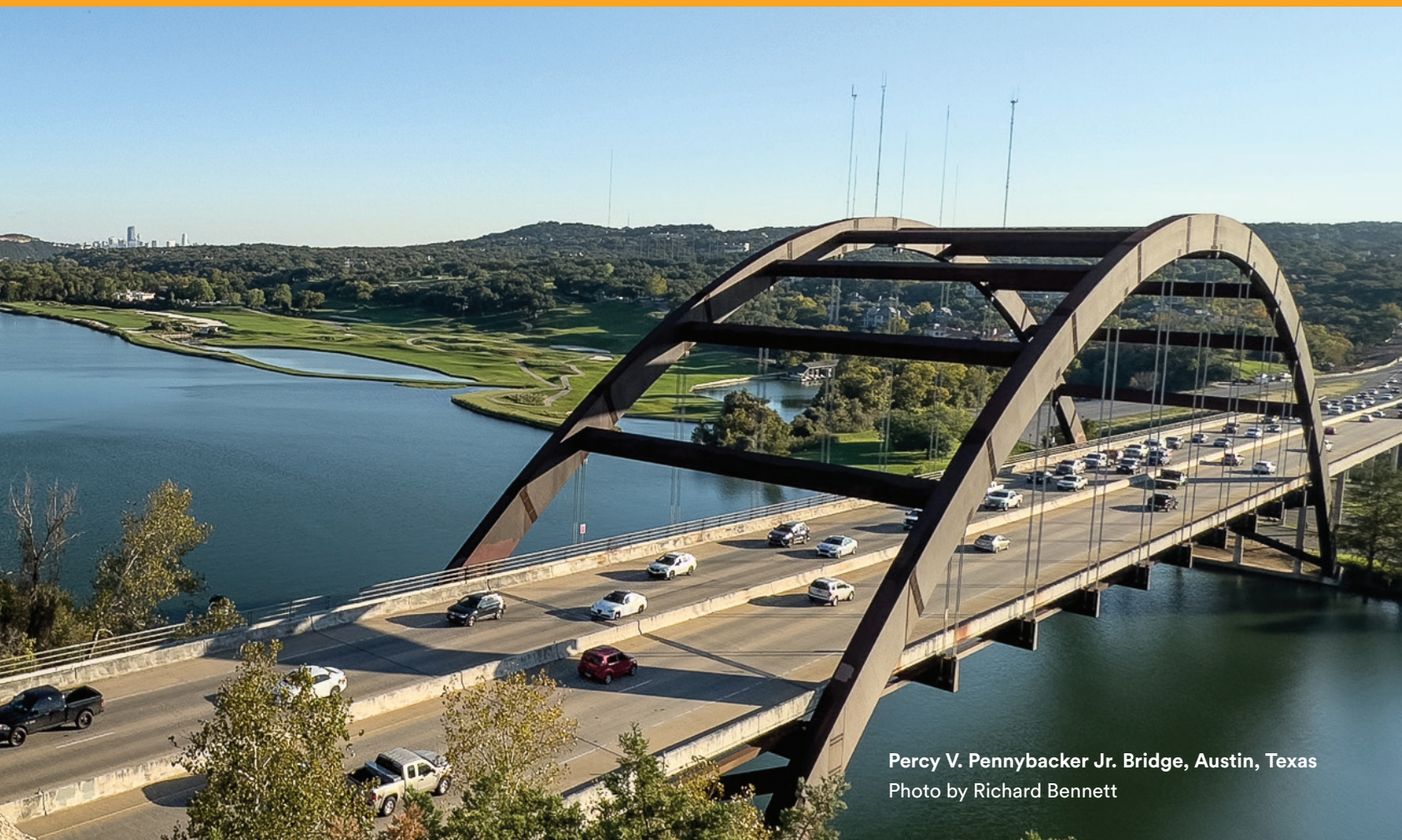


# The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 18 NO. 32 ————— SEPTEMBER 3, 2025



**AUSTIN BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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# A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Psalm 122:1 says, “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’” I hope you are glad when you come to ABC each Sunday. I truly do believe the gathering of God’s people is a special and sacred thing. God wants His people to be connected to Him, but He also wants us to be connected to one another. The One Anothers sermon series is reminding us of how we are called to relate to one another within the church. So far, we’ve learned we are called to love one another, welcome one another, and, as we will see this Sunday, forgive one another.

As we continue to learn how to “be” the church, I would encourage you to take your next step at ABC. It is one thing to attend our church, but it is a much sweeter thing to become a part of the faith family. What is your next step? For some, it may be to officially join the church. Others may need to find authentic community through a Bible Fellowship Group. Or perhaps you need to check out Midweek or find a volunteer team to serve on. We have many on-ramps into the life of our church, so I encourage you to prayerfully find yours this month.

As a reminder, we have relaunched our Citizen ATX podcast. We just released a new series titled, “Blueprints: Jesus’ Design for the Church.” This podcast series will complement our Sunday morning sermon series. On Sundays, we will focus on how to “be” the church, but in our weekly podcast show we will focus on “what” constitutes a church. We are covering topics such as the gathering, the great commission, authority, ordinances, spiritual gifts, and more. Citizen ATX is available on all major podcast platforms, or you can click this link to access content online:  
<https://citizenatx.buzzsprout.com/>

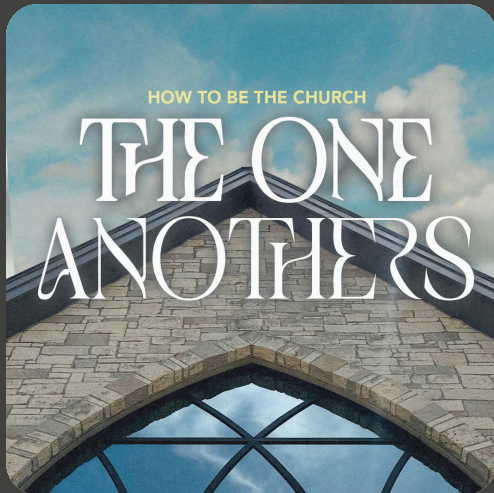
I look forward to welcoming you Sunday. Invite a friend, and I’ll see you at 8:45am or 11:15am.

Onward and Upward,

**DR. JONATHAN SPENCER**  
**SENIOR PASTOR**







## CURRENT SERIES

### **The One Others**

How To *Be* The Church

## DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2025



### **Troy Wappler**

512-922-3289



### **Paul Hamlin**

512-656-1414

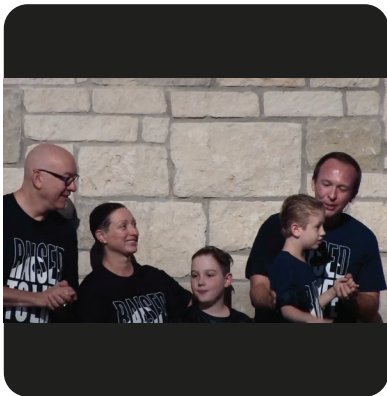
PAUL HAMLIN earned a B.A. degree in business management from the University of Texas at Austin. He serves as Senior Manager of Operations and Quality at Vorago Technologies. He and Tara are the proud parents of daughters Madison and Lilly. They joined ABC in 2008.



# CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

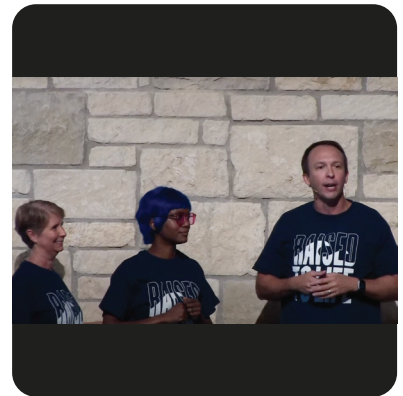
SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025



**Eric, Nicole, Dash  
& Goldie Churilla**



**Haley Murphy**



**Queen Dickey**

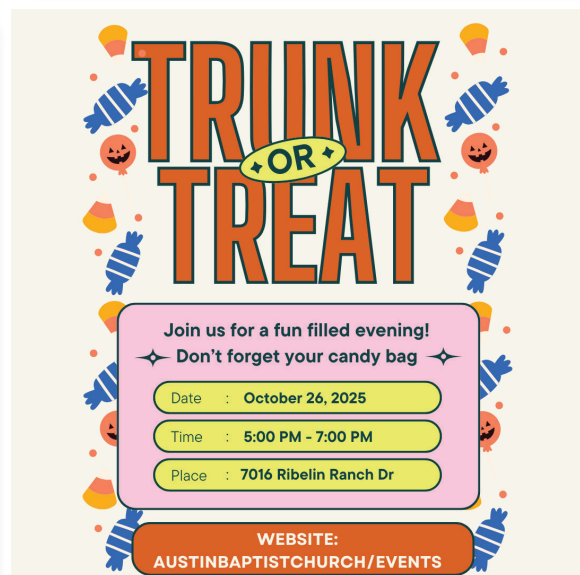
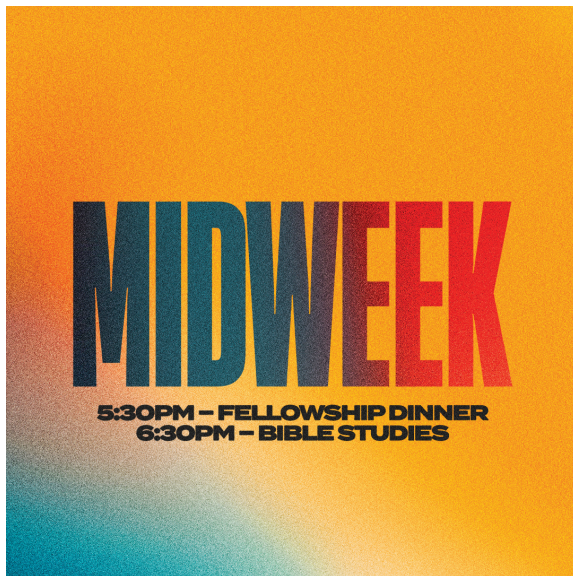


**Todd & Michelle  
Warren**



**Corrie Tung**

# UPCOMING EVENTS



For all event and weekly activity information, please visit  
[austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS)



# COME JOIN US FOR MIDWEEK

*\*Please note room updates for Men's Bible Study and Embrace Grace*

FALL SCHEDULE

<p><b>5:55 PM</b> ABC Kids Choir Rooms 143, 144 &amp; 145</p> <p><b>6:15 PM</b> Divorce Care Room 201</p> <p><b>6:30 PM</b> Encounter: Kids and Preschool Elevate/Uplift Rooms</p> <p>Help That Hurts The Great Hall</p> <p>Women's Bible Study Room 243A/B</p>	<p><b>6:30 PM</b> Men's Bible Study Room 239</p> <p>Experiencing God Room 248</p> <p>Embrace Grace Room 202</p> <p><i>Sherlock Jesus:</i> Evangelism Essentials Room 240</p> <p><i>Enviados:</i> Spanish Bible Study Room 238</p> <p>AXIS for Students Student Ministry Suite</p>	<p><b>6:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsals Worship Ministry Suite</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> The Summit Young Adults Heritage Hall</p> <p><b>7:30 PM</b> Orchestra Rehearsals The Worship Center</p>
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**ABC LIBRARY**  
 Open 5pm-7:30pm

## MIDWEEK MENU

**NEXT WEEK'S MENU**  
SEPTEMBER 10

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

Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes,  
green beans, bread roll, and salad bar

Please note that Midweek dinner will now be served in The Café.  
Seating for dinner will still be in The Great Hall until 6:30pm.





# NUMBERS & DEUTERONOMY

## FALL INTO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

*A JOURNEY THROUGH NUMBERS AND DEUTERONOMY*

This fall, Abundant Living BFG will journey through Numbers and Deuteronomy beginning this Sunday, September 7th. We will learn how to navigate life's challenges with faith, preparing you to claim God's promises for your own life.

Abundant Living is a multigenerational class focusing on expository Bible study, prayer, relationships, and service leveraging the Lifeway Explore the Bible study guides. Abundant Living meets in Room 228 every Sunday at 10am.

**CONTACT:** David McClung  
[david.mcclung@hotmail.com](mailto:david.mcclung@hotmail.com)

## Sherlock Jesus: Evangelism Essentials

**Wednesdays at Midweek | Room 240 @ 6:30pm**

Are you a believer of any age wanting to level up in outreach and your personal evangelism? Does God bring people near for conversations, but you feel awkward getting started? Can you receive new information? Can you see with your eyes and hear with your ears? Come learn how to approach evangelism by thinking like Jesus, as if Sherlock Holmes was under the power of the Holy Spirit, solving spiritual mysteries through careful observation and wise understanding about our fellow men and women. There's no cost, no books to read, and only minimal time commitment, so join us!

**September 10 - Week 4 Topic:** Top 5 Overlooked & Underrated Ways to Share Love with Evangelism

***Future weekly topics include:***

- Good Questions to Use and Re-Use (Sept. 17)
- Apologetic and Bible Study Resources (Sept. 24)
- Sherlock Jesus Workshop and Discussion (Oct. 1)

**CONTACT:** Thom Kurtz | [thom\\_kurtz@hotmail.com](mailto:thom_kurtz@hotmail.com)



WMU of Texas designed the Mary Hill Davis Offering® to advance Texas Baptists missions in leading people to know Christ and developing a missional lifestyle.

WATCH Who is Mary Hill Davis?

Week of Prayer: September 14-21

# WE ARE TEXAS MISSIONS

MARY HILL DAVIS OFFERING® FOR TEXAS MISSIONS | IAMTEXASMISSIONS.ORG



## SENIOR ADULT DAY

OCTOBER 2nd | 10am-2:30pm

### FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS

If you are 55+ but still claim to be young at heart, then come join the fun at Highland Lakes Camp and Conference Center for a great day of Christian fellowship, inspirational entertainment, and a delicious lunch. The day's theme is still TBD at this time, so visit the link below to see what to come dressed for!

Registration closes on **September 29th**, so don't wait! For more information, contact Bill McGinnis at [billm@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:billm@austinbaptistchurch.com)



**KRISTEN GIBBS**  
HARPIST



**JEREMY KLUTH**  
FOUNDER  
SCRIPTURE ALIVE

**REGISTER:** [hlccc.org/sr-adult-day/](http://hlccc.org/sr-adult-day/) or call 512-264-1777  
EVENT FEE: \$30 (includes lunch and event program)



# ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

**Hey Mommas of littles through high school—this one's for you!**

It's time to increase your MomQ (think IQ or EQ, but designed for all things mom). At MomQ, you'll find community with other moms, grow in how to build a strong, faith-filled family, and be encouraged by a mentoring mom walking alongside you. There will be delicious treats every Thursday! Whether you're cradling a newborn or sending your "baby" off to high school, MomQ is a place for you. You'll be filled up and encouraged, and have the chance to encourage others too.

MomQ begins this **Thursday, September 4th, at 9:45am**. Childcare is provided for birth–5 years, as well as for kids who are homeschooled. Please take a moment to fill out [this link](#) so we know you're coming.

Fun bonus: our very own mentoring mom, Sonia Cushing, was recently featured on the MomQ website with some beautiful wisdom on what it means to be a mom. See Sonia's highlight [HERE](#).

And speaking of exciting news... ***Sweet Sunday is growing!*** Because of you—your presence, your prayers, and the friends you've invited—we've outgrown the Skylight Room. Praise God! This September we're moving into the Great Hall, which will give us plenty of space to welcome even more friends and sisters in Christ.

Come ready to connect, encourage, and weave together in the love of Christ at **Sweet Sunday, September 21st, at 4:00pm in the Great Hall**.

With love,

**ANITA MCGINNIS**

**WOMEN'S MINISTER**





# From the Pages of Bill's Notebook



I was at a funeral with my dad several years ago where we met a longtime family friend. My mother and this special woman had been friends since I was in elementary school. Immediately, this lady walked toward my dad and me, greeted us with a beautiful smile and words of endearment. Instantly, I was filled with a renewed appreciation for the positive and encouraging heart of this wonderful person. This friend, Harriet, now on the edge of her golden years, was even more affirming than I had remembered. It was like serendipitously finding a treasure that you misplaced years ago with its value tremendously appreciated over time.

Harriet's eyes sparkled and a smile broke out across her face with every pause in the conversation. As we stood in the parking lot on a beautiful and windy spring day, her healthy silvery hair was blowing around her face like an aura of positivity. This lady had the rare ability to always affirm everyone just by the way she tilted her head and looked at them while she listened to every word they said. She always boosted your esteem with comments like, "That's great!" and "Wow!" which made you feel like you've just told her the most wonderful and interesting thing ever, even when it was the most mundane. She made you laugh, and she lifted your spirits with witty words and Barnabas-ish quips in response. Whenever I asked her a question, she always adeptly wove the focus of the conversation back to the person I like to talk about the most... me! And she did it without you knowing it, until you realized later what had happened.

The three of us reminisced about the antics and adventures of our yearly family vacations to the beach together and an unforgettable two-week tour of the Western U.S. with six kids (14 and under) and four adults in one RV. She recalled specific memorable moments from those adventures that made us all snicker, and laugh, and sigh with fond remembrance. As we visited for just a few minutes, I realized what a precious gem this person was to those who were privileged to interact with her on the regular. She always saw any negative situation from a positive perspective and helped everyone else see it too. Her four children enjoyed the empowerment and success that came from the lifetime of accolades and affirmations of a proud mother.

After seeing this friend again, I was glad to know that nothing had changed about her except maybe that she had become even more adept at saying the most optimistic words at just the right moment. She was an expert encourager and an inspiration to all those around her. I would be thrilled to be half the encourager she was. She was a rich blessing to us all.

I think of Harriet when I read this from God's Word: "A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver" (Proverbs 25:11 NIV). Her words always made you feel like you had just received a great gift that both valued and validated you as a person all at the same time.

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

In His Joy,

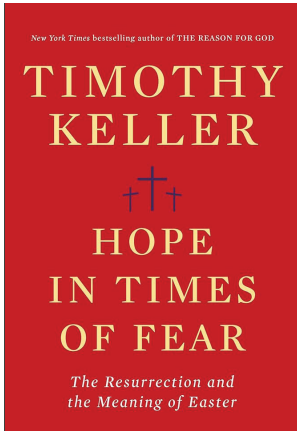
**BILL MCGINNIS**

**PASTOR OF CARE**





# ABC Library



## ***Hope in Times of Fear: The Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter*** by Timothy Keller

Timothy Keller was a pastor, preacher, theologian, author, and Christian apologist. He became a Christian while in college through the ministry of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and later worked for that organization. Keller started and pastored the Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City. He was known for preaching and writing that focused on reaching skeptics and the educated. Timothy Keller died in May of 2023. His last book, ***Forgive***, was released in November, 2022.

***Hope In Times of Fear*** unlocks the true meaning of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The followers of Jesus were not prepared to meet the resurrected Jesus after the grief they suffered from His death. They did not recognize Him; they saw Him with their eyes but failed to understand who He really was. Jesus invited them to see Him spiritually; then, their eyes were opened. In this book you will discover a new way to look at the Resurrection. The year 2020 was an especially hard year for Keller. He learned that he had pancreatic cancer and wrote much of the book while taking chemotherapy. He only briefly mentions his illness in this book and keeps his focus on Jesus. Keller does say, “writing in such a dark time helped me to see in the Resurrection new depths of comfort and power.” This book shows an example of what Keller called, “The Great Reversal”. Through great suffering, God always gives us what we need: life-giving hope!

**CONTACT: Rita Ervin**

Email [library@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:library@austinbaptistchurch.com)

or visit us online at [austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY)

### **LIBRARY HOURS**

**SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM**

**WEDNESDAYS - 5:00PM-7:30PM**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM:** [austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH)

**BIBLE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS:** [austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG)

**ABC PODCASTS:** [austinbaptistchurch.com/PODCASTS](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/PODCASTS)

# OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE08.31.2025

8:45 AM WORSHIP	.....	593
11:15 AM WORSHIP	.....	321
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	.....	712

FINANCIAL REPORT08.31.2025

ACCOUNT	AUG. 31, 2025	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$163,849.34	\$3,734,415.88
DESIGNATED	\$2,854.00	\$106,588.50
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$94,029.00	\$1,340,911.79
TOTAL GIVING	\$260,732.34	\$5,181,916.17

## 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](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/TEAM)**

### **ABC PRAYER TEAM**

Email Bill McGinnis at **[billm@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:billm@austinbaptistchurch.com)**

### **FOR PUBLICATION CONSIDERATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Mariah Parker, Director of Communications

- **EMAIL:** **[mariahp@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:mariahp@austinbaptistchurch.com)**
- **CALL:** **512.334.8247**

Please submit articles and items for The Bridge by the Friday BEFORE publication.



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