Religion

CHATTANOOGA’S CONGREGATION OF CULTURES

As individuals and families begin to relocate to the Scenic City, they bring with them an influx of cultures and beliefs that have woven a dynamic fabric of faith throughout Chattanooga. Worship facilities, nonprofit ministries focused on helping others, and faith-based educational institutions can be found around the city.

Within the Christian faith, Roman Catholic and Protestant beliefs are represented and offer a variety of church styles, from contemporary to traditional and everything in between. Protestant denominations include Baptist, Presbyterian, Church of Christ, Lutheran, Methodist, Seventh-day Adventist, Church of God, Episcopal, and more. The city also houses Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Latter-day Saints, and Unitarian communities, and a flourishing community for Jewish faiths is also present with synagogues for the orthodox, conservative, and reformed. Mosques, Buddhist centers, Hindu temples, and a Baha’i center of worship round out the Scenic City’s religious landscape.

A number of churches and facilities throughout the area are revered for their striking architecture, with several making their way on the list of the National Register of Historic Places. These places of worship — whether colonial, contemporary, or Greek Revival — are full of history and charm.

For those who want to become more involved, service opportunities abound in Chattanooga. Nonprofit ministries and other religious organizations focus on everything from helping the homeless and supporting underprivileged children to assisting widows and implementing music education.

Faith-based education is readily available for students in Chattanooga, as the city is home to a number of Jewish, Islamic, Catholic, Christian, and Seventh-day Adventist schools. These institutions provide opportunities for daycare and preschool-aged children as well as teens in middle and high school. Local and nearby religious colleges and universities include Bryan College, Covenant College, Lee University, Belhaven University, and Southern Adventist University. For more information on choices for education, see this issue’s sections on Education and Higher Education.

DID YOU KNOW?
The First Congregational Church, now an event venue, was listed to the National Register of Historic Places in 2010. The building is known for its late Gothic Revival architecture and one-of-a-kind Victorian stained glass windows.