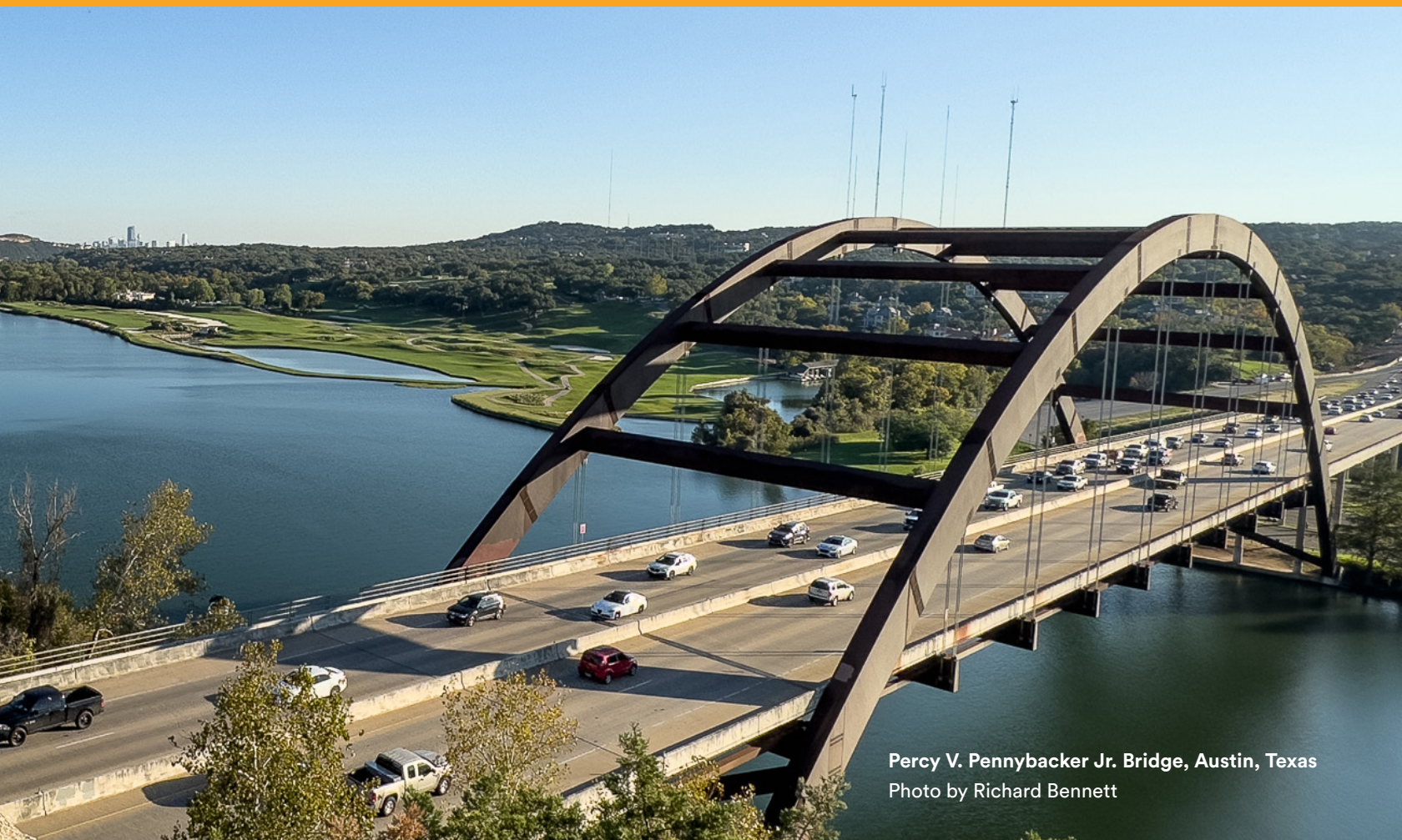


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 36 ————— SEPTEMBER 30, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Be sure to join us this Sunday for the kickoff of a new vision series titled, **ADVANCE**. I have been praying and working for months with staff and lay leaders on developing an exciting discipleship initiative for 2027. I believe God is going to do a great work in and through ABC as we commit to *discover* God through His word, *develop* as disciples, and *deploy* on mission for Him.

This Sunday you will receive a booklet with information all about **ADVANCE**, and I'll be preaching a four-week sermon series casting the vision for 2027. I encourage you to do three things before Sunday. First, pray for God to speak to you and our church this season. Second, commit to be a part of the gathering this month. Prioritize worship every week in October so you are in the know of what is coming. Third, invite someone to join you on the journey. This vision series presents a perfect opportunity for others to hear about the upcoming direction of our church. I'm praying many new faces will join us for the transformational journey that awaits us in 2027.

Come expectant and prayed up. I look forward to seeing you at 8:45am or 11:15am. *"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen"* (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER
SENIOR PASTOR





UPCOMING SERIES

Advance 2027

Looking forward to what's ahead

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 28, 2026



Gerald Aalbers

512-921-0050



Terry Odneal

512-417-9075

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026



Capp Bolin



**Clayton & Abigail
Mills**



**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

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026



Hey there Church Family,

Here in the last part of September, we are excited to celebrate a couple of staff anniversaries.

On September 21st, **Nathan Wood** celebrated his 6th year on staff at ABC. Serving first as our Student Minister and then as our Pastor of Young Adults and Connections, Nathan brings a joy to the ministry at ABC. His creativity, his hard-working nature, and his preaching mean a lot to our church. Over the years he has developed great relationships and carried out many great ministries through our church. We look forward to what the Lord has in store for Nathan through ABC!

On September 24th, **Derek Tackett** celebrated his 14th year on staff. As our Director of Operations, Derek oversees our facility and programming needs for the church, as well as tackling security and food service. Derek approaches the position with creativity, prayerful action, and evangelistic fervor. Through his excellent work, our facility at ABC still functions like new, even as we replace systems that have been in place for over a decade. Derek's expertise, combined with his ministry heart, makes a tremendous difference at ABC.

Please join me this week in saying thank you to these great men as they continue to serve at ABC!



In Christ's Love,

DR. MATT GILLUM
EXECUTIVE PASTOR

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

W E D N E S D A Y
N I G H T S

MIDWEEK

D I N N E R
@ 5 : 3 0 P M

B I B L E S T U D Y
@ 6 : 3 0 P M

Hey Church Family,

As we approach the midway point of the fall semester, we're excited to introduce two new classes for Midweek beginning October 7th. While some of our current classes continue (see Page 9), we will add two new ones to the lineup for the remainder of the semester. If you have not yet connected with Midweek, this is an excellent opportunity to jump in and join what the Lord is doing through the Midweek at ABC.

Here is a quick preview of the two new classes.

- ***Becoming a World Christian:*** Led by Blake McDaniel, this class will focus on gaining a deeper understanding of God's global mission. Participants will be challenged to see the world through a missionary lens and consider how God is at work around the globe. While the class is not exclusively on missions, those who have a passion for learning about international missions will benefit from the study. This class is open to all ages and stages and will meet upstairs in Room 245 beginning October 7th.
- ***Date Night:*** Led by Matt Gillum and Nathan Wood, this series will give couples the opportunity to enjoy a date night experience with a focus on how we can grow biblically with our significant other intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, and in having fun together. For example, the first session will be a Trivia Night with prizes, closing with a biblical focus on how we can grow as couples in our knowledge. Each week will have a different date experience and focus. This class is open to couples of all ages, and we would welcome you to invite friends. It will meet in Room 246 beginning October 7th.

Check out the full Midweek class schedule on the next page. I hope that you'll find your place to grow through Midweek at ABC and that you'll bring a friend along for the experience!

In Christ's Love,

DR. MATT GILLUM
EXECUTIVE PASTOR

FALL 2026 SCHEDULE

5:55 PM

ABC Kids Choir
Room 126, 201
& The Chapel

6:00 PM

Divorce Care
Room 227

GriefShare
Room 238

6:30 PM

Encounter: Kids
and Preschool
Elevate/Uplift Rooms

AXIS for Students
Student Ministry Suite

A Men's Bible Study
with Matt Cushing
Room 240

6:30 PM

The Stories of Women:
A Women's Bible Study
with Anita McGinnis
Room 243A/B

MomQ with Kay Leitch
(Working Moms)
Room 242

Embrace Grace/Life
Room 247 / 248

*Experiencing God in
Everyday Life* with Bill
McGinnis
Room 239

*Date Night: Couples Bible
Study* with Matt Gillum
and Nathan Wood
Room 246
(Begins Oct. 7th)

Enviados:
Spanish Bible Study with
Jorge and Ivonne Garcia
Room 244

6:30 PM

Becoming a World Christian
with Blake McDaniel
Room 245
(Begins Oct. 7th)

Choir Rehearsal
Worship Ministry Suite

7:30 PM

Orchestra Rehearsal
The Worship Center

MIDWEEK

MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
OCTOBER 7

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

Pork chops, baked sweet potatoes,
rice casserole, and salad

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

Collecting Candy through

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21st

The BFG who donates the most candy wins a prize!

Education
Connection



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

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. We are looking for volunteers from our church to send into local schools to help students develop their literacy skills.

Contact: Sue Holstrom
holstrom@gmail.com or 512-820-2724



SCAN OR CLICK HERE
TO SIGN UP!



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE



Hello Sisters!

Come join us for our first Sweet Sunday of the fall! We're continuing our new ministry theme for this year, *"Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story"* (Psalm 107:2), and this Sweet Sunday is all about generations and the stories they have to tell.

This Sweet Sunday will have an Anne of Green Gables theme, as we explore what it's like to live in different generations and different stages of life. You'll hear from two women in our church, one from Generation Alpha and one from the Boomer generation, as they share what it's like to be living in this particular time and at this particular age.

I'm sure we'll learn a lot from one another, laugh a little, and maybe even discover that we have more in common than we realize! And to make the afternoon even sweeter, we'll all have the opportunity to learn something new together.

If you've never been to a Sweet Sunday, it's really quite simple: just come! There's no registration and nothing to bring, except maybe a friend! We'll have time to mingle, enjoy some light refreshments, connect with one another, and enjoy our program together.

I know I say this a lot, but Sweet Sunday really is one of my favorite times. So come be part of it, bring a friend, pull up a chair, and let's enjoy an afternoon of stories, generations, and learning from one another. I can't wait to see you there!

Stepping in,
ANITA MCGINNIS
WOMEN'S MINISTER

Women's Pickleball & Mahjong

September 22, 2026



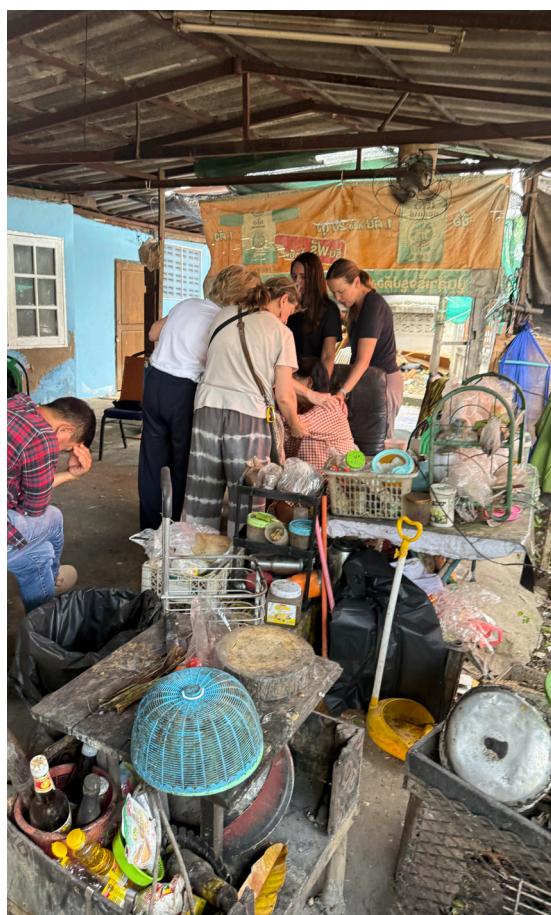
Parent-Child Dedication

September 27, 2026



WEEK IN REVIEW

Women's Thailand Mission Trip September 19-29, 2026



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

As the ABC team has been in Thailand this past week, I have been trying to keep up with the ABC staff reading plan in the CSB Jesus Daily Bible. On day one of our time here, I was still adjusting to the jet lag and awake at 4:30am Chiang Mai time. So I was doing my reading and I read: *“For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed, and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city”* Acts 8:7-8 CSB. That day, we “just so happened” to be making visits with a church that served an area of the city that has an inordinately high number of stroke victims. That part of town doesn’t like the church being there because they believe it angers the evil spirits whom they believe are causing the strokes. We walked from the church less than a quarter mile and visited some suffering from the effects of stroke. One man asked to receive Jesus! He wanted the blood of Jesus to heal him too! As he prayed a prayer of salvation with the local pastor in Thai, we heard raindrops hitting the roof, but the sunshine was bright and no rain clouds could be seen. I was instantly reminded of Ezekiel 36:25-27 which says, *“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”*

We visited several others who were paralyzed and we prayed for them. Another person asked to hear this “gospel” we were sharing. God not only changed the lives of these people, He let us have front row seats to His work. He also gave us a “God Nod” from our Daily Bible reading about what He would be doing. He did it again many times last week, but those are God stories for another 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

The five books shown below are part of the Young David series, which are adapted by author, Andy McGuire, from the Angel studios animated Young David series. They are being added to the ABC Library soon!



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

ATTENDANCE09.27.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP		573
11:15 AM WORSHIP		365
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		803

FINANCIAL REPORT09.20.2026

ACCOUNT	SEPT. 27, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND (GENERAL)	\$150,277.34	\$3,625,771.57
DESIGNATED		\$167,493.05
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED		\$729,608.68
TOTAL GIVING	\$182,436.28	\$4,530,374.30

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:

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- **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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