

# **SIGNAL MOUNTAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EPC)**

## **CHURCH INFORMATION – Associate Pastor or Director**

### **Youth and Family Ministry**

ADDRESS	612 James Boulevard, Signal Mountain, Tennessee 37377
DENOMINATION	Presbytery of the Southeast – Evangelical Presbyterian Church
PHONE NUMBER	423-886-2190
WEBSITE	<a href="http://www.signalpres.org">www.signalpres.org</a>
DATE	October, 2011

## **OUR HISTORY and the LAND WHICH MARKS US**

Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church has a long and faithful history for 81 years of ministry and service to the Lord on this mountain. In 1928 mountain residents expressed their commitment in organizing and supporting a local church. A commission of Knoxville Presbytery (Presbyterian Church, U.S.) formalized this commitment in creating this new congregation on April 7, 1929 with 140 members, including four elders and seven deacons. Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church (SMPC) was formed. Worship services were initially held at the Signal Mountain Grammar School with The Reverend Malcolm R. Williamson as the church's first full-time pastor.

At a congregational meeting on May 17, 1931, the people unanimously voted to accept an offer from Walter L. Marr to erect a church building to be known as Marr Memorial Chapel; Mr. Marr's intent was to build the first house of worship for the people of Signal Mountain. Situated in the heart of Signal Mountain what is now known as the historic Old Town neighborhood, the Chapel was a gift from the Marr family to the church. The first service held in the new building occurred on Easter Sunday, March 27, 1932.

Two educational buildings were attached to Marr Chapel -- the first in 1950, and the second in 1959. These buildings were renovated in 1992, becoming collectively known as the Thorington Building after Dr. William S. Thorington, SMPC's second pastor who served for more than twenty-five years.

Only four senior pastors, the Reverend Malcolm R. Williamson, Dr. William S. Thorington, Dr. R. Eugene Randolph and Dr. Frederick Z. Woodward served prior to the arrival in 1989, of the church's current Senior Pastor, Dr. William Dudley. Dr. Dudley's pastorate has been marked by significant spiritual, as well as numerical growth.

A new sanctuary, with a seating capacity of 850, was built and dedicated in 1980, and it is in this setting that we gather weekly and on special holy days for worship, in an inspiring and beautiful Gothic sanctuary accented with fourteen magnificent stained glass windows, Schantz organ, and sixty-seat choir loft.

"Mountain Top" scenes from Scripture are illustrated in the ten stained glass Nave windows with the four Rose windows representing God the Father, Son & Holy Spirit and Christ Triumphant. Under the Christ Triumphant window are five Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church windows representing various scenes and figures in the life of this church.

The Schantz pipe organ is a three-manual instrument having thirty-eight ranks, with a trumpet en chamade rank being recently added.

As church growth continued to outpace physical space, a building campaign was inaugurated in 1999 for what is now known as The Cornerstone Building – an addition of over 50,000 square feet to fulfill the need for classrooms, Presbyterian Day School, the Music Suite, and The Great Hall for congregational meals and less-formal worship and study. The facility was completed and dedicated in the fall of 2001.

Following the Cornerstone addition, the Keystone Campaign in 2005, provided the funds for a much-needed renovation of, and addition to, a Youth Building (The Warehouse). Completed in 2006, this latest building endeavor brings the total square footage to well over 104,000 square feet while greatly enhancing and accommodating more adequately the rapidly expanding youth ministry.

The extended SMPC campus encompasses ten acres. In addition to the main buildings, one finds a small, private Prayer Garden, The Guest House for hosting guests, Covenant House, and a yet-named house across from the original Chapel and Sanctuary. Active committees are planning for an on-site Columbarium and a more expansive garden setting on recently purchased property.

## **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

As believers in Jesus Christ, we glorify God by faithfully:

~~~ Worshipping and Praying

~~~ Studying and Learning from His Word,

~~~ Discovering and Developing our Gifts from the Holy Spirit, and

Serving Christ by Sharing our Faith in the Community and throughout the world.

## **OUR CHURCH IDENTITY**

Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church clearly exemplifies that city set on a hill whose light goes forth into all the world. The vision and mission for SMPC is as firm and committed today as it was at its inception eighty-one years ago. Led by God's Spirit and taking seriously the words of our Lord that to whom much is given, much is required, the leadership and membership of SMPC strives to exalt the name of Jesus Christ, and none other, and serve Him faithfully on this mountaintop and throughout the world.

Before 2007, Signal Mountain Church was affiliated with the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA). Our ministers and Elders served widely in both the Presbytery (East Tennessee) and the General Assembly. The congregation serves cooperatively as the largest congregation in the Presbytery and the second largest contributor to mission causes.

After an extended time of prayer, Biblical counsel, and deliberation, the Congregational membership, led by Her Session, on Sunday afternoon, January 28, 2007 voted overwhelmingly to request from the Presbytery of East Tennessee dismissal from the PCUSA and voted that the said dismissal would be into the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). This decisive moment was precipitated by years of a growing awareness that our leadership and congregation were no longer in agreement with the changing theological perspective and direction of the PCUSA.

The differences openly expressed by our Elder-leaders included: an unquestionable recognition among our members of Biblical authority and truth; the unquestionable Lordship of Jesus Christ; and the holiness of God's name, as expressed in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

On May 29, 2007, the PCUSA Presbytery of East Tennessee honorably dismissed Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church with full name and title to all property. The action was historic when the Presbytery chose to remove any financial demands on us as a congregation and to trust the congregation to act appropriately regarding support for the Presbytery's mission budget. For a five-year period, the congregation continued the vital support to the Presbytery from which we were dismissed.

Each of our four pastors sought independent personal discernment from the Lord regarding their calls to ministry. Three of the four pastors – Dr. William Dudley, Dr. Timothy Filston, and Dr. Chris Robinson – later requested to be dismissed from the PCUSA with the Signal Mountain congregation, and all three were received into the Evangelical Presbyterian Church denomination. Later, The Reverend David Burke, PCUSA campus minister, requested and was called as Assistant Pastor and was received into the EPC.

As this congregation has entered a new relationship of community, fellowship, and mission in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, we remain committed to the worship of, and obedience to, the Triune God revealed in Holy Scripture and incarnate in His only Son, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaim as Savior and Lord. We profess that the Bible is God's inerrant, infallible and inspired Word. We hold to the historic Reformed Faith as expressed in confessions as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do. And, we rejoice in the open commitment with all believers as expressed in the EPC's "Essentials of the Faith."

We are dedicated with integrity and without apology to God's Word as we guide and influence believers to know what they believe, why they believe it, and how to live out that faith with integrity in word and deed. We are equally committed to sharing this faith with a hurting and disillusioned world. We do believe that our worship and service for the Lord should be of the same humble and joyful celebration of the transcendent sovereignty of the One, True, Triune God.

The dramatic growth in both membership and financial resources during the last twenty years is greater than in any time in our history. Having been richly blessed with truly outstanding pastoral leadership over the life of our congregation, but never more than now, we recognize how truly blessed we have been. That blessing comes with great responsibility. Included later in this document will be an overview of the ministries at SMPC that will illustrate how we strive to be effective stewards of that great charge God has given to us.

## **OUR GOVERNING BOARDS**

Just as we cherish and reverence our pastoral leaders, we do so evenly for our lay leaders.

Our Session and Diaconate are comprised of twenty-seven individuals each. Designated Ministry Groups functioning under the control of the Session are: Worship, Christian Education, Membership, Evangelism, Stewardship, Missions, Planning, Family, Congregational Life, and Congregational Care, and Personnel

Designated Ministry Groups functioning under the control of the Diaconate are: Property, Finance, Community Ministries, Presbyterian Day School, and Hospitality.

The Ministry Groups have a broadly based membership and are chaired by a member of the Session or Diaconate. The pastoral staff's attendance at these Ministry Group meetings is always welcomed, but not required. Designated staff members do provide leadership, resource, and counsel in matters related to their area of responsibility.

## **OUR LOVE of WORSHIP**

As taught that worship is the first priority of the Church, so do we delight in our worship of our God.

Two worship services are held each Sunday. A traditional Early Morning Worship Service is held at 8:15 A.M. followed by church-wide Sunday school.

At 10:40 A.M. in the sanctuary a blended (or multi-stylistic) Worship Service gathers. Both services are characterized by a rich reverence as the people of God are drawn into worship by prayer, choral music, hymns and proclamation and exposition of the Word. The Sacrament of Holy Communion, the Sacrament of Baptism and reception of new members are vital parts of worship services.

The spiritual nourishment of our children and youth also plays a vital role in the life of the SMPC. Kingdom Kids is a special ministry focusing on preparing pre-school and kindergarten children for worship. Each Sunday, children age four through five share in the first portion of the 10:40 service with their families. At a designated time in the service, these children are

dismissed with their leaders for a specifically designed worship service. This service includes age related Bible stories, singing, and offering.

A comparable service called “Mountain Movers” is provided children in Kindergarten through Second Grade.

Our current church membership as of December, 2009 is recorded as 1,988. We average 885 persons attend Sunday worship services, with an average of 430 committed to Sunday School, and 240 attending the Wednesday Church Family Dinner and Service.

A monthly Service of Healing & Thanksgiving is held the third Sunday afternoon of each month and has an average attendance of 69 members and seekers.

Special worship services resemble the life of other Christian congregations:

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Christmas Fest Choral presentation, and

Holy Week Communion Services, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Services.

High attendances are regularly recorded for the holy days of Christmas and Easter, with the Sanctuary overflowing into Marr Chapel with over 1,200 worshipers.

Annual celebrations and sacred fellowship times for us are:

Confirmation Sunday

Senior Recognition Sunday and ‘Celebration’ Luncheon

Vacation Bible School

The always-anticipated Family Camp

Cornerstone Cafe

Highlander travels

Women’s Bible study ministry

Harvest Festival

Children’s Celebration of Christmas

New Year’s Eve Communion

New Year’s Waffle Breakfast

## **OUR YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY**

The blueprint of Youth Ministry is to meet youth where they are and to confront and fill their spiritual, emotional, and social needs through our four goals of:

Fellowship

Discipleship

Worship

Outreach

Jesus Christ is communicated in fresh and exciting way in order that a Christ-centered lifestyle can be established in our youth.

Following is information relative to some of our programs:

# Signal Mountain Student Ministry

student ministry of signal mountain pres

## **Ten Things You Need to Know**

1. Our 35 volunteer leaders truly love students and are the backbone of this student ministry.
2. We build relationships with students expecting to know them for a lifetime.
3. You are welcome to drop by the youth office any time unannounced. We are here for you.

4. We are committed to teaching timeless truths using relevant methods.
5. Every student is welcome to join us for all weekly and major events.
6. Our vision is to **seek, love and feed** every student spiritually and to equip them to do the same.
7. Students are consistently encouraged to graduate knowing how to feed themselves spiritually.
8. Authentic Christian community is available to all students who desire it.
9. Growing in your personal relationship with Jesus is a daily priority for a lifetime.
10. Hard things and great things are bound to happen in your life and we are sincerely committed to respectfully meeting you in those places.

# Sundays

## **SM2 Cafe 9:15 a.m.**

Every Sunday morning grades 6-12 meet in the youth cafe from 9:15-10:15. The Cafe opens at 8:45 with continental breakfast and students are able invited to worship and then hear from speakers that dive into God's word in a relaxed coffee shop setting.

## **Worship Services 8:15 & 10:40 a.m.**

Every Sunday morning our church offers two worship services where the entire church family gathers. The worship service at 8:15 is more traditional while the service at 10:40 is more of a

blended service (contemporary and traditional).

# Wednesdays

## **Dig Deep 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

If you are a high school looking for a place to experience community, study the Bible and be challenged spiritually then we recommend you join us at Dig Deep. We are committed to four things every week; sharing a meal together, praying for one another, sharing life stories and affirmations and studying the Bible. We have found this to be a place where people really come to know one another and grow in their ability to feed themselves spiritually.

## **Trek & TrueNorth 5:30-6:50 p.m.**

Wednesday evenings in the youth wing is a time to take a break from the week's busy schedule and come together for a time of worship, Real Life student testimonies, prayer, teaching and looking into God's word for issues students face every day.

### **D-Groups 6:50-7:30 p.m.**

There are 14 D-Groups that meet on Wednesday nights for the purpose of sharing life together. P.A.C.T. is an acronym that describes what these groups are about; **P**raying for one another, **A**ccountability, **C**aring for one another and **T**eaching. D-Groups are the heart of our ministry and we go to great length to ensure that these are healthy places for ministry to take place.

## **Our Gathering Times**

### **Sunday Morning**

Worship Service.....8:15 AM

SM2 Cafe (Sunday School).....9:15 AM

Worship Service.....10:40 AM

### **Sunday Evening**

Dig Deep Bible Study (High School).....6-8:00 PM

### **Wednesday Night**

Cafe Open.....4:00 PM

Dinner.....5:30 PM

Music & Announcements.....5:50 PM

Trek & TrueNorth.....6:20 PM

D-Groups.....6:50 PM

\*Dinner costs \$3 and drinks are 50 cents & \$1.00 \*\*The Cafe' also sells Slush Puppies, candy, popcorn, hot chocolate and more.

# **Big Events**

January-Youth Auction for Missions February-FISH (Student Conference)

[www.gotofish.org](http://www.gotofish.org)

April-Senior Banquet

June and July- Hot Spot Events

June - Big Stuf Conference (HS & MS) Panama City Beach

[www.bigstuf.com](http://www.bigstuf.com)

## **ONE BODY, MANY GIFTS**

While the call of our Elders and our Pastors is to equip the members of the Body for ministry, each believing member is to discover and fulfill the particular role to which he or she has been called. The fulfillment of the gifts that God has given us is not first and foremost about what we do; rather, *it is about who we are.*

This is who we are -----

Whether through hands-on service at home,

financial support which addresses the needs of the at-risk persons, or

mission journeys which break through barriers of language, religion, geography and culture,

Opportunities abound for SMPC members to glorify God by worshipping and serving locally and globally.

Enclosed in this packet you will find an presentation of the various opportunities for involvement and service – the Music Ministry, Wednesday Family Nights, Christian Education, Nursery, Children’s Ministry, Youth Ministry, Family Ministry, Men’s Ministry, Women’s Ministry, the Church Library, Community Ministries, and Missions. All of these invite us to *follow* Christ; *cultivate* relations with God through others; *give* generously of our resources; *live* intentionally; *participate* to make our community of Signal Mountain and our city of Chattanooga a place of faith, respect, and caring; and, *partner* with the Church around the world.

Locally SMPC supports forty-four Christ-centered ministry partners, nine national, and seventeen international partners. A complete listing of the agencies can be found in the SMPC booklet in your packet.

With a 2011 annual budget in excess of \$3,000,000.00, and at the current giving level, SMPC is one of the largest financial supporters of local mission agencies in Chattanooga.

Similarly, the volunteer support and involvement of individual members of our congregation provides insight, guidance, vision, and hands-on help for many of these local agencies. You will

find SMPC members liberally represented in leadership positions on many of the boards of these supported agencies.

## **OUR TOWNS of SIGNAL MOUNTAIN and WALDEN**

The towns of Signal Mountain and Walden are located 1900 feet above the city of Chattanooga on what is known as Walden's Ridge. Signal Mountain, along with Lookout Mountain and Elder Mountain, tower above and form the rich Tennessee River valley that the city of Chattanooga inhabits. Centuries prior to the Civil War, Creek, Cherokee and other Native American tribes inhabited this area. The Civil War saw the mountain now called 'Signal' occupied by Union forces who used the mountain's strategic position to report on Confederate troop movement across the valley and at Lookout Mountain.

As years past, in 1878, several prominent Chattanooga families headed for the open spaces of Walden's Ridge to find relief from the regional yellow fever epidemic. The gradual populating of Walden's Ridge thus began.

On April 4, 1919, the Town of Signal Mountain was chartered, followed by the Town of Walden receiving their charter on August 11, 1975. Over the years, both communities have continued to change, grow, and develop. They have retained, however, the beauty and serenity that first attracted the early settlers.

Signal Mountain/Walden is relatively a self-contained, suburban community of about 15,728 persons. We are almost exclusively residential, with the majority of housing units being single-family residences. There are a small number of duplex units, several small condominium developments, a sizeable high-end retirement community. Both communities strongly have resisted apartment developments.

Most residences are above average (average home price of \$282,000) with a significant number comparable to the more expensive housing available in the greater Chattanooga area. The result is a rather homogeneous environment with few (3.8%) below a comfortable living standard.

Signal Mountain residents exceed the national norm in educational levels with 95.9% graduating from high school, 64.5% with a Bachelor's degree or higher, and 24.8% with advanced graduate and professional degrees.

Demographically 98.36% of the mountain's residents are Caucasian, 0.22% are African-American, 9.16% Native American, 0.35% Asian and, 0.22% are identified as Other. Of the mountain residents, 46.7% are male, while 53.3% are female. Our congregation is representative, for the most part, of the residents of the mountain.

If you compare Signal Mountain to the Tennessee state average, it is significantly below the state average in unemployment (2.5%). It is significantly above the state average when measuring median age (43.6 years), income (median income of \$85,107), and education.

Serious crime is almost non-existent on the mountain with the majority of offenses being minor in nature.

## **OUR OTHER COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP ON THE MOUNTAIN**

Signal Mountain Presbyterian was the first Christian church to be established on the mountain and continues to be experienced as a strong 'community church.' The Catholic community was next to follow SMPC on the mountain.

Today there are eight other places of worship on the mountain:

- Signal Mountain Baptist ([www.signalmtnbaptist.org](http://www.signalmtnbaptist.org)),
- St. Augustine Catholic ([www.staugustinecatholic.org](http://www.staugustinecatholic.org)),
- Signal Mountain Bible Church ([www.smbible.com](http://www.smbible.com)),
- Signal Mountain Church of Christ ([www.smcoc.homestead.com](http://www.smcoc.homestead.com)),
- Wayside Presbyterian (PCA) Church ([www.waysidechurch.org](http://www.waysidechurch.org)),
- Signal Crest United Methodist ([www.signalcrestumc.org](http://www.signalcrestumc.org)),
- St. Timothy's Episcopal ([www.sttimsignal.com](http://www.sttimsignal.com)), and
- Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints ([www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org)).

On Signal Mountain, the percentage of population affiliated with a religious denomination is 58.2% compared with the national average of 50.2%.

The challenge we face is to present a credible and enthusiastic witness to Jesus Christ to our neighbors and community. Our desire is that those who come to SMPC will be challenged in their personal growth in faith and service, rather than simple church membership. While the mountain is presumed to be affluent and churched, among its residents is a significant population of un-churched as well as those struggling to survive either spiritually, physically, emotionally or financially in a secular world. Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ is challenging when so many

are quite comfortable in this attractive, safe community. It is here that we must present the claims of Christ and minister to the spiritual needs of the affluent among us.

## OUR SCHOOLS

Among the myriad of reasons families choose to make their home on the mountain, most parents will say the most significant reason is the quality of the schools. Two elementary schools rank high in achievement in learning: Nolan Elementary ([www.nolanknights.com](http://www.nolanknights.com)) and Thrasher Elementary ([www.thrasherelementary.com](http://www.thrasherelementary.com)).

A historic endeavor occurred some four years ago when the people of Signal Mountain voted to tax themselves for the building of a long-awaited vision of a high school on the mountain. Combined with this taxation was a community-wide effort to raise funds for this school. Most of the critical leaders for this vision emerged from our congregation.

In a short three years Signal Mountain Middle and High School has distinguished itself with academic recognition and athletic achievements in an unparalleled way ([www.signalmountainhighschool.com](http://www.signalmountainhighschool.com)). The school consistently out-performs state and national averages. Their websites are a source of detailed information concerning each school's programs and activities.

Within Signal Mountain there is an active and vibrant Home School community as well. They involve approximately 100 families on the mountain.

Exceptional educational opportunities can be found off the mountain as well. Red Bank High School ([www.rblions.com](http://www.rblions.com)), is a public school at the base of the mountain, providing education to grades 9-12.

Chattanooga is nationally known for distinguished private schools. These schools serve a significant number of mountain students as well:

~~~ The McCallie School (grades 6-12, boys only) ([www.mccallie.org](http://www.mccallie.org))

~~~ The Baylor School (grades 6-12, coed) ([www.baylorschool.com](http://www.baylorschool.com))

- ~~~ Girls Preparatory School (grades 6-12, girls only) ([www.gps.edu](http://www.gps.edu))
- ~~~ Chattanooga Christian School (grades K-12, coed) ([www.ccsk12.com](http://www.ccsk12.com))
- ~~~ Notre Dame (grades 9-12, coed) ([www.myndhs.com](http://www.myndhs.com))
- ~~~ The Bright School (grades K-6, coed) ([www.brightschoool.com](http://www.brightschoool.com)).

Within a short distance of Signal Mountain are several colleges and universities offering a variety of two year Associate degrees, four year undergraduate degrees, Master's, and PhD degrees. The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, a national model for metropolitan universities, ([www.utc.edu](http://www.utc.edu)) has a full-time enrollment of around 7,500 students. Chattanooga State Technical Community College ([www.chattanoogastate.edu](http://www.chattanoogastate.edu)) has an enrollment of around 5,000 students. Lee University ([www.leeuniversity.edu](http://www.leeuniversity.edu)) is another outstanding educational option located about twenty-eight miles from Chattanooga in Cleveland, Tennessee. Covenant College, identified with the Presbyterian Church in America, is located on Lookout Mountain across the valley from us.

## **CULTURAL, CIVIC AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ON THE MOUNTAIN**

Signal Mountain is a true community with many opportunities to enjoy and participate in a variety of activities: ~~~ Mountain Arts Community Center ~~~ Signal Mountain Play House/Theater ~~~ Signal Mountain Public Library ~~~ Bachman Community Center ~~~ Town gym and community pool ~~~ Ten lighted tennis courts ~~~ Youth baseball, football, basketball and soccer teams ~~~ The Mountain Opry ~~~ Swim teams ~~~ Karate ~~~ Day camps ~~~ Scouting ~~~ Adult softball and basketball ~~~ Signal Mountain Athletic Club ~~~ Signal Mountain Golf & Country Club ~~~ Community seasonal festivals

The town's websites provide detailed information about the listed organizations, recreation, city services and civic opportunities: [www.sigmtn.com](http://www.sigmtn.com) and [www.signalmtn.com](http://www.signalmtn.com).

## **OTHER AMENITIES ON THE MOUNTAIN**

Excellent medical facilities for both humans and family pets can be found on the mountain. Full service Family, Pediatric and Dental practices are available, as well as two large, long established veterinary clinics – The Animal Hospital of Signal Mountain and Signal Mountain Veterinary Clinic. Benchmark and Siskin Hospital physical therapy offices provide excellent rehabilitation services.

Businesses, such as Pruett's Market, banking facilities, convenient markets, cleaners, pharmacies, a selection of fast-food establishments, as well as eat-in restaurants dot the mountaintop. Other specialty shops are illustrated with The Whole Scoop Ice Cream Shop, Wild Hare Bookstore, unique gift shops, Recycle Center, Contemporary Portraits, frame shops, boutique clothing for adults and children, pizza delivery shops, Signal Mountain Post Office, and Signal Mountain Plants & Nursery make it entirely possible to find most of whatever you need without having to leave the mountain.

The *Signal Mountain Mirror* is a monthly newspaper that celebrates the positive happenings in the community. A copy of the most recent edition is included in your packet.

Once again the town's websites provide comprehensive information about all the businesses on the mountain: [www.sigmtn.com](http://www.sigmtn.com) and [www.signalmtn.com](http://www.signalmtn.com).

## **THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA**

Chattanooga is the fourth largest city in the state and is preceded by Nashville, Memphis and Knoxville. In a recent online poll, conducted by Outdoor Magazine, Chattanooga was recently voted by readers as the top choice in the "Best Town Ever" contest in 2011.

The city is located near the border of Georgia and lies at the transition between the ridge and valley portion of the Appalachian Mountains and the Cumberland Plateau. The city is, therefore, surrounded by various mountains and ridges, thus creating the official nickname for Chattanooga as the "Scenic City." The city has received national recognition for the renaissance of its beautiful downtown and the redevelopment of its riverfront. Chattanooga was one of the first cities in our country to effectively use a citizen-visioning process to set specific long-range goals to enrich the lives of residents and visitors.

With its scenic beauty, stable population and economy, civic vitality and culture, fiscal integrity and strategic location, Chattanooga entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century as one of the most progressive and livable mid-size cities in the US. In this decade alone the city has won three national awards for outstanding "livability" and nine awards for excellence in housing and consolidated planning.

Enhancing Chattanooga's livability are the numerous faith-based organizations and foundations that undergird many of the public services available to its citizens. Chattanooga's level of philanthropy consistently outpaces that of Memphis, Nashville, and Knoxville.

The historical timeline of Chattanooga mirrors that of Signal Mountain. The first inhabitants were Native Americans. The name Chattanooga is derived from the Muskogean Indians word for rock or dwelling place. Later Cherokee Chief John Ross stated that Chattanooga was Cherokee for "the Big Catch" because of good fishing on the Tennessee River.

During the Civil War, Chattanooga was a center of battle with the Battle of Chickamauga, the Battle of Lookout Mountain, and the Battle of Missionary Ridge sites. These names attract historians and tourists to the sites today. One of our own Elders, Sam Elliott is a well-known Civil War historian and published author on this war in Tennessee.

After the Civil War ended, the city became a major railroad hub and industrial and manufacturing center, gaining the name the “Dynamo of Dixie” and inspiring Glen Miller’s song “Chattanooga Choo Choo.” But, the industry and manufacturing led to, in 1969, Chattanooga being declared as having the dirtiest air in the nation.

The turnaround, beginning in the in the latter part of the seventies, has been remarkable, and this effort was due to a concerted effort on the part of business leaders, elected officials and just plain citizens working together to be proud of their city again. The cornerstone for the turnaround was the vision for the Tennessee Aquarium ([www.tnaqua.org](http://www.tnaqua.org)) followed by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Waterfront Plan – a \$140,000,000.00 redevelopment of the Chattanooga waterfront and downtown area.

That renewal continues with great strength today. In 2008 Volkswagen Group of America announced plans to build its new production facility. The one billion dollar plant is scheduled to open in 2011. Other notable Chattanooga businesses are Chattem, the world’s first Coca Cola bottling plant, McKee Foods, Blue Cross of Tennessee, CBL & Associates, Chattanooga Bakery, Covenant Transport, Krystal Corporation, Republic Parking, Alstom, BASF, Dupont, Invista, Komatsu, Norfolk Southern and the William Wrigley, Jr. Company.

Within less than a two-hour drive from Atlanta, Nashville, Birmingham and Knoxville, Chattanooga is strategically situated to be very accessible either by interstate or by air via approximately nine direct flights ( Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Memphis, Orlando, Washington and Tampa) leaving Chattanooga’s Metropolitan Airport daily ([www.chattairport.com](http://www.chattairport.com)).

## **POPULATION**

As of the census of 2000, there were 155,554 people consisting of 65,499 households in the city. The racial makeup at that time was 58.71% White, 36.06% Black, .29% American Indian, 1.54% Asian, 0.11% Pacific Islander, 1.01% from other races, and 1.30% from two or more races. In 2009, the US Census Bureau estimated that Chattanooga’s overall population grew some 9.3% from 2000 to 2008, which is as fast as Tennessee’s largest cities. The 2010 census is expected to show a total population in the city of somewhere around 180,000 people.

Chattanooga's Metropolitan Statistical Area population is estimated to be around 700,000 residents.

## **CULTURE, OUTDOORS, AND ATTRACTIONS**

In 1985, The Chattanooga Symphony & Opera Association (CSOA) ([www.chattanoogasympphony.org](http://www.chattanoogasympphony.org)) became the first and only symphony and opera program of its kind in the United States. Last year CSOA marked a signature milestone with its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The symphony attracts great talent from around the world, provides opportunities for youth orchestras, vocal competitions, and much more. Performances are held in the opulently beautiful Tivoli Theatre in the heart of downtown.

Symphony performers participate in the CSO String Quintet and CSO Woodwind Quintet and are always in demand for special performances. The symphony as a whole delights its patrons with performances such as their Chamber Concert Series, Masterworks Series, Opera Series, and Pops Concert as well as special performances throughout the year.

The Hunter Museum of American Art ([www.huntermuseum.org](http://www.huntermuseum.org)) is the centerpiece of the Bluff View Art District setting high on a cliff overlooking the Tennessee River. The Bluff View Art District ([www.bluffviewartdistrict.com](http://www.bluffviewartdistrict.com)) is located on a hill overlooking downtown and is replete with wonderful shops, restaurants, and museums that have a distinctly European feel.

The Children's Discovery Museum ([www.cdmfun.org](http://www.cdmfun.org)),

Chattanooga Regional History Museum ([www.chattanoogahistory.org](http://www.chattanoogahistory.org)),

Chattanooga Zoo ([www.chattzoo.org](http://www.chattzoo.org)),

Chattanooga African American Museum ([www.caamhistory.org](http://www.caamhistory.org)),

The Houston Museum ([www.thehoustonmuseum.com](http://www.thehoustonmuseum.com)), and

the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum ([www.tvrail.com](http://www.tvrail.com)), which is the largest operating historic railroad in the South, are just a few of museums available for a day of family fun and learning.

The Chattanooga Theatre Centre ([www.theatrecentre.com](http://www.theatrecentre.com)) offers fifteen productions each year in three separate theater programs: the Main Stage, the Circle Theater and the Youth Theater. Chattanooga hosts several writing conferences including the conference on Southern Literature ([www.southernlitconference.org](http://www.southernlitconference.org)) and the Festival of Writers, both sponsored by the Arts & Education Council ([www.artsedcouncil.org](http://www.artsedcouncil.org)).

Festivals and music events such as the annual nine-day music festival called Riverbend ([www.riverbendfestival.com](http://www.riverbendfestival.com)) are held in June in the downtown area. “Nightfall” is a free weekly concert series in Miller Plaza on Friday nights that continues to bring an eclectic mix of music to downtown from Memorial Day until the end of September. Each June Chattanooga hosts the Dulcimer Festival with performances by champion performers from across the nation.

And, it would not be Chattanooga if you did not “See Rock City” ([www.seerockcity.com](http://www.seerockcity.com)), Ruby Falls ([www.rubyfalls.com](http://www.rubyfalls.com)) and Point Park on Lookout Mountain. Throughout the area, parks and natural scenic areas offer wonderful family venues – from white water rafting, hang gliding, kayaking, biking, rock climbing, camping and hiking – that allow you to be up close with God’s wondrous creation.

And.....there’s more! The Chattanooga Lookouts ([www.minorleaguebaseball.com](http://www.minorleaguebaseball.com)), a Class AA Southern League baseball team calls AT&T Field in the heart of our downtown as ‘home’. Annually, the first weekend in November, the Head of the Hooch ([www.headofthehooch.org](http://www.headofthehooch.org)) rowing regatta takes place with 1,800 plus boats making it the second largest regatta in the United States.

## **TAKE a LOOK for YOURSELF**

There’s no better way to get to know someone than to leaf through their family album, and that is what we are inviting you to do!

Raynolds Photography has literally hundreds of beautifully done photographs of our church family. The galleries include Church, Youth, Music Ministry, Family Picnic, Harvest Fest, Vacation Bible School, Worship Services, and Christmas Fest Services.

Additionally, there are two galleries of Chattanooga and Nature photography. We hope this “family album” will visually demonstrate the connectedness of the body of believers and the beauty of this special place where we live, work and worship.

You are invited to go to <http://craynolds.smugmug.com/galleries> and enjoy these wonderful presentations!