

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **1. Who are the members of the Church Organ Committee?**

*Bill Easter (Chair), Kathryn Sobel (Vice-Chair), Floretta Armstrong, Denise Ashworth, Dawn Brewer, Rev. Ray Broadwell, Doug Foster, Braxton Matthews, Mac Pannill, George Smit, and Sally Williford*

## **2. Why is the Church Organ Committee meeting?**

*The committee is meeting to pray, to understand our organ's problems, to research solutions with due diligence, and to propose what we believe to be the best solution.*

Continuing the musical journey begun with the establishment of White Plains in 1961, and continuing the process of study begun a decade ago, the Church Organ Committee is meeting to discuss the importance of our pipe organ in worship as our Lord leads our congregation to chart a course into the future of White Plains United Methodist Church.

Our organ was built in 1961, purchased as a used instrument in 1977, and installed and dedicated at White Plains in 1978. Our responsibility as committee members is to pray for divine guidance, to understand the problems with our organ, to research potential solutions to those problems with all due diligence, and to propose what we believe to be the best solution to those problems.

Please pray for our work, wisdom, and discernment.

### **3. What's wrong with our current organ?**

*Our pipe organ has become increasingly unreliable, with frequent cyphers, nonfunctioning pipes and stops, a failing electrical switching system, a worn-out console, other worn and broken parts, and tonal deficiencies.*

When you read or heard that the church organ committee had been reactivated, you may have felt a sense of relief: "Finally, maybe something will be done about that organ!" Or, you might have felt confused: "Why does White Plains need an organ committee? What's wrong with the organ we have?" We hope to address the latter question here, since problems with the instrument are the reason the committee is meeting at all.

The short answer to the question is that our organ has become increasingly unreliable over the past several years and can be expected to become even more unreliable as time continues to pass.

The long answer is that the organ is unreliable, and unfortunately, its problems are not limited to one specific area, which makes addressing them complicated and inherently expensive. You may have attended a worship service during which the organ malfunctions by continuing to play one note or chord long after Mac has released the keys. Such a malfunction is called a cypher. In some instruments, these can be corrected relatively easily, but in our instrument, they are intermittent and unpredictable. They are not even limited to specific pipes, but rather manifest in different pipes across different divisions of the instrument. If Mac could predict which pipes would malfunction, he might be able to avoid awkward disruptions in worship services by simply avoiding the use of those pipes (although, that, too would limit the organ's sound and usefulness). Instead, though, Mac finds that sometimes one pipe may malfunction when he practices on Saturdays and that an entirely different pipe malfunctions on Sunday morning. Even worse, some pipes don't play at all. Other pipes are in poor condition because they have had to be worked on so much. Only one of our chimes plays predictably.

In addition, the electrical switching system fails intermittently, such that even a skilled technician is unable to locate the source of the problem. Stops stick. The combination action jams, and the combination action does not actually even fit properly within the console, preventing the cover from being used. Leathering is worn. A key is broken. The expression shoes, which allow the swells to control the volume of certain sounds, have to be literally kicked open or stood upon in order to operate. The console is worn out. There is no longer a set of pipes whose sounds adequately supports truly soft choral

anthems. The organ's unpredictability occasionally limits anthem selection. Unfortunately, this is only a partial list.

Mac has become a master at masking many of the organ's problems and indeed deserves to be commended for making the organ sound better than it really is; but occasionally problems occur, despite his best efforts, not only at regular services, but at important life events such as weddings and funerals or at special services such as those for All Saints' Day or Easter.

Many of these problems are not new. A committee was first formed over a decade ago to consider whether the organ ought to be repaired, rebuilt, or replaced, and while the church has invested a significant amount into ongoing repairs for this instrument, some problems have never been addressed. As a result, the instrument has become more and more unreliable over time and our band-aid approach to its problems no longer seems practical from either a musical or a stewardship perspective.

Originally a practice instrument for Meredith College, the organ now in our sanctuary was never designed or intended to be used for liturgical purposes. It was not built or designed for the space which it now inhabits. Like White Plains, the organ is fifty years old. Although it is possible for great pipe organs to be maintained for even hundreds of years, the repairs our organ needs would be extremely expensive without actually improving the sound of the instrument. And to rebuild the instrument in such a way that its tonal limitations were also addressed and the sound of the instrument were improved would cost as much as purchasing a new pipe organ designed specifically for our sanctuary and worship needs.

Despite these problems, our pipe organ has done much to enhance worship in the sanctuary of White Plains, and we are grateful for it. It has served us very well in the past, and the presence of our organ has allowed it to continue to play a vital role, even in its diminished state. It has shaped the sound and our identity in traditional worship services, but we can no longer responsibly ignore its problems. The time has come to protect and ensure the ongoing presence of pipe organ music in our future of worship by making a new investment. Why? Because music matters at White Plains. It is a part of who we are and plays a major role in how we worship.

#### **4. What are our alternatives?**

*Our options are: to do nothing, to do a rebuild of the current organ with basic repairs, to do a rebuild of the current organ with improvements to address tonal deficiencies, to replace the current organ with an electronic or digital instrument,*

*to replace the current organ with a used pipe organ, or to replace the current organ with a new pipe organ specifically designed for our sanctuary.*

## **5. Can't we just fix it?**

*Yes, but the costs of repairing and improving it are both so high that we believe replacing it with a new pipe organ now is a more responsible choice from both a musical and a stewardship perspective.*

Yes, we could, but we believe that replacing the organ now is a more responsible choice from a stewardship perspective, as well as a musical one. Our trusted organ technician tells us that repairing our current organ would cost approximately \$150,000 to \$250,000, but such costs do not include any work for tonal improvement or the cost of a new console, which would cost an additional \$75,000 or more. The repairs would make the instrument more reliable for now, but they would not improve the sound of the instrument, even though they would cost a significant percentage of the cost of a new instrument. Rebuilding our current instrument to meet the same specifications as a new organ would cost between \$600,000 and \$700,000, which is actually just as expensive as buying a new pipe organ specifically designed for our sanctuary's dimensions and acoustics.

Thanks in large part to a skillful organist, our current organ has served White Plains well for many years, but it was built as a practice instrument and it was never designed to function as a church organ. It is inherently limited in the range of sounds it can produce. Because he is a skillful, conscientious musician, Mac has been able to make our current instrument sound better than it really is; but there are many ways in which he is limited by the quality, as well as the unreliability, of our instrument.

Even though a classic automobile could be considered an investment with an aesthetic value warranting continuing, and even expensive, repairs, most cars reach a point of diminishing return on investment. Most of us would choose to replace a 300,000-mile Honda Civic with a dead transmission, even if the transmission could be replaced, because the cost of the repair would not make sense in the context of the overall value of the vehicle. Our current organ has reached this point. It was not built to be the pipe organ equivalent of a classic car. The cost of repairing it or improving it does not make sense given the overall value of the instrument.

## 6. Why not buy an electronic organ? Aren't they less expensive?

*Although digital or electronic instruments are less expensive in the short term, they are more expensive in the long term because they have to be replaced at least three or four times during the time a pipe organ could be expected to serve before requiring a rebuild. An electronic instrument lasts 25-35 years, whereas a pipe organ can last more than one hundred before needing to be rebuilt. The sound of digital or electronic instruments is also inferior to that of a true pipe organ, and they are not insurable in the same way.*

When you consider the cost of purchasing a new pipe organ or refurbishing our current pipe organ, you might ask yourself, "Why not just buy an electronic substitute?" Electronic or digital instruments may initially seem like an attractive option, but in the long term they represent an inferior choice from both a musical perspective and an investment perspective. Here is why:

First, an electronic instrument is not a true organ. A true pipe organ is a wind instrument, like a flute or oboe, and produces sound when air moves through its pipes. Additionally, the room in which the instrument is placed becomes part of the instrument itself. A pipe organ built for a particular space fills that space with sound most effectively because it is designed for the specific acoustics of that space. In contrast, the sound of a digital instrument is sampled from other "real" instruments and projected through speakers, rather than producing a sound of its own. While they can simulate single notes fairly realistically, the combined sounds they emit when playing multiple notes are significantly different from what a listener would hear if each note were produced from its own pipe or even its own speaker. The blend simply sounds less natural. Just as even the best recordings cannot fully capture the experience of a live performance, an electronic instrument cannot fully capture the sound and feel of the pipe organs they emulate. Even non-musicians can hear the difference when they experience it.

Second, as both a musical instrument and as a part of the physical structure of a building, a true pipe organ is insurable as part of the building. A digital instrument is regarded as a piece of equipment and is not insurable in the same way. Third, a good pipe organ, when well-maintained, can be expected to increase in value over its lifetime. In contrast, a digital instrument depreciates in value, just as a computer or a car does. Fourth, although digital instruments do cost less than pipe organs, the difference is not as great as one might expect. Digital instruments with a range of sounds comparable to

those we could expect in a new, good-quality, but modest, pipe organ can cost twice as much as repairing our current instrument.

Finally, the lifespan of a digital instrument is also much shorter. While a well-built pipe organ can be expected to last over a century, a digital or electronic instrument would have to be replaced three or four times during that time frame. Digital or electronic instruments can be expected to last only 25 to 35 years before replacement. A pipe organ is a generational investment. A digital instrument has built-in obsolescence. This means that although the initial cost for a digital instrument is less than that for a genuine pipe organ, the overall cost per year for its expected lifespan is more. Digital instruments cost more in the long term.

## **7. Why not buy a used pipe organ?**

*Although used pipe organs are available, we believe that having a new instrument designed specifically for our sanctuary is a less risky choice. Since most used organs are already in storage, we would be unable to assess their quality or suitability for White Plains. We would also inherit any of their problems. The amount of time, research, and travel that would be required in order to make a good selection would be difficult to invest, and even then no outcome could be guaranteed.*

## **8. What does the Church Organ Committee propose, and what procedure will it follow?**

*The Church Organ Committee will propose that White Plains purchase a new, mid-sized pipe organ of excellent quality that is designed specifically for our sanctuary and liturgical needs. After determining which specific proposal to recommend and developing a plan to ensure proper payment, the Church Organ Committee will follow the required procedure of seeking approval from the Finance Committee, the Trustees, and the Church Council. Throughout the process, the Church Organ Committee will communicate regularly with the entire congregation in order to report our work on the congregation's behalf, to respond to questions, and to explain our recommendation.*

## **9. What is the time frame for this project? How would services be affected?**

*The sooner donations and pledges are secured, the sooner the new pipe organ could be built. Construction would take between one and two years. Removal of our current instrument would take about one week. Installation, tuning, and voicing would take three to four months. Most services could be held as usual, though sanctuary access would be restricted.*

The Church Organ Committee will determine which proposal to recommend and plan a church-wide organ campaign. We will seek immediate donations in order to make an initial payment, as well as pledges over a two-year period in order to secure the remaining needed funds. When donations and pledges are secured, we will present the proposal to the Finance Committee, the Trustees, and the Church Council for approval.

The sooner donations and pledges are made, the sooner work could begin on a new pipe organ for White Plains. Companies typically construct just one instrument at a time, so when our organ would be ready for installation depends upon when we sign a contract and whether any other contracts precede ours.

It typically takes between one and two years to build a mid-sized organ in the organ builder's workshop. After the new organ has been completed, it would be carefully disassembled and prepared for transport to Cary. Our current organ would be carefully removed, which would take about one week. The new organ would be installed, which would take about one to two months. It would then be tuned and voiced for our sanctuary, which would take an additional few weeks. Altogether, we would be without complete use of our pipe organ for three to four months. During that time, most services could be held as usual using our piano and orchestra and perhaps a borrowed temporary instrument, although other use of the sanctuary would be restricted.

## **10. Aren't pipe organs things of the past?**

*No. Pipe organs play a vital and ongoing role supporting and inspiring worship in traditional services. New musical work continues to be written for them, and new students continue to learn to play them.*

No. Pipe organs are the most traditional of church instruments, but new compositions are still being written for them and new students are still learning to play them. The pipe organ plays a vital role in traditional worship services by leading and supporting

congregational singing, accompanying choral and orchestral works, structuring the worship service through preludes and postludes, and helping to transform our acts of giving into a meaningful and beautiful ritual through offertories. Most of the beloved hymns that we sing each week as we affirm both our faith and the tradition of that faith were written to be sung with pipe organ accompaniment. The new hymns that current writers and composers contribute to that tradition are written to be sung with pipe organ accompaniment. When the choir sings great requiems for All Saints' Day, whether written in the past but still meaningful in the present or whether new works written in the present but a gift to the future, it performs music usually designed for pipe organ accompaniment. Mozart called the pipe organ the King of Instruments for a reason, and many great composers have written deeply powerful or moving music for the pipe organ as their own musical offerings to God. Pipe organs are alive and well, both because they are as inextricably linked to our traditional liturgies as our creeds are, and also because they are able to express the promptings of the Holy Spirit and the otherwise inexpressible yearnings and convictions of our own spirits so very eloquently. The pipe organ is also a beautiful metaphor for the Body of Christ. Its parts must work together in unity in order for its voice to sing, and indeed its very sound depends, like that of our own voices, upon the air of God's good creation. A pipe organ can remind us in a moving, symbolic way of the power of the breath of God. It inspires us because we experience these truths even when we are not consciously aware of them.

## **11. What will this new organ do for us that the old organ could not do?**

*The new organ will be reliable and will offer a variety of sound types, dynamics, and textures that will enable it to be more expressive than our current instrument in ways everyone will be able to hear.*

The new organ will offer a variety of sound types that will enable it to be more expressive than our current instrument. The current organ cannot make a medium-soft sound. It can play very soft sounds, medium-loud sounds, and from medium-loud to very loud sounds in very coarse increments. The new organ would be able to play a complete dynamic range of sounds with a variety of musical textures. Although it can be difficult to imagine what you have never heard, it may be helpful to make comparisons with other instruments. For example, imagine a symphony orchestra. Now, remove from that collective body all of the flutes, second violins, cellos, French horns, trombones, and percussion instruments. The newly truncated symphony would be limited in both the music it could play and the expressiveness with which it could play it. Or, imagine that our chancel choir lacked a bass section. There would be music

the group could not sing because fundamental notes would be missing. The music would sound incomplete. The new organ will allow an expanded set of sound textures and timbres with which to work, and everyone will be able to hear the difference.

## **12. How long will a pipe organ last?**

*Well-built, well-maintained pipe organs can last one hundred years or more before requiring a rebuild.*

Well-built instruments, with consistent care and maintenance, can last at least one hundred years before needing to be rebuilt. There are instruments in Europe that have been played for over three hundred years. Even in North Carolina, there are instruments over two hundred years old. To play for this long, an instrument must have periodic maintenance, and worn parts must be periodically replaced. For example, the leather in an organ's windchest would need to be replaced every forty or fifty years. The solid-state circuitry that controls the switching allowing the console to control the pipes would need replacing about every forty to fifty years. Fortunately, the organ builders with whom we have consulted are aware of these future needs and design organs to make those repairs as easy and modular as possible, which will keep our future costs down.

## **13. Why hasn't our current instrument lasted that long?**

*Several factors contribute to the failure of our current organ, but especially its intended use and its history as a practice instrument: it was not built to be a heritage instrument, and we have been fortunate that it has served us as well and as long as it has.*

Our current instrument is only fifty years old. Why hasn't it lasted a century? Several factors contribute to the failure of our current organ. First, it was initially purchased and used to be a teaching and practice instrument at Meredith College. Practice instruments are typically treated with less care than those regarded as long-term investments. We bought it when Meredith was ready to remove it.

Our current organ's condition has also deteriorated because repairs have been postponed. Just as a small leak in the roof of a house can eventually compromise the structural integrity of a building if it is ignored long enough, the work our pipe organ has needed for over a decade has been postponed for so long that addressing the

problems is now more expensive and more complicated than it might have been. We have been very fortunate that in the early days of White Plains the congregation cared enough about the quality of our music ministry that it invested in a pipe organ at all; many young congregations would not have had that vision, and we have all benefitted from their decision. We have also been fortunate that the instrument has lasted as long as it has. Many instruments built from the mid-1950s to the mid-1970s have not lasted as long as instruments built prior to that time because organ builders necessarily took short-cuts in the building process in order to keep up with the demand for new organs. These departures from the tradition of pipe organ building often resulted in lower-quality instruments with shorter lifespans. They were not built to be heritage instruments. Fortunately, most pipe organ builders have returned to time-tested methods and have been more careful about the newer innovations they introduce. The builders we would recommend to White Plains have proven track-records for excellent, lasting instruments.

## **14. How much will a new pipe organ cost?**

*A well-built, mid-sized pipe organ of excellent quality and flexibility, designed especially for our sanctuary and liturgical needs, will cost between \$750,000 and \$850,000.*

A new pipe organ, built to specifications designed for our sanctuary, will cost between \$750,000 and \$850,000, depending in part on whether the organ is crafted in Canada or in the United States (the Canadian government subsidizes its pipe organ industry, which allows its builders to sell their instruments for less than American builders can). What this price would purchase is a mid-sized instrument of excellent quality, a pipe organ with around 35 ranks (or types in sets) of pipes. To put this number into perspective, one of the pipe organs at Duke Chapel has 121 ranks of pipes; the organ at Edenton Street United Methodist Church has 98 ranks of pipes; and the organ at Rocky Mount United Methodist Church has 70 ranks of pipes. Our new instrument would offer more flexibility than our current instrument but would not include features that we do not anticipate using regularly. Our goal has been an organ of excellent quality and flexibility, not one of excessive size.

## **15. Why is it so expensive?**

*Pipe organs are expensive because of the labor and materials required. They are not mass-produced, but rather are designed especially for the the locations where they will be used.*

Let's consider the cost to put it into perspective: if a new pipe organ cost \$800,000 and lasted 100 years before rebuilding, that cost would equal \$8000 per year (plus regular maintenance and tunings), or \$153.85 per week, or \$21.98 per day, all in today's dollars.

Pipe organs are not mass-produced. Rather, they are built in workshops by skilled craftspersons, usually one instrument at a time. They are typically designed for a specific space and are unique instances of those designs: that is, the design is used just once. They are labor-intensive to create. Building a mid-sized pipe organ requires around 25,000 hours of labor to create. Just think: if it takes 14 craftspersons 12 months to build one instrument of the type we are imagining, that's 14 people times 8 hours per day times 5 days per week times about 47 weeks per year just in man-hours. Plus, the cost includes the materials, which are also expensive. Metal pipes are made from lead-tin alloys, but each kind of pipe requires different ratios of those materials. The pipes are made by hand. Non-metal pipes are made of wood. The console and casework are crafted with the same care and materials as fine furniture. The cost of a pipe organ reflects all of these. At the same time, it is useful to remember that the pipe organ industry represents a craft that has served the church almost exclusively for over five hundred years. While there are pipe organs in concert halls and music schools, most pipe organs serve churches. An investment in a pipe organ represents support for an art that would not exist and could not continue to exist without the church.

## **16. Why now, in this economy?**

*It is never convenient to make an expensive investment, but our need is now, and our opportunity is now.*

There is probably never a convenient time to make an expensive investment. At the same time, our need is now, and our opportunity is now. Our current organ will not last indefinitely. Because it can take a year or more to build a new instrument, we need to make the investment now to lessen the risk that our current instrument will fall completely silent (a real concern) before a new one can be completed. And the longer we wait, the more expensive a new instrument will become. The church first appointed an organ committee over a decade ago, and in that time pipe organs have increased in cost by at least thirty percent. Waiting a decade has already proven to be expensive for us. We should not wait longer.

## **17. Don't we have other urgent budgetary needs?**

*Yes, and we always will. The organ campaign is separate from and additional to our regular giving to the church.*

Yes, and we always will. Do not fall into the trap of either-or thinking. Our church does have other important needs. The mortgage, salaries, apportionments, and utilities must be paid. Missions must continue to happen. Please continue to make regular contributions to the general budget and for debt retirement, as well as to missions programs, just as you always do. The organ campaign is separate from and additional to our regular giving.

## **18. How would our missions programs be affected?**

*Please continue to give to our missions programs, remembering that Christian mission is an outcome of worship. The organ can be a tool for both.*

We urge members of the congregation to continue to give to our missions programs, just as you always do. Our missions programs are a defining characteristic of White Plains, just as our music program is. But what sets Christian mission apart from other good and charitable outreach programs is the point of origin: we serve others because of a desire to serve God. Mission is an extension of worship. The organ can be a tool for both.

While we never want to neglect our call to missions, we also remember that Jesus praised his follower Mary for anointing him with perfume from her alabaster jar. When other disciples rebuked her for making such a costly offering, he gently reminded everyone that she had done a beautiful thing for him. We pray that the organ, too, might be a fragrant offering to Christ, one that might inspire all of us to give generously to those in need. No one wants this investment to be a selfish one.

## **19. Is this a responsible use of the money God has entrusted to us?**

*We pray that it will be so, both because the organ can enhance our worship and also because making the investment now means that those who come after us will not be required to do so.*

We pray that it is. The most important thing that we do as Christians is to worship and love God. In order to love neighbor as self, we must love God first. All of the other good we may do extends from that. As Christians, our mission is an extension of our worship. An organ is a tool through which our worship can be enhanced and deepened. A vital church must have vital worship, and a non-failing pipe organ can help our worship be more vital. It can help us remember that our sanctuary is a place set apart and belonging to God. While a pipe organ is not essential for worship to exist or for a

sanctuary to feel sacred, it can be a means through which both can happen. What is worth caring about is worth investing in. And making this investment now means that we are not requiring those who come after us to do so.

## **20. How will we pay for it?**

*It is the hope of the Church Organ Committee that the church will be able to pay for this instrument entirely through donations.*

It is the hope of the Church Organ Committee that the church will be able to pay for this instrument entirely through donations, although we are still developing plans for a full-fledged organ campaign. We invite immediate donations to the church's Organ Fund in order to make an initial payment as soon as possible, as well as pledges to be paid at six-month intervals over the next two years: in December 2011, June 2012, and December 2012. To encourage and move us forward, an anonymous donor has generously pledged to give \$100,000 as soon as the church matches that amount.

## **21. How much will it cost to maintain?**

*Twice-yearly tunings cost around \$775. Many organ builders recommend saving an additional \$1000-2500 per year to pay for eventual needs as they arrive, such as replacement of worn parts after 40-50 years. Most other expenses are typically small, provided the organ is given consistent good care.*

Pipe organs are not usually that expensive to maintain, provided that they are given consistent good care and that preventative maintenance is regular. Most organs need little more than twice-yearly tunings, which cost around \$775 (depending upon the size of the instrument; larger instruments cost more to tune than smaller ones because each pipe must be tuned individually). After around 20 years, depending upon air quality, the instrument would need a thorough cleaning. After 40-50 years, we should expect the leathering in the windchest to be replaced and the solid-state circuitry to need at least partial replacement. The console might need updates at that time. Any other repairs would be very minor. Many organ builders recommend saving \$1000-2500 per year to pay for eventual needs as they arise. In recent years our current instrument has been requiring more expensive repairs, partly because all of its needs have not been addressed at once, which would require a rebuild of the instrument. The band-aid approach is expensive, costing around \$13,000 last year alone, but cannot fully address the instrument's underlying problems.

Our new pipe organ should serve faithfully for a century before requiring a rebuild. By investing in a fine instrument now, we will be offering future congregants an instrument that will be worth maintaining and an inheritance that will be worth keeping. We hope to make a lasting investment that will benefit not only ourselves, but future generations.

## **22. What would happen to the old organ?**

*The old organ could be sold or donated.*

It would be possible to reuse one set of our current organ's pipes, but removing them from the organ would be removing most of the remaining value from the old organ. The organ could be removed by and sold to a reputable builder, who could either use it for parts or rebuild it for use elsewhere. The income generated would likely be enough only to pay for the cost of having the instrument removed; we would not expect profit. The organ could also be donated to another church, provided that church were willing to invest the cost of removing and renovating it. The electronic components are worn out and cannot be reused.

## **23. How can this organ be used by God to grow His ministry through our church?**

*Because we believe that God uses music to speak directly to the heart, we pray and believe that God would be able to use this organ as a catalyst for deeper discipleship and stronger unity among us, as well as a tool for outreach and evangelism.*

We believe that God uses music to speak directly to the heart. White Plains has a strong musical tradition, and many current members refer to music being an initial draw to our church. A continuing tradition of musical excellence can attract new members, nurture current members, encourage the corporate worship experience of congregational singing, give voice to scripture, enable celebrations at weddings, offer comfort at funerals, and allow us to express a musical unity that symbolizes and serves as a catalyst for the spiritual unity for which we strive. A more expressive instrument allows all of these to happen more effectively, because it gives God a better tool with which to work. Let us pray that this instrument might be a genuine musical offering from us to God, and that God might use it as a catalyst for deeper discipleship among us.

## **24. I usually attend the contemporary services. How would the organ campaign affect me?**

*Although we may prefer to worship through different styles, we are one church. Even those who normally prefer contemporary worship often seek out traditional styles for special services, such as those we celebrate at weddings or funerals, or on special days such as Christmas, Easter, and All Saints' Day. We give not only to benefit ourselves, but to make worship available to others we may not yet know: the organ is a tool for outreach and evangelism, as well as our own worship.*

## **25. How can I help?**

*Pray. Learn. Encourage. Give. Any gift should be made in a spirit of offering to God.*

Please pray for God's will to be done and for the unity of this body of Christ to be increased. Ask God to show you what offering God leads you to make through prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Ask God to show you what to give to the organ fund and how. Learn about the importance of our organ to our worship, and encourage others to do the same. Give as God leads you.

Any gift should be made in a spirit of offering to God. Give to enhance the worship experience, to come together in unity for a cause we believe to be in the best interest of the church and to be in service to God, to make an investment that allows future generations of Christians to better experience God's presence in worship, and to offer a vehicle for community outreach through music.