

# LPC - God's Faithfulness, Our History

## A PRAYER RESOURCE

- Did you know that LPC first began meeting together in 1805 and called its first pastor in 1806. The pastor's name was Rev. Archibald Steel. The first building on the current lot was completed in 1817.
- Did you know that there were once two presbyterian churches in Lebanon? After 15 years of discussion, on Easter Sunday, 1930 the congregation of the Main Street (Cumberland) Presbyterian Church prayed and then walked up the street to First (LPC) Presbyterian Church. For the first time the two churches worshipped as Lebanon Presbyterian Church. Both pastors, after leading the unification, resigned agreeing to call a new pastor to lead the new church. Elders from both churches remained on Session board for three years and then one new board was elected, rotating on the present three-year term.
- Uniting two distinct congregations was difficult, and for a number of years there was some resentment and ill-feelings between them. But God worked in their hearts overtime and eventually the church began to grow even more. The men's class grew so big that it met on the third floor of the old LCNB building.
- In 1956 a Sunday school addition was dedicated. This includes what we think of now as the Narthex/fireplace room, which was the Library, the Fellowship Hall, and 16 classrooms above.
- In the Mid-90's, along with Lebanon's rapid growth, the church was growing steadily. Average church attendance at the time was 462. The congregation needed to decide whether to build on present church property or find another piece of land outside the city limits. There was much debate on the issue, and older members in particular did not want to abandon the historic Sanctuary. Besides the sanctuary issue, many in the congregation felt that by staying in the city, LPC could be a change for good in the surrounding neighborhood. LPC remained in downtown Lebanon and continued to grow.
- In the 1990s, as a more comprehensive youth program was put into place, teens began taking a more active part in the church participating in worship, Christian rock bands, leading worship and going on domestic and Mexico mission trips.
- On October 24, 1999 the Kingdom Building (The Ark) was officially dedicated with over 600 people attending the combined worship service. The new multi-use facility was designed for many functions including dinners, concert, plays, athletic events, and meetings in addition to worship. The lower floor was later finished for Sunday School and pre-school rooms and an elevator was added.
- In 2007 a third building phase was completed interconnecting and expanding the existing church facility. This project gave us new additions and remodeled existing rooms. We use these rooms today as the 2nd floor office wing with class meeting rooms on the 1st and 3rd floors (on the site of the old manse), the Encounter youth room, prayer chapel, expanded nurseries and restrooms. The permanent drop-off canopy on East Street and our beautiful sunlit atrium was added at this time as well.
- In 2011, amidst theological and moral drift in the the PCUSA denomination, our church voted to leave and in 2012 chose to join the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) in which we continue to find good fellowship and communion on the essentials of our faith.
- In 2013, a project to remodel the Sanctuary and replace the pipe organ was completed.

# LPC PASTORS

## **First Church: 18**

Archibald Steel (1806-08)  
William Robinson (1810-14)  
William Gray (1814-29)  
Daniel V. McLean (1830-32)  
Simeon Crane (1832-36)  
Addison Coffee (1837-40)  
Samuel Newell (1841-53)  
Robert L. Drake (1853-54)  
Simeon Brown (1855-57)  
W.W. Colmery (1857-60)  
John Haight (1866-71)  
David Clark (1872-76)  
L.H. Long (1876-82)  
John P. Scott (1882-96)  
George E. Gowdy (1896-1915)  
Charles S. Williams (1915-21)  
John Luke Gehman (1922-24)  
Frederick Kirker (1925-32)

## **Cumberland-Main Street Church: 23**

Matthew H. Bone (1835-36)  
Felix G. Black (1836-48)  
Joseph H. Coulter (1850-54)  
J. H. Edmiston (1854-58)  
Ezra K. Squire (1858-65)  
Samuel Richards (1866-67)  
Samuel T. Anderson (1868-70)  
Jesse P. Sprowl (1872-83)  
Robert J. Beard (1883-85)  
J.A. B. Ogelvie (1885-86)  
George A. Blair (1886-89)  
Charles M. Williams (1889-92)  
W. Frank Silveus (1893-95)  
George H. Silveus (1895-1901)  
Melvin W. Yates (1901-1904)  
Floyd Poe (1904-1910)  
J. W. Wilbanks (1911-13)  
John A. McKamy (1913-14)  
Hugh Watson (1915-17)  
Wesley G. Kunze (1917-1920)  
George W. Shields (1921-22)  
Benjamin F. Judd (1922-25)  
John H. Lamy (1925-31)

## **Lebanon Presbyterian: 6**

John Calvin McCoy (1932-47)  
J. Taylor "Mac" McHendry (1948-1974)  
Bill Johnson (1974-1988)  
Bill Cain (1989-2001)  
Peter Larson (2003-2024)  
Jeff Moore (2024-present)

## **Associates & Interim Pastors: 8**

Dean Finley (assistant 1958-1960)  
Bill Johnson (associate 1971-1974)  
Joel Baker (associate 1975-1979)  
John Peterson (assistant 1980-1995)  
Alice Peterson (interim 2001-2003)  
Bill Seitz (associate 2005-2009)  
Chuck Testas (associate 2011-2017)  
Stephanie Poblenz (associate 2021-present)