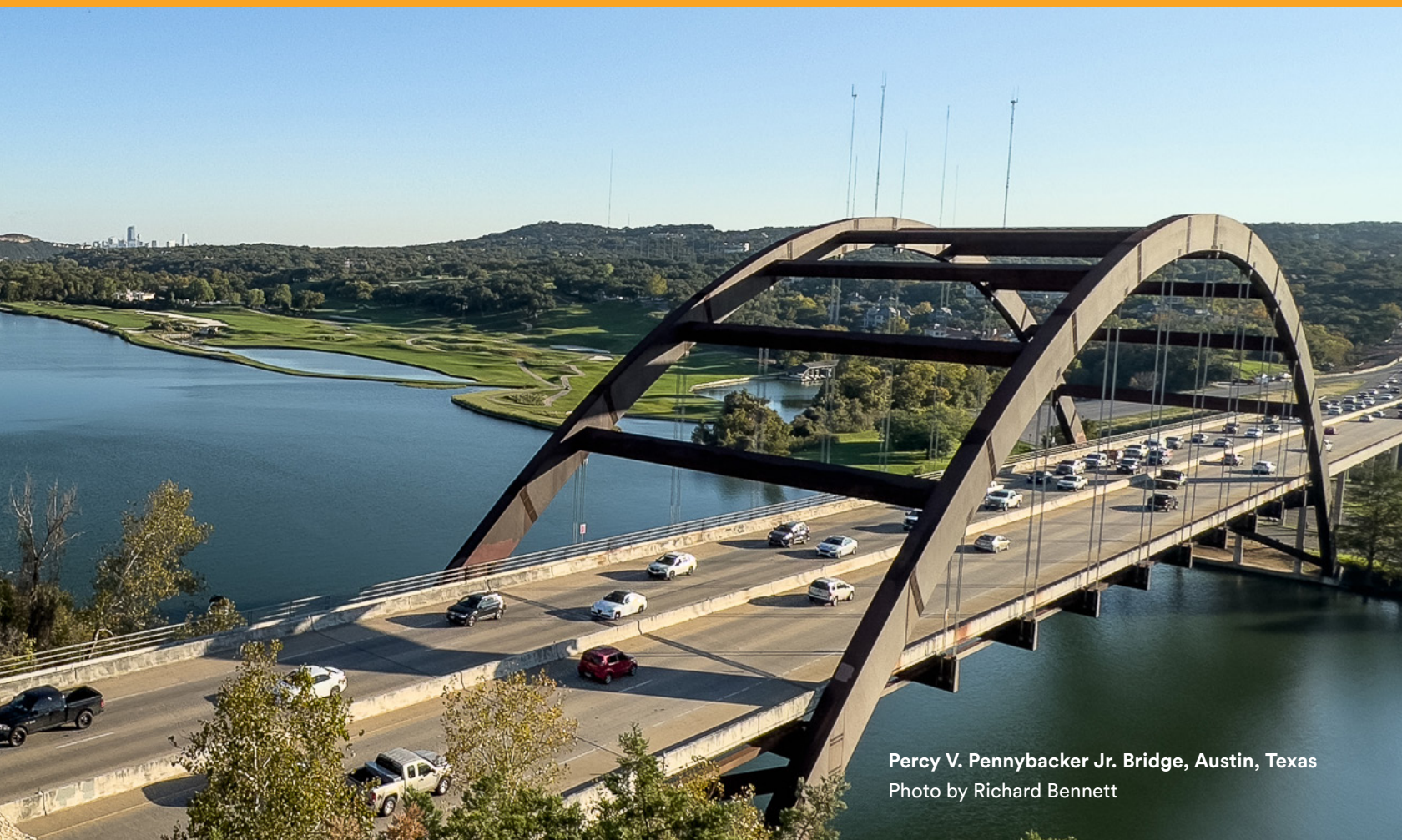


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 35 ————— SEPTEMBER 23, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Jesus said, *“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also”* (John 14:3). Of all the promises in the Scriptures, perhaps the most comforting one is Jesus’ promise to return. The story is not finished, and Jesus will come again to judge the wicked, reward the faithful, and make all things new. This unshakeable truth of His coming Kingdom serves as an anchor verse for our lives.

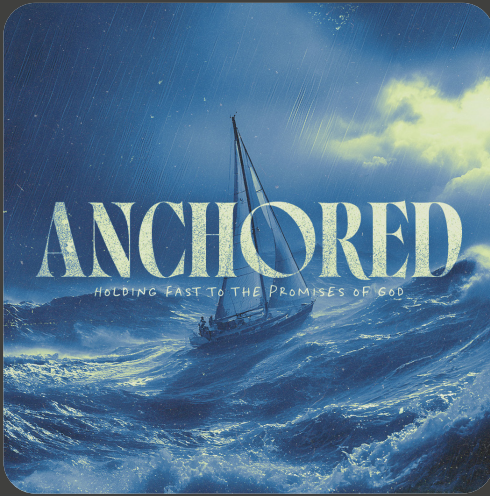
Paul said, *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us”* (Romans 8:19). Though storms rage around us, Jesus will soon calm the waters. He is with us spiritually today, but He will be with us physically when He comes again. He is our hope, and we should strive to be ready for that day. This Sunday we will look to this final anchor verse and cling to Jesus’ promise to return.

I encourage you to invite a friend to join us as we close out this sermon series together. I’ll see 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 21, 2026



Hayden Gilbert

512-839-3662



Jeff Bonham

512-844-7879

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026



Andy Barclay



Austin Maselka



**Chaney & Ryleigh
Kelly**



**LIGHT UP
YOUR *Life***

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

WEEKLY REMINDERS



MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
SEPTEMBER 30

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

Beef soft tacos (corn and/or flour), rice,
beans, guacamole, and chips

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!



AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH
DECORATED TRUNKS • CANDY

OCT. 25

*Trunk
or Treat*

austinbaptistchurch.com/trunkortreat2026

5-7PM

7016 RIBELIN RANCH DR.
PUMPKIN PATCH • GAMES



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE



Thank you church family for sending me and Bill with an amazing team of women to serve in Thailand. As God's word says, *"And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"* Romans 10:15.

The feet that are with us include **Julie Christianson, Sonia Cushing, Allison D'Alfonso, Judy Kirtley, and Christa Ratcliff**. I could sing their praises all day long in the way God has gifted them, especially for this trip. Who knew that the gift of line dancing would be used to serve across the world!

We would love your prayers for these main things while we are gone:

1. Healthy and safe travel.
2. That we would have eyes to see where God is at work and join Him in it, as we help prep for the next trip in November.
3. That the gospel would be shared, planted, and received especially with the girls at the youth detention center.
4. That we would be an encouragement to our missionaries there.
5. That the women we serve at the retreat would begin to heal and know their past hurts don't define them.
6. Let the retreat time match the theme "Retreat, Renew, Return," with the verse from Matthew 11:28-30: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

Thank you again for being a giving and sending church who lives the mission to lead people to a life-changing relationship with the Light of the world Jesus Christ.

~Anita McGinnis

Education Connection



...every child reading by the end of 3rd grade

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!

2026 Texas Missions Goal:
\$3.5 MILLION

Our Church Goal:

\$15,000

**TOGETHER, LET'S
BOLDLY DECLARE,
"WE ARE
TEXAS
MISSIONS"**



GIVE ONLINE AT [AUSTINBAPTISTCHURCH.COM/GIVE](https://austinbaptistchurch.com/give)



**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.***

QUESTIONS?

Virginia Kreimeyer
vkreimeyer@gmail.com

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.

Hope for Haiti September 19, 2026



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

When my son was playing high school football, a group of football parents and friends used to come to the games early, tailgate, sit together in the stands, actively participate verbally while watching, and stay late after each game. The student section was always a little wacky, but the parent section could also be a little unruly as well. We were loud and obnoxious (maybe what you would expect from a former collegiate cheerleader, but other parents participated, too). There were times that we may have expressed our displeasure with a penalty call a little too effusively, especially when it involved one of our little (290lb) angels, who obviously played by all the rules and did not deserve a penalty flag of any sort. We all enjoyed the games and didn't think too much about our annoying and vociferous commentary about the officiating, until... one of the area refs, who happened to be a church member, came to my office and announced his retirement from reffing high school games. He handed me his striped shirt and said, "Bill, maybe you'd like to take my place." I was, for the first time, unable to speak. Of all the times I had yelled things at the refs, there was nothing I could say at that moment. I had to apologize to him for the ways I had questioned his colleagues, while not thinking a thing of it. These guys were certainly not doing this job for fame and fortune. I'm sure they got very little compensation, and there was always someone from one side of the field or the other that was not happy with any call that was made. This was one of the ways these people invested in their community, and I had not only NOT encouraged them in it, I had actively discouraged them.

When some unsettling things were happening in the Colossian church, the apostle Paul reminds the congregation, "*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts*" (Colossians 3:15). Theologian Marcus Warner says, "The Greek word translated as 'rule' is probably better translated 'referee.'" What a thought, let the peace of Christ referee in your hearts. It is like when you are upset about something or at someone, and a whistle blows in your heart. Then, the Prince of Peace steps in and asks, "What's going on here?" (though He already knows). Christ sorts things out peacefully, picks up the penalty flag, and restarts the game clock. The challenge for us is we must LET the peace of Christ be our referee. That's not easy if we think we are always right. He may just hand us His whistle and striped shirt and let us see how well we do without His peace. I've tried it and wouldn't recommend it.

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

In His Joy,

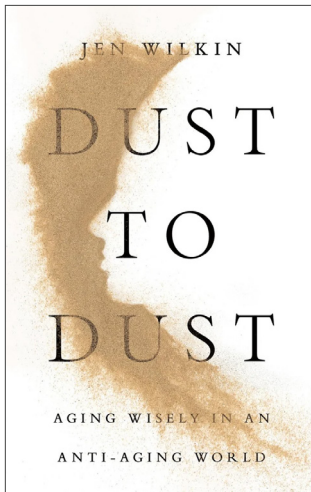
BILL MCGINNIS

PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library



Dust to Dust: Aging Wisely in an Anti-Aging World by Jen Wilkin

Jen Wilkin is an author of 18 books. She lives in Dallas, Texas. Wilkin has organized and taught Bible studies for women in homes, churches, and other venues. From her website: Wilkin is, “An advocate for Bible literacy, her passion is to see others become articulate and committed followers of Christ, with a clear understanding of why they believe what they believe, grounded in the Word of God.”

Dust to Dust is less than 200 pages long. The title might lead you to believe the book is about death or the afterlife, but, “This is a book about this life and the unexpected path of living it to the full.” It is written in three parts. Part 1 is *The True Story of Aging*. Part 2 is *The Lord Gives and the Lord Takes Away*. Part 3 is *Blessed Be the Name of the Lord*. The question explored in this book is, “What is the true story of aging, and how can we inhabit it?” The world promotes a false story of aging, even pushing ideas of anti-aging based on the fear of getting old. You will become a has-been. The Bible speaks of aging as a gift (Proverbs 3:1-2). Wilkin says, “The Bible’s true story of aging is motivated by joy: Embracing aging. You’ll grow in wisdom, depth, and value. No one is a has-been in God’s family.” She points out, “...that Christians are not talking about aging. And that we need to.” Wilkin invites us to live fully at every stage. She encourages, “... us to lean into - not fight against - our place in the arc of life.” The last sentence from the last chapter, “May your every breath declare from first to last, “Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

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

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE09.20.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP		594
11:15 AM WORSHIP		423
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		802

FINANCIAL REPORT09.20.2026

FINANCIAL REPORT DELAYED THIS WEEK

The financial report is delayed for this week. We will have our the regular report in next week’s Bridge, Wednesday, September 30th. If you have any questions, you may reach out to Bryan Goodwin at bryang@austinbaptistchurch.com or call the church office at 512-491-9600.

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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