

Cedar Grove Baptist Church

Cedar Grove Baptist Church is located in Panola County, Carthage, Texas. The Church campus is outside of Carthage, in the Snap Community. Cedar Grove has been blessed with significant growth over the past few years. Currently, the congregation is averaging 250 in morning worship service. Sunday night services include a family bible study along with youth activities. Wednesday nights are busy with a strong children's ministry, youth ministry, & men's and women's bible study groups. Even though the attendance is significant, Cedar Grove maintains that small country church atmosphere and hospitality.

Contact information:

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Carthage, TX 75633

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History of Cedar Grove Baptist Church



On May 14, 1905, a group of mission-minded believers who were members of Six Mile Church in the Snap community met and organized the Baptist Church of Christ at Old Six Mile Church. In 1911, they secured the means to build a new church and changed the name to Cedar Grove Baptist Church of Christ. Their first meeting in the new sanctuary was on April 14, 1912. Around this time, a new Sunday school program was established, with prayer meetings often held at night. In 1916, the congregation became affiliated with the Panola County Baptist Association, and within a few more years, it became known simply as Cedar Grove Baptist Church. At this time, various preachers from nearby towns led services once a month, often sharing their time with other churches in neighboring communities.

Although the Snap community's population slowly declined during the mid-20th century following World War II, the church continued to grow. While they could fund the construction of a one-room, wood stove-heated building to host their services, they still lacked many modern conveniences such as running water, bathrooms, and air conditioning. However, the congregation remained passionate about the Gospel, and they eventually conducted services twice monthly until finally establishing a full-time pastorate in 1951. During this period, they were able to make some improvements to the building, such as Sunday school rooms and new furniture. However, the church had many young pastors starting their careers at the two-year East Texas Baptist school in Marshall, so none stayed long.



That all changed in 1967 when Bro. Freddy Mason was called to pastor Cedar Grove while still in college.

Over almost 56 years of his leadership, the church building and family grew significantly. As new programs were added, including women's, men's, youth services, and annual vacation Bible schools, the congregation grew and continued expanding its facilities to support our various programs.

The church has seen significant growth in recent years, as newer facilities and quality programs for children and youth have attracted young families from all over Panola County. We continue to expand our reach in the community and worldwide, focusing on service and missions to affect change in God's kingdom. We pray that our recent addition of the Doug Waldrop Educational Wing and the expansion of our gym will be used to prepare this next generation to make its impact on the world for Christ.



Cedar Grove Baptist Church is located about 4 ½ miles outside Carthage at the corner of County Road 106 and County Road 108. The church campus is on the south end of its 42-acre campus.

Staff



Dr. Tim Watson, Interim Pastor

We are blessed to have [Tim Watson](#) serve as interim pastor and guide us while we search for the next pastor God has selected to lead us at Cedar Grove.



John Pages, Next Gen Pastor of Youth

John Pages and his wife, Katelyn, began serving with Cedar Grove in October 2015. John has served in ministry at the local church for several years and extended ministries in camps and retreats. John is passionate about building relationships with the youth, helping them form strong ties with Jesus, and serving Him. He also serves on the board of [Mission Carthage](#) and gets his students involved in that ministry.



Susan Corley, Children's Ministry Director

Susan is a dedicated Christian wife and mother who shares the love of Christ with the children here at Cedar Grove. Susan organizes our children's activities and Bible studies weekly and plans children's camps and other activities throughout the year.



Joshua Carter, Worship Leader

Joshua and his wife Caroline grew up in Carthage and have been members of Cedar Grove for many years. They are actively involved in the community and serve in various ministries in our church.

Stacey Morris, Office Administrator



Stacey has been a member of Cedar Grove for many years and has faithfully served as the church secretary since 2001. Stacey married her high school sweetheart, Wayne, in 1992. They have one daughter, Paige, who graduated from Panola College and works in the oil and gas industry. Stacey enjoys baking, gardening, and road trips with friends and family. Her favorite Scripture passage is Psalm 100; it reminds us not to take for granted the many blessings our Creator has given us and always to give Him the praise and glory for it all.

Freddy Mason Jr., Pastor Emeritus (Retired)



“Brother Freddy,” as all lovingly refer to him, came to be pastor at Cedar Grove in 1967. He has an AA from Panola College, where he taught speech and served as Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, a BA from East Texas Baptist University, and a Master of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Brother Freddy has received many other honors, including being named “Panola County’s Citizen of the Year” by the Panola County Chamber of Commerce, an excellence in teaching award at the NISOD convention at the University of Texas at Austin, and was named “Man of the Year” by the One Hundred Men of Texas. Brother Freddy is married to Suzanne, “one of the best things that ever happened to me.” With many tears and hugs, we said our farewell to him when he announced his retirement in August of 2023, and he was honored with the emeritus title shortly after that.

Our Beliefs

- **Authority of Scripture.** The Bible is divinely inspired; it is the final authority in all matters of life (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
- **Worship.** We are created to worship God—this is the ultimate reason for our existence (John 4:23-24). We seek to praise & worship—as individuals, families, & a local church.
- **Salvation.** We believe redemption is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior, who, by His blood, paid the price for our sins (John 3:16).
- **Baptism.** Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water (Acts 8:36-39). It is an act of obedience symbolizing faith in the crucified, buried, & risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, & the resurrection to walk in a new life in Christ Jesus.
- **The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience in which members memorialize Jesus' death and** anticipate His return.
- **Prayer.** Prayer is every believer's privilege and responsibility; God releases His power and leads the lives of those who spend time in prayer (Matt. 6:7; 1 Thess. 5:17).
- **Life Transformation.** Christians should daily pursue a growing, personal relationship with Christ and are responsible for becoming more like Christ in their beliefs and conduct (Eph. 4:13; Col. 1:28). We provide opportunities for believers to develop a Christian worldview and thus love others as God so loved us.
- **Personal Evangelism & Missions.** Every person is loved by God, who has entrusted us with communicating the message of salvation (Matt. 28:19-20; 2 Cor. 5:18-20). We seek to share that message with all people—regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic status—at home and worldwide.
- **Stewardship.** In that God owns everything, Christians should adopt a lifestyle of stewardship, practicing the Biblical principle of tithing (giving at least one-tenth of income) to support God's work through the church (1 Cor. 4:2; 1 Peter 4:10). We also believe that Christians are called to give offerings above the tithe as God leads to further God's Kingdom work on earth.
- **Message of Faith.** Our Message of Faith is stated generally in the [Baptist Faith and Message](#) of 2000.



Mission Footprint

Cedar Grove has a history of passion for the Gospel. We faithfully give our time and money to missions at home and abroad. We support Texas Baptists by giving to the Cooperative Program and participating in other mission opportunities across the state.

Many of our members contribute to Mission Carthage's work, including assistance with food distribution and donations to help with their ministry. We also enjoy helping with [Operation Christmas Child](#), where we come together as a church and pack hundreds of shoeboxes for those in need. Our members have also been very generous in supporting the kids at [South Texas Children's Home](#), where we send donations and Christmas gifts to the children each year.

We encourage all Christians to get involved in missions and service. Whether you want to help with a local ministry or go on a mission trip abroad, our Missions Team always plans new opportunities. In recent years, we have sent groups to Haiti, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico to minister to those in need.

State-Baptist General Convention of Texas
Local- Rusk Panola Baptist Association
Mission Carthage
Annie Armstrong
Lottie Moon
South Texas Children's Home
Gideons International



Our Community

Carthage is a city in Panola County, Texas. It is located in the piney woods of East Texas. Panola County borders Louisiana on the east side and is the fourth-largest natural gas-producing county in all of Texas (according to ShaleXP 2023). Carthage is a small town with quick access to several cities and is home to the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame. Shreveport, LA, is 45 miles to the northeast, Marshall, TX, is 30 miles north; Longview, TX, is 40 miles northwest; Tyler, TX, is 60 miles west. The population of Carthage was 6,562 in 2022. Carthage has several fast food chains, privately owned restaurants, corporate grocery stores, dollar stores, a hospital, and several health clinics.

Demographics from 2022 are as follows:

Persons under 5 years, percent	7.7%
Persons under 18 years, percent	24.0%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	16.4%
Female persons, percent	51.6%
Race and Hispanic Origin	
White alone, percent	73.6%
Black or African American alone, percent(a)	12.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent(a)	0.0%
Asian alone, percent(a)	1.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent(a)	0.0%
Two or More Races, percent	11.3%
Hispanic or Latino, percent(b)	16.8%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	66.3%

The median household income in 2022 was \$42,788 for Carthage and \$58,205 for Panola County. The county covers 811 square miles and has four school districts. Carthage, Panola County’s seat, is home to the Carthage Bulldawgs, nine-time State football champions, three-time state baseball champions, and numerous UIL academic accomplishments and recognitions. Some other school districts are available, including Gary ISD and Beckville ISD, both inside the county. Carthage is also home to Panola College, which has modern, state-of-the-art facilities and an enrollment of over 2,500 students.