

Big Canoe Chapel Profile



In 1974 a small group of homeowners and employees began meeting in the Canoe Lodge and formed the Canoe Chapel to serve the spiritual needs of this new community. The idea grew and became The Big Canoe Chapel, a multi-denominational church of believers who desired to worship God together. Over the life of the Chapel, we have had Senior Pastors from Presbyterian, Baptist, and Methodist denominations. We have a traditional worship style and strive to welcome and honor the various denominational traditions represented by our congregation. We currently have a Board Member who works with the pastors and service committee to help coordinate and implement elements of worship that honor our multi-denominational character.

The Chapel is led by a Board of Trustees consisting of twelve members, each elected by the congregation for three-year terms with four members rotating off each year as four new members are elected. Annually, the Trustees elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. The Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor serve as ex-officio members of the Trustees (without a vote).

The operation and activities of the Chapel are conducted through the work of eighteen standing committees and other ad-hoc committees as needed. The standing committees include Activities, Benevolence, Cemetery, Christian Education, Communications, Endowment, Finance, Library, Ministry Support, Missions, Personnel, Property, Scholarship, Services, Stewardship, Technology, Terraces, and Visitors and Membership.

The Staff at the Chapel currently consists of a Senior Pastor, an Associate Pastor, a Director of Music Ministry (part time), a Director of Youth Ministry (part time), a Director of Children & Family Ministry (part time), a Business Manager, an Administrative Assistant, and two building maintenance personnel. On a contract basis we also have a Wedding Director, an Organist, and a Pianist.

Adult Sunday School is an important part of the Chapel. There are currently four adult Sunday school classes with two meetings at 9 AM and two at 10:30AM. The Fellowship class has approximately 100 members with an average attendance of 65. The Grace Walk class has approximately 20 members with an average attendance of 12. The Seekers Class has approximately 90 members with an average attendance of 45. The Ladies Sunday School Class (Book by Book) has approximately 30 members with an average attendance of 15.

Historically Big Canoe has been an older community with a large percentage of retired residents, and our church has an estimated average age of 73. More recently we're experiencing a growing number of younger families in the community, and to meet these needs we have youth and children's programs. We have children's Sunday School each week with an average attendance of 2-6 children. Additionally, our Director of Children's and Family Ministry holds a weekly Bible study for moms (attendance of 10-12), offers several parent's night out programs (attendance of 10-15) and hosts an annual spring fling event, but the highlight of the year is our annual Vacation Bible School (attendance of 60-75). Our Director of Youth Ministry offers Bible studies each Tuesday (attendance of 2-6) and monthly fellowship/service activities in conjunction with another local church (attendance of 10-15 youth).

Both Men's and Women's Fellowships are very active at Big Canoe Chapel with a variety of programs, outreach activities, and fund raising. The Women's Fellowship has a membership of 318, and the Men's Fellowship has a membership of 310. In 2022, the Women's Fellowship raised nearly \$64,000 for local charities.

Historically Big Canoe Chapel committed 50% of monies collected to outreach although this amount has been reduced in recent years. The Chapel continues a strong commitment to local benevolence, national and international missions, and our annual scholarship program for local high school seniors.

We have a very active music program including a full choir, men's choir, and a five-octave hand bell choir. Our Director of Music arranges for the choirs to provide music at our worship services and hosts an annual Christmas concert for the community.

The Chapel currently has twenty-one Stephen Ministers supporting the needs of those in the community going through difficult times.

(Last updated 3/20/2023)