

WHAT IS THE ORGAN RENOVATION ALL ABOUT?

At the Annual Congregational Meeting in January, the Congregation approved \$131,000. renovation of the organ by Emery Brothers, Inc. So what is going to happen to our organ?

A pipe organ consists of four major parts: 1) the console, where the keyboard and pedals are found; 2) the pipes, that produce the sound (our organ has 1,890 pipes), 3) mechanics, to produce forced air; and 4) a wind chest to release the forced air to a pipe when a note is played (our organ has four divisions, thus 4 wind chests).

The mechanics to produce forced air are working fine and are not in need of renovation at this time. The console was renovated in 2015 thanks to two special gifts for that purpose. That leaves the pipes and the wind chests. It is these two parts of the organ that will be renovated over the next couple of years.

Pipe work: Each pipe when provided with forced air provides a tune. The pipes in our organ are made of zinc. Over time, due to weather changes, even in the building, the pipes expand and contract,

causing the pipes to be out of tune. Each pipe has a tuning slide that allows for minute adjustment in the tuning process that under regular maintenance occurs twice a year. After many years of wear on the pipes, they need to be refurbished. The refurbishing will include removing all the pipes, re-coating each pipe with protective solution, new slides fitted to the pipes, and all pipes replaced and the organ retuned.

Wind chest work: The four divisions known as the Great, Swell, Positiv, and Pedal each has its own wind chest. This allows the work to be spread out over a number of years, renovating one division at a time. Since the role of the wind chest is to prevent wind from going to a pipe when that note is not being played and releasing air when played, a tight fit is required for each pipe. The work on each wind chest will include the disassembly of the wind chest, removing the original leather and felt pouches, installing new pouch assemblies, testing process, and reinstallation of the wind chest.

It is easy to see this work is a big and time-consuming process. In the end we will have a organ to continue to enhance our worship for another generation.