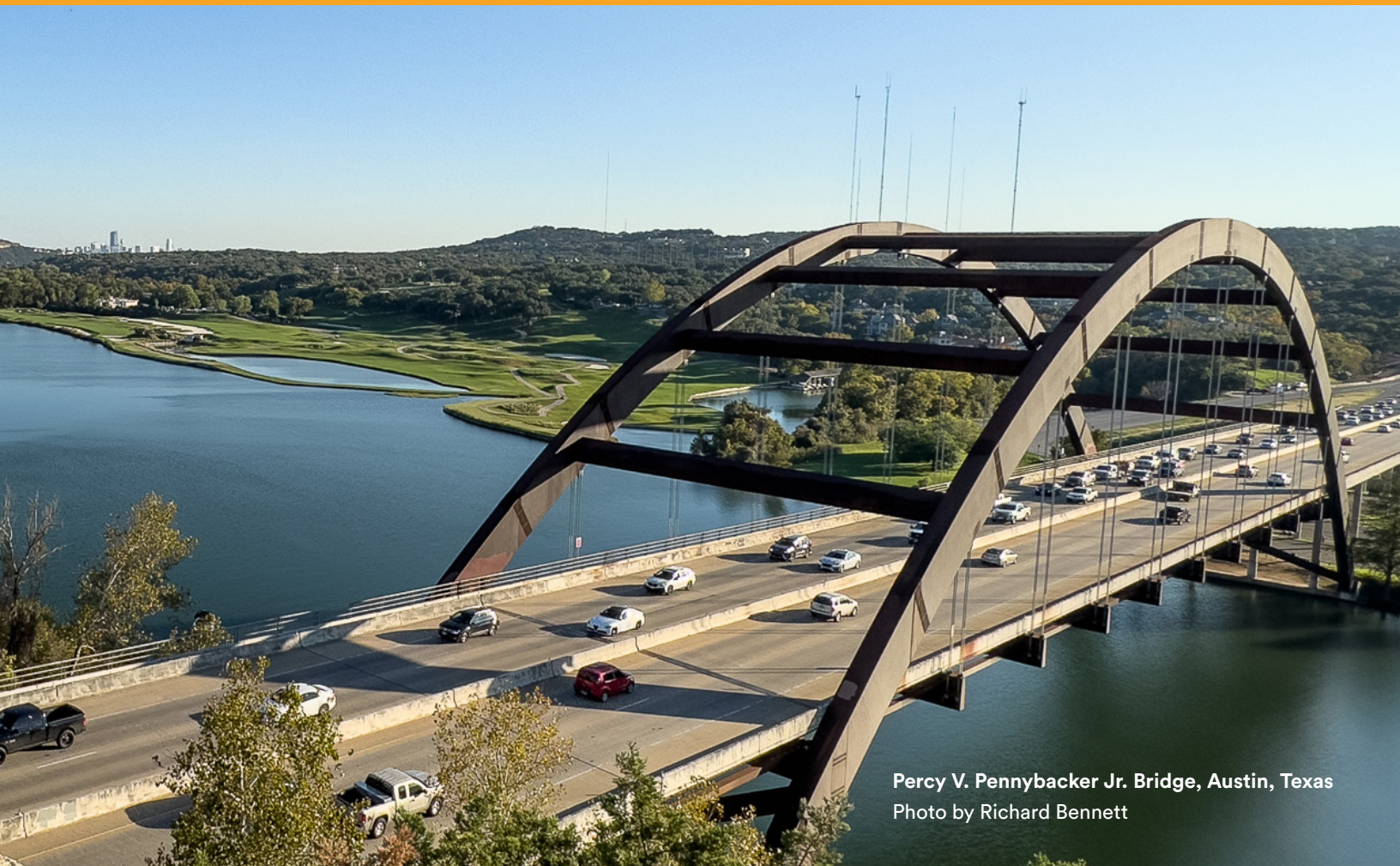


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



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

VOL. 19 NO. 33

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Jesus tells us, “*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you*” (Matthew 6:33). Often in life we can become fixated on the things of this world. We grow anxious over our finances, our work, our schools, and our future. The world is not short on things to worry about. That is why Jesus says first focus on your vertical relationship before you focus on the horizontal stuff. In other words, look upward before you look outward each day.

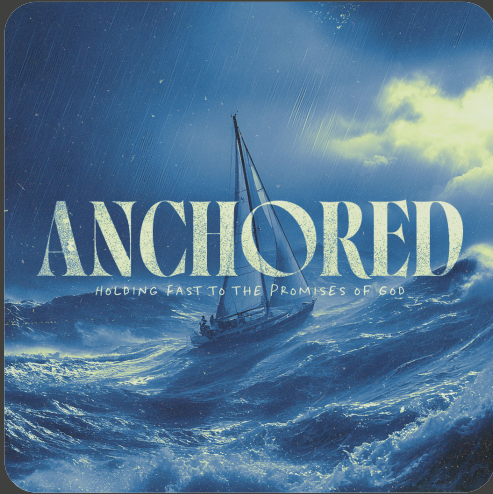
When we set our eyes on Jesus, we are reminded that He is faithful and He will provide. He provides for the needs of His children, and He provides for the needs of His church. This Sunday we will look back at **LIGHT THE WAY** and be reminded of His recent provision. The Lord richly blessed us these past two years. We will celebrate God’s goodness as we have watched Him eliminate our debt, expand our mission, and extend the message of Jesus Christ. As we look back to His providence, we will grow in confidence for what He will do next at ABC.

I hope you plan to be here this Sunday and consider now who you can invite to worship with you. 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 7, 2026



Mike Chappell

512-924-3980



Cub Root

512-538-4003

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026



Hey there Church Family,

This month we have two staff anniversaries to highlight.

On September 7th, **Lynn Wood** celebrated her 5th year on staff with us as Worship Associate. Lynn brings an organizational wizardry to the worship team, as well as a driving passion to see people equipped in their ability to serve in music and in missions. Across the ministries of the church, Lynn serves diligently to see families raised up and equipped in the gospel to serve and grow together. She is a wonderful partner in our ministry and we are grateful for her.

On September 10th, **Jennifer Araujo** celebrates her 14th year on staff as our Director of Administration. Jennifer builds excellent systems that support literally all of the ministries of the church and does a phenomenal job of maintaining quality, transparency, and accountability through administrative structures. She leads her team well, and has stewarded and partnered with the staff at ABC to see our church grow by leaps and bounds over the years. She is a foundational part of our team and serves with grace and skill.



I hope you'll join me this week in thanking these two wonderful women for the ways they are serving the Lord through ABC!

In Christ's Love,

DR. MATT GILLUM
EXECUTIVE PASTOR

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

WEEKLY REMINDERS



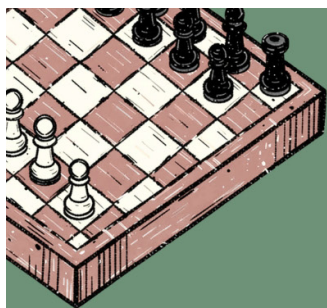
MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
SEPTEMBER 16

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

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

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



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)



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.

TEXAS MISSIONS *impact*

God is using your gifts to equip missionaries, chaplains, and students to ***Speak Jesus*** and transform lives by:

- » Rebuilding physical roofs and restoring spiritual lives
- » Equipping chaplains to preach the Gospel in Texas prisons
- » Bridging the gap for newly arrived refugees, and more



2026 Texas Missions Goal:
\$3.5 MILLION

Our Church Goal:

\$15,000

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

WEEK OF PRAYER

**SEPTEMBER
13-20, 2026**

IAMTEXASMISSIONS.ORG • WMUTX.ORG

Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

There was a time in my life when I had just moved to a new city to become the senior pastor of a church. I had four preschoolers. I was preaching three times each week, doing all the hospital, homebound, and grief visitation. I was officiating a funeral or two each month and trying to write a newsletter article each week. I had also committed some time for some local pastors to help mentor me a couple of times a month. I joined the deacons' meeting each month and often helped clean up the restrooms when the toilets overflowed. We had also started a Summer Day Camp to reach the kids in the neighborhood. During that time, I rarely slept through the night; at least one of the kids was awake at some point. Whenever I put them back in their beds, I fell asleep on the floor of their room, waiting for them to finally calm down. I was often up early writing the next sermon because there was always a sermon needed. To say that I had no rest or margin in my life for those years was an understatement. I had no energy to bring my best self to my family or my church. When I shared my plan with the church board to focus more energy on Sunday morning and mid-week and drop the Sunday evening worship, they replied, "Preacher, we are paying you for three sermons a week," though no one on the board attended on Sunday nights.

Solomon, the wisest man to live on earth warns, "*Over-work makes for restless sleep*" (Ecclesiastes 5:3 Message). We can exhaust ourselves in so many activities that we never rest. We can spend our lives in a meaningless race for fleeting temporal rewards that we may make our exhaustion sound spiritual. Psalm 127:2 reminds us, "*In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat — for He grants sleep to those He loves.*" Our real sufficiency comes from how much our all-sufficient God loves us and provides for us, not from our own endless efforts to satisfy the expectations of the people around us. As it turns out, rest in our lives is as important as our activity.

God has emphasized a rhythm of regular rest in our lives from the beginning. In Hebrew thought, the day begins at Sundown, so our days actually start with rest. Genesis 1:5 says, "*And there was evening, and there was morning — the first day.*" For God to start with evening, it means He blesses creation with rest first, then He blesses us to bring our rested self to our tasks during the day. He also gives His people a rhythm of rest each week. He prescribes six days of work and one Sabbath day of rest. God's rhythms in creation were the best model for us all. Genesis 2:1-3 (CSB) says, "*So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. On the seventh day God had completed His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done. God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it He rested from all His work of creation.*" How are you doing with your daily and weekly rhythms of rest?

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

In His Joy,

BILL MCGINNIS

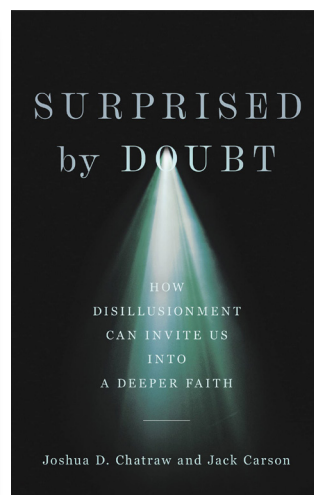
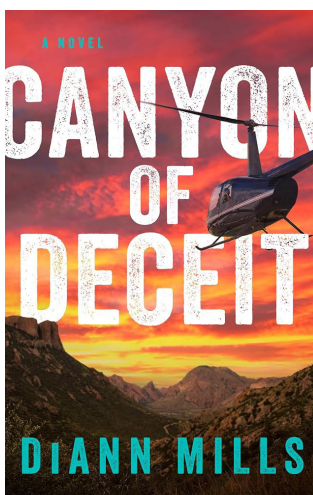
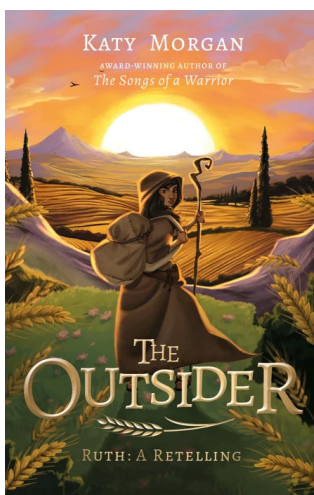
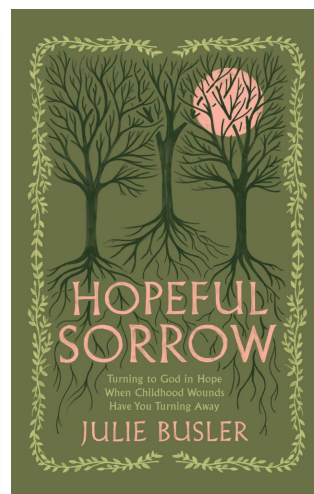
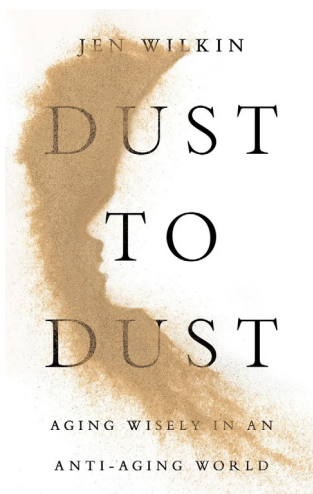
PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library

These books are coming soon to the ABC Library!



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

ATTENDANCE09.06.2026

8:45 AM WORSHIP		554
11:15 AM WORSHIP		338
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP		733

FINANCIAL REPORT09.06.2026

ACCOUNT	SEPT. 06, 2026	YTD
GREAT COMMISSION FUND (GENERAL)	\$97,125.43	\$3,277,513.37
DESIGNATED		\$128,949.11
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED		\$729,608.68
TOTAL GIVING	\$109,785.43	\$4,141,276.16

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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