

**THE  
LAUGHLIN  
MEMORIAL  
CHAPEL**

by  
David T. Javersak

## The Laughlin Memorial Chapel by David T. Javersak

For 150 years, the Laughlin Memorial Chapel at 129 1/2 18th St. has been a mainstay in Wheeling as a place of worship and community outreach.

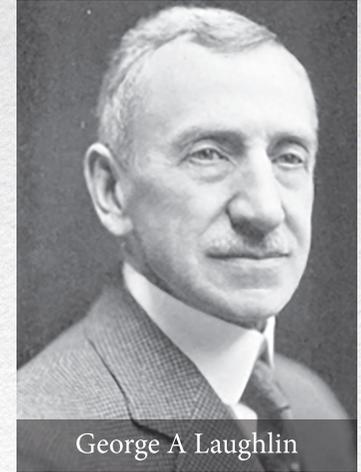
In the second half of the 19th century, the United States population increased rapidly as a result of high birth rates and ever-increasing immigration. Wheeling's population rose from 11,435 in 1850 to 38,878 in 1900, and during these years, the city ranked in the top 100 largest American cities, as well as being the largest and most industrial place in West Virginia.

As population increased, there was a corresponding building boom: houses, schools, factories, businesses, and churches. Wheeling's First Presbyterian on Chapline Street dates to the 1820s, although the denomination had been in the Wheeling environs since the 1780s. To accommodate an influx of new worshipers after the Civil War, especially those from the working-class ranks, First Presbyterian, in 1872, purchased a property from a German Lutheran congregation in what today is known as East Wheeling, and church elders named it The Eighteenth Street Chapel of the First Presbyterian Church.

It was a mission school, an outreach church, which, by 1879, according to various Presbyterian sources, served 500 souls in its Sunday school programs. Much of this success was largely the result of dedicated Christian servants, especially George Ashton Laughlin and a cousin, Lillie Heiskell Paull, who served the Chapel from 1873 to 1933. As Superintendent of the Primary Department, she taught Sunday afternoon classes, provided Bibles, toys, and clothing to East Wheeling youngsters at Christmas, distributed spring plants at Easter, and sponsored picnics at Wheeling Park in summers. When a memorial plaque was placed in the Chapel at the dedicatory service in 1934, a eulogist said of Mrs. Paull, "She went about doing good," adhering to the Biblical dictum: "as ye have done it unto one of the least of ... my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

George A. Laughlin's family had deep roots in Wheeling. He was the son of Samuel and Sidney Ott Laughlin and attended Linsly, as did so many young men from well-off families.

He followed his father into the iron and steel business, first in Wheeling, then in Cleveland, and then in Richmond, Indiana. In 1899, at age 37, he returned to his home town and immediately became one of the city's business leaders. He helped organize and served as the first president of the Board of Trade on the corner of 12th and Chapline streets.



Laughlin's energetic foray into all aspects of Wheeling's economic development may have been his way of dealing with the passing of his first wife, Lucy MacDonald Laughlin, in 1899.

He worked to develop Warwood, north of the city; served as president of The Intelligencer company; organized Wheeling Can and Wheeling Mold & Foundry; became the publisher of the Wheeling Telegraph; and was active in national political circles, especially in 1912, when he took up Progressivism under Teddy Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party.

When he was in his late 60s, he won a seat in the West Virginia House of Delegates where he became a leading spokesperson for miner safety. His attempt to reform the mining industry ran up against the coal interests, whose legislative operatives killed his bill in committee. Despite losing a re-election bid in 1932, he continued the fight and prepared for another legislative battle in 1937, but he died in December 1936.

Laughlin was a very wealthy man who arrived at Chapel programs and services by chauffeur-driven car. Much of his wealth and his energies were directed to those who were less fortunate than he: "to one to whom much is given, much is expected," and he held true to that maxim. At a memorial service on March 28, 1937, it was said of him that he was "a helper in times of need," "a loyal supporter of merited causes in city and state," and one who "naturally [understood] the needs of the community."

"He gave a full measure of devotion:" upon his return to town, he funded the remodeling of the building that had become poorly heated, poorly lighted, and needed to be repainted and refurbished. To honor his recently deceased wife and his mother, the facade was redone in a Romanesque style.

In his last will, dated a year before his passing, he bequeathed 1,100 shares of Hazel-Atlas Glass stock to be placed in a trust “to maintain and extend the work of social service, education and religious training which is now being conducted in Eighteenth Street Memorial Chapel of the First Presbyterian Church.” He added, “My primary purpose is to provide for ...the services of some intelligent, capable, and godly person to devote his entire time to conducting and superintending such work, and to the preaching of the gospel. ...”

On that Easter Sunday in 1937, a man so “respected by his fellow men” and one so “worthy of ... remembrance” was honored by having the building at 129 1/2 18th St. renamed The Laughlin Memorial Chapel: “Away, but not forgotten, is our kindly, thoughtful, generous friend.”

Structures are important, but a church is really the people who worship therein. Laughlin knew this to be true and used his wealth to benefit those who filled the pews, those who studied and lived by God’s words, and those who needed brotherly love. The same will that provided support for his beloved Chapel created the Laughlin Plan to help “large families ... to own their own homes.” The Plan gave financial assistance “to the heads of ... families, who are sober, industrious, and of good character, residing within the County of Ohio.”

Laughlin began his “experiment in practical philanthropy” by advancing no-interest, long-term loans to several families before his 1936 death. What Wheeling knows today as the Laughlin Plan commenced in 1952, and, as of the end of 2021, 308 loans had been granted to Ohio County families. WesBanco will continue the loans as long as money remains in the trust.

In 1982, the Wheeling Hall of Fame added Laughlin to its wall of hometown heroes in the category of philanthropy.

### CHAPEL PROGRAMS

For most of its first century, Chapel programs emphasized religious teachings, especially Bible study for youths. A 1903 issue of the Westminster recorded a total of 336 children in two departments, stating, “It is surprising and delightful to hear those children recite Bible verses, the Ten Commandments, the Books of the Bible, and sing so beautifully.”



*A photo from the early 20th century shows 40 children and three teachers gracing the front entrance of the Chapel; there is some reason to believe that the woman on the right is Mrs. Paull.*

Also in the 1920s, Chapel leaders formed a Boy Scout troop and provided a meeting place for a Girl Scout troop. About 1940, First Presbyterian leaders began to move to a more community-centered ministry rather than one based primarily on Bible study. Regular church services ceased in 1965, and the final Sunday School class met in 1972.

The Rev. William H. Lockhart, Executive Director, gave voice to this new direction: “Programs ... evolve as the needs of the people change, but the witness to God’s love in Christ Jesus remains constant.” To be sure, by the time of the Chapel’s centennial, the neighborhood of East Wheeling bore little resemblance to the place George Laughlin came back to in 1900.

By the 1970s, there were few homes along the street’s north side, and the south side had the pylons which hold up the Route 2 bypass. Back in 1902, the block from Jacob to Alley F had 17 domiciles, and there were businesses of every sort: planing mills, sheet metal shops, lumber yards, glass bottle manufacturers, a cigar factory, a drug company, and railroad station yards, just to name a few. Close by was Union School, St. Anthony Church, and an M.E. Church.

By the time of the Chapel’s centennial, Wheeling’s population was in decline, one that is still on-going. In 2020, Wheelingites numbered 27,052. In 1900,

Wheeling counted 38,878 people, but that was in an area now covered by Wards 2 and 3 of contemporary Wheeling. The 1900 figure counted no one in Elm Grove, Warwood, Woodsdale, Edgewood, Fulton, Pleasant Valley because those were separate communities.

The Chapel of the 2020s exists at a time of diminishing numbers, an economy no longer dominated by heavy industries, and a business district with very little commercial traffic. Once the dominant economic kingpin and the largest city in West Virginia, Wheeling today is only the fifth largest city in the state, and its biggest private employer is a hospital. Exacerbating Wheeling's problems is a poverty rate of almost 15 percent and a senior population that is among the highest in the nation.

A press release of April 2, 1997, stated: "Throughout its history, the Chapel has served East Wheeling in many ways. Since 1974, its focus has been primarily to serve the children and youth of East Wheeling," not recitations of Bible verses and memorization of the books of the Old Testament.

An especially important program at the Chapel was the Girls Club, created by Assistant Director Debbie Miller and her sister. Girls Club members, ages 3 to 18, danced in community parades in various Ohio Valley communities. The program that built self-esteem and cooperative learning continued after Miss Debbie's passing. Her sister, Miss Patty, ran the club until 2018.

Through the 90s and into the 00s, the summer program included participating in residential camps at Beaver Creek Presbyterian Camp. The Chapel Corps, under the direction of dedicated volunteer Alex Amaya, taught high school-aged youths home maintenance skills, which they used to assist seniors in East Wheeling homes. The Chapel also hosted work camp groups who came to Wheeling to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Charities, and the Soup Kitchen in the spirit of the Christian ideal of "love thy neighbor."

In the new century, a building located a half block east of the Chapel donated by the Department of Justice became the Rosa Parks Center to be used by the older school children for homework assistance, a place to socialize, and a safe place to relax and chill before the 5:30 p.m. meal at the Chapel. The building was sold to a private owner after the construction of the Chapel addition.

Chapel programs change throughout the years. There is a myriad of reasons — a changes in leadership, funding, and the needs and interests of the service population. In 2022, children arrive on the Chapel's bus after school, coming

from Ritchie and Madison Elementary schools. These children live in a much different age than those in 1900 or 1972 or even 1992. Today's kids live in a world of technological marvels: computers, tablets, gaming devices, and, most ubiquitous, the cell phone.

For many families of Chapel kids, religious activities are not relevant, especially in an American society where only 47 percent of the nation's residents identify with any church or denomination. Since George Laughlin returned to his hometown and home church, the United States has experienced great societal shifts: rural to urban, industrial to post-industrial, and isolated communities to a world-wide web of connections. So, Chapel programs have not been and can never be static; they must respond to community needs and social trends. These are examples of programs, old and new:

- Vacation Bible School
- Week Day Church School
- Sunday School
- Bible Study
- Church camps
- Religious music
- Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts
- Young Lions African Drum Corps
- Girls Club
- Afterschool Club
- Martial arts with the Rev. Terry Johnson
- Safe house
- Homeless shelter
- Nutrition programs
- Dispensary for personal hygiene products
- Sports and recreation
- Garden activities
- Christmas parties
- Utility assistance
- Food pantry
- Arts and crafts
- Study and homework assistance
- Summer Work Corps programs – Chapel Corps
- Grow Ohio Valley
- Saturday Blossoms (unhoused women)

School supply center  
Summer day camps  
Rosa Parks Center  
Mother Jones House  
Energy Express  
Get Ahead Program (G.A.P.)  
Westminster Society  
TEEN-ZINE

The magazine, TEEN-ZINE, supported by the city's two papers and begun with the leadership of Kathy Shapell, ran from May 2003 to December 2006. Its student editors interviewed leaders like Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sen. Jay Rockefeller, as well as sports figures in football, baseball, and basketball. Each issue addressed areas of concern for teens: drugs, staying in school, pregnancy, nutrition, fashion, music, racism, and discrimination.

### STEWARDSHIP

It takes a lot of money to keep Laughlin Chapel operating: the 2022 budget for maintenance, building upkeep and repairs, and custodial salaries is \$68,000. Add in programming costs, administrative salaries, insurance, food, school and hygiene supplies, transportation, fringe benefits, accounting, and payroll taxes, the total comes to \$371,000.

How are these funds raised? The Chapel has been blessed by support from trusts, such as Laughlin, Vaden, and Parlin. Contributions of local churches, mostly Presbyterian, and the Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery provide another substantial share. Other donors include local organizations and businesses and individuals; for several years, the Chapel conducted a Burns Night fundraiser. Other smaller amounts come from interest and/or investment sources. The only governmental funding is the West Virginia Department of Education's food program, about \$25,000 in 2022.

### CHAPEL'S NEW ADDITION

The Laughlin Chapel Research Project in May 1981 published the results of a survey conducted "to find out ... whether or not the Chapel was useful." A 30-question survey was distributed to about 100 residents of East Wheeling between 12th and 19th streets, and the conclusion was startling: "The Chapel is indeed in the wrong location to service the community."

Whether or not it was in the wrong place was debatable, but it was clear that more space was needed, as various functions were conducted in several different venues, and there was a totally inadequate kitchen and no dining space. With prodding by the Chapel's board, especially President William Ridenhour and members Lutz Albrecht and Roger McLean, both executives of Wheeling Pittsburgh-Steel, the Chapel's leadership undertook a campaign to raise the funds to purchase the property east of the Chapel and to erect a modern annex to the aging Chapel.

On May 15, 2005, members of Wheeling's faith community gathered for the dedication of the Chapel's \$1.3 million addition, designed by SMG Architects and built by Walters Construction. The project, completed under the dynamic leadership of the Rev. James Ellison, was the most ambitious venture in the Chapel's 150-year history. Ministers Ellison, Bob Willits, Don Pitts, and William Ridenhour played supporting roles at that day's ceremonies, but the children – Young Lions, Girls Club, Chapel Kids, and four young readers – were the stars because its construction meant new and enhanced programs in the new classrooms, study rooms, library, as well as the cafeteria, kitchen, utility room, and staff offices. One student said of the Chapel, "It isn't famous or anything, but it's the best place to be ... my home away from home." The Rev. Ridenhour of First English Lutheran, the largest financial contributor to the project along with First Presbyterian and the Community Foundation, said in his address:

"If we make today an ending, we've wasted all this money and disappointed all the children who come here every day. [This] begins a new chapter ripe with potential ... to care for and empower families and others by working cooperatively with ... community groups [so] that the standard and quality of life in ... greater Wheeling ... are enhanced and reflect God's love.

"We are scaling the walls of separation culture has built to keep us apart. We learn we need not fear each other."

### HEROES

A chapel like that at 129 1/2 18th St. is always a place of heroes, male or female, old or young, black or white, rich or poor, educated or unlettered, generation after generation. George Laughlin was an early hero, and Mrs. Paull the first of

many heroines. So many volunteers and paid staff have worked and continue to work to better their community, to inspire, and to uplift.

Many of the early directors of the Chapel were assistant pastors at First Presbyterian or its lay leaders. Many of their tenures, however, were short-lived: from 1970 to 1975, as an example, five different men served as director. The Rev. William H. Lockhart, a Presbyterian pastor with Boston roots, took on the leadership of the Chapel in 1985 and served until 1995. A veteran of an urban ministry in Boston, he was well equipped to serve the people of East Wheeling, and he worked closely with Wheeling's Homeless Coalition.

Many Chapel leaders, like the Rev. Lockhart and his successor, the Rev. Ellison, adhered to these words from the Gospel of St. Matthew (25: 35-39): "For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in. ..."

#### DEBBIE MILLER AND PATTY MAYFIELD

These sisters, two of eight siblings born to Henry and Eva Violet Miller of East Wheeling, were educated in Ohio County schools and attended Chapel programs and activities as children. From her teenage years in the 1970s to her untimely death in 2006, Miss Debbie was the Chapel's dynamo. A 1994 report from the Presbyterian Health, Education, and Welfare Association described her as a person who had "a deep love for the community, strong organizational and leadership skills, and the profound respect of her neighborhoods." In 1989, she and Miss Patty founded the Girls Club, a dance and marching group whose members — often approaching 100 strong — learned to respect themselves and others. Miss Debbie had no daughter of her own, but "each of the girls in her club was loved like a daughter!"

They cooked, served meals, organized parties and gift programs, oversaw the Kids Cafe nutrition program, worked alongside the Chapel's Work Corps students on building repair projects, and nurtured and cared for their own children and Chapel kids, not only at the Chapel, but often in their own homes. The Rev. Ellison, who served one of the longest tenures as director, acknowledged the importance of these sisters: they were the heart and the soul of the Chapel, an inspiration to the children, their families, and their co-workers. From 2000 until her retirement, Patty served as youth director.

#### ALEJANDRO AMAYA

A Chilean by birth, Mr. Alex met a Peace Corps volunteer, married her, and immigrated to the United States in 1968 and became a mining engineer. In the 1970s, he helped create a youth soccer league in Wheeling.

With his retirement, he used his talents to assist organizations like Habitat for Humanity and the West Virginia American Baptist Men Disaster Relief Team. He traveled to Latin America on mission trips to rebuild disaster areas; and he helped in relief efforts in New York City after the 9/11 Attack and in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

He earned the moniker Mr. Fix-it at Laughlin Chapel, where he was the "go-to-guy" when something needed to be repaired or built. In summers, he supervised and mentored the young people in the Chapel Corps activities in East Wheeling. In 2007, he received West Virginia's Jefferson Award for Public Service, an honor given to "ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition or reward."

He died in February 2018, and his memorial took place at the Agape Baptist Church, a few blocks from the Chapel.

#### JOE KOCHY

Joe Kochy is another "ordinary person" who, since his retirement, volunteers to help the kids at the Chapel and homeless people in various Wheeling neighborhoods

A graduate of West Virginia Northern Community College, Joe worked for five decades as a union pipe fitter and plumber. He grew up in a home with loving and kind parents, a legacy he carries in his Chapel work. He earns no salary, yet he's at the Chapel most weekdays and on Saturdays. Out of concern for the welfare of unhoused women, who frequently are the victims of abuse, Joe coordinated efforts at the Chapel and with community volunteers, including the Street MOMS, to create Blossoms.

The Saturday Blossoms program welcomes women to come to the Chapel to shower, to wash and fix their hair, to pick up personal and feminine hygiene products, to eat a hot meal, to relax in a safe environment, and to return to the streets in new, clean clothes and with bags of food and supplies. These

women, many with drug or alcohol addictions and mental health issues, leave the Chapel with the knowledge that others care about their well-being and will try to make their lives better. One positive result is that a small number of the Blossoms now have clean, safe housing.

Whatever the Chapel needs, Joe is there to help — whether it is cleaning up after lunches or snacks; cleaning, sweeping, taking deliveries, or stacking the shelves — he, too, is a Mr. Fix-it.

Joe's wife grew up in East Wheeling and attended various activities at the Chapel. Joe's work there is a repayment to the Chapel for the care it provided his wife.

### MARTHA WRIGHT

Current Executive Director Martha Wright has been involved with various community organizations since she moved to Wheeling in 1990. She served as the director of the Stifel Fine Arts Center before joining the Rev. Ellison's staff in 2000 as development and communications officer. She worked tirelessly on the Annex project, and after Ellison's resignation in 2007, she became acting director. She then took a post with the Lilly Endowments and its project to foster and mentor young people who were contemplating careers in ministry.

When that project concluded in 2013, she became a development official at Crittenton Services. In 2020, when the position opened, she became the Chapel's director. In her brief tenure, she has guided the Chapel through the months of Covid restrictions, expanded community partnerships, set the groundwork for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to establish troops at the Chapel, and worked to support and supply the Saturday Blossoms.

Director Wright is engaged with her community, serving on Wheeling's planning commission, as one example. She is another "ordinary person" doing her part to help others.

### THE REV. JAMES ELLISON

The Rev. Ellison, a child of a working-class family from Mansfield, Ohio, attended Davidson University on a football scholarship and earned a degree in divinity from Gettysburg Seminary. After an urban pastorate of 12 years in Washington, D.C., he became the minister at Wheeling's Edgwood Lutheran

Church in June 1988. When the Rev. Lockhart resigned as executive director in 1995, Ellison was asked by leaders at First Presbyterian to serve as the Chapel's director, a position he held until November 2007. After leaving the Chapel, the Rev. Ellison took a post with the Lilly Endowment.

Under his leadership and with Miss Debbie as his assistant, the Chapel expanded its after-school programs to include middle and high school youth, doubling the number of children who came to the Chapel for meals, educational enrichment, and social activities. This increase showed the inadequacies of the Chapel's facilities and led to the financing and building of the new addition, which opened in December 2004. Other programs during the Ellison years: Teen-Zine, the Rosa Parks Center, Youth Corps, and the Mother Jones House.

In 2000, Ellison and Dr. Terri Erwin of Wheeling Jesuit created the program whereby seven Jesuit students and a house mentor lived in a home on 14th Street instead of a campus dorm and worked at least 10 hours per week in various Chapel endeavors. The Rev. Ellison provided the name for this volunteer program that lasted until 2018. Mother Jones House was nationally recognized for its work in East Wheeling. Wheeling Jesuit awarded its St. Francis Xavier Award to Ellison for his leadership role; and many of its participants, after their graduations, became community organizers and civic leaders in cities and towns across the nation.

In a farewell letter, Ellison wrote:

“I [was] deeply honored to have served with ...  
a great staff, [who] always captured our  
vision of service to this community and to the  
'least of these' ...:

### BISHOP DONALD L. PITTS

Born in Wheeling, Don Pitts spent his boyhood on Wheeling Island, but he was not a Chapel kid.

He was graduated from Bluefield State College, earned a law degree at North Carolina Central University, and received a divinity degree from North Carolina College of Theology. Most of his adult life was devoted to civil rights: serving on the Southern Christian Leadership Council; working with Dr. Martin Luther King; and serving on the West Virginia Advisory Council of

the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (1961-98); as well as being the first black president of the Raleigh County Bar Association, a member of the NAACP, general counsel for the Church of God Apostolic, and a visiting lecturer at WVU's Law School on matters of racial justice.

His community activism garnered awards from the City of Steubenville and West Virginia Northern Community College. In 2007, he was made a Civil Rights Day Honoree by his home state, and, in 2014, he posthumously received the NAACP's First Freedom Fund Memorial Award.

Serious health issues brought Bishop Pitts back to Wheeling. One day, he showed up at the Rev. Ellison's Chapel office and volunteered his talents and time: "How can I help?" he asked.

His focus became mentoring the young men and boys of East Wheeling. He began the Young Lions, a drum corps with African roots, to teach percussion skills and to provide direction for young males. Pitts regularly went to the Chapel to counsel, spread good will, and demonstrate Christian love and compassion.

Another contribution he made was fundraising. He and his musical sisters produced several gospel concerts to support Chapel activities.

After decades of work as an attorney and theologian, Don Pitts, despite the ravages of disease, spent his final years helping others at Laughlin Chapel, demonstrating the Golden Rule. In 2009, at age 68, he died.

### DIANE NALLY

Diane Nally grew up in the McMechen-Benwood area of Marshall County. She was graduated from John Marshall High School, earned a nursing degree at West Virginia Northern Community College, a bachelor's at West Liberty State College, and a master's at WVU.

She served as a nurse at Reynolds Hospital for 40 years, where she was the Director of Nursing. A serious illness led to her retirement from nursing, but not from a life of helping others. Her recovery, she believed, was a sign "that God had a purpose for me." After visiting the Laughlin Chapel with a women's club, she found that purpose: volunteering to help children learn and thrive.

As a classroom mentor, she works with second and third graders on their homework; assists with various kinds of crafts, and teaches good manners. Her reward: "hugs from the kids that make your heart melt." At holidays or for celebrations like Black History Month, she decorates her room or lunchroom tables to mark the occasions. At Christmas, she likes to gift her kids with holiday-themed socks.

This Christian concern for others led to her career in nursing and now to her volunteer work at the Chapel; she hopes to serve the children of East Wheeling for as long as her health permits.

### WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Predicting the future is not the forte of those who study the past. Without a doubt, the Chapel will face old challenges and new threats in its efforts to nurture and to protect the youth of East Wheeling.

These current ills are likely to impact our city in the immediate future: alcoholism, drug addictions, instability in families, inadequate nutrition, hunger, poor health and hygiene, crime, homelessness, sub-standard housing, racism, and bigotry.

New challenges likely to create angst and anguish might include: budget cuts related to an aging, declining, and poor population; a waning of volunteerism among contemporary Americans; a view that social welfare programs don't work; continued decline in church affiliations, which mean less money for mission programs, foreign and domestic; and a technology that often reduces or sterilizes human interactions and empathies.

Whatever the new challenges, the work begun by the likes of Lillie Paull and George Laughlin and continued with folks like George Lockhart and Jim Ellison at 129 1/2 18th St. will not go gently into some night.

## IMPORTANT CHAPEL MILESTONES

		2001	Rosa Parks facility dedicated
1872	First Presbyterian established a mission church	2004	Groundbreaking for new addition
1873	Mrs. Joseph (Lillie Heiskell) Paull began her 60-year service	2005	Dedication Day on May 15, Day of Pentecost; Freedom School
1899	George Laughlin returned to Wheeling	2006	Miss Debbie passed
1900	George Laughlin remodeled facade of Chapel	2007	The Rev. Ellison resigned
1938	Memorial plaque dedicated to photographer J. H. Kirk of Wheeling for his 50 years leading the Tuesday Evening Weekly Prayer Meeting	2008	First Presbyterian relinquished governance of Chapel
		2009	
1936	George Laughlin dies; established the Laughlin Trust	2010	
1937	Laughlin Memorial Chapel dedicated	2011	Laughlin Chapel merged with Laughlin Community Center Inc.
1946	Rededication Service (City had declared the Chapel unsafe, and repairs were required.)	2020	Covid; Martha Wright named executive director
		2021	
1952	Laughlin Plan began at WesBanco	2022	Sesquicentennial
1951	Fire destroyed part of Chapel		
1961	Norman J. MacEwan became first non pastor to run Chapel		
1965	Last church service		
1972	Last Sunday School Class		
1974	Laughlin Community Center Inc. formed to hold the real estate and related assets used for the benefit of the Chapel		
1989	Girls Club founded; NAACP honored work of the Rev. Lockhart		
1993	The Rev. Lockhart and Debbie Miller received Synod of the Trinity Andrew Murray Peacemaking Award		
1995	The Rev. Ellison became director		

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