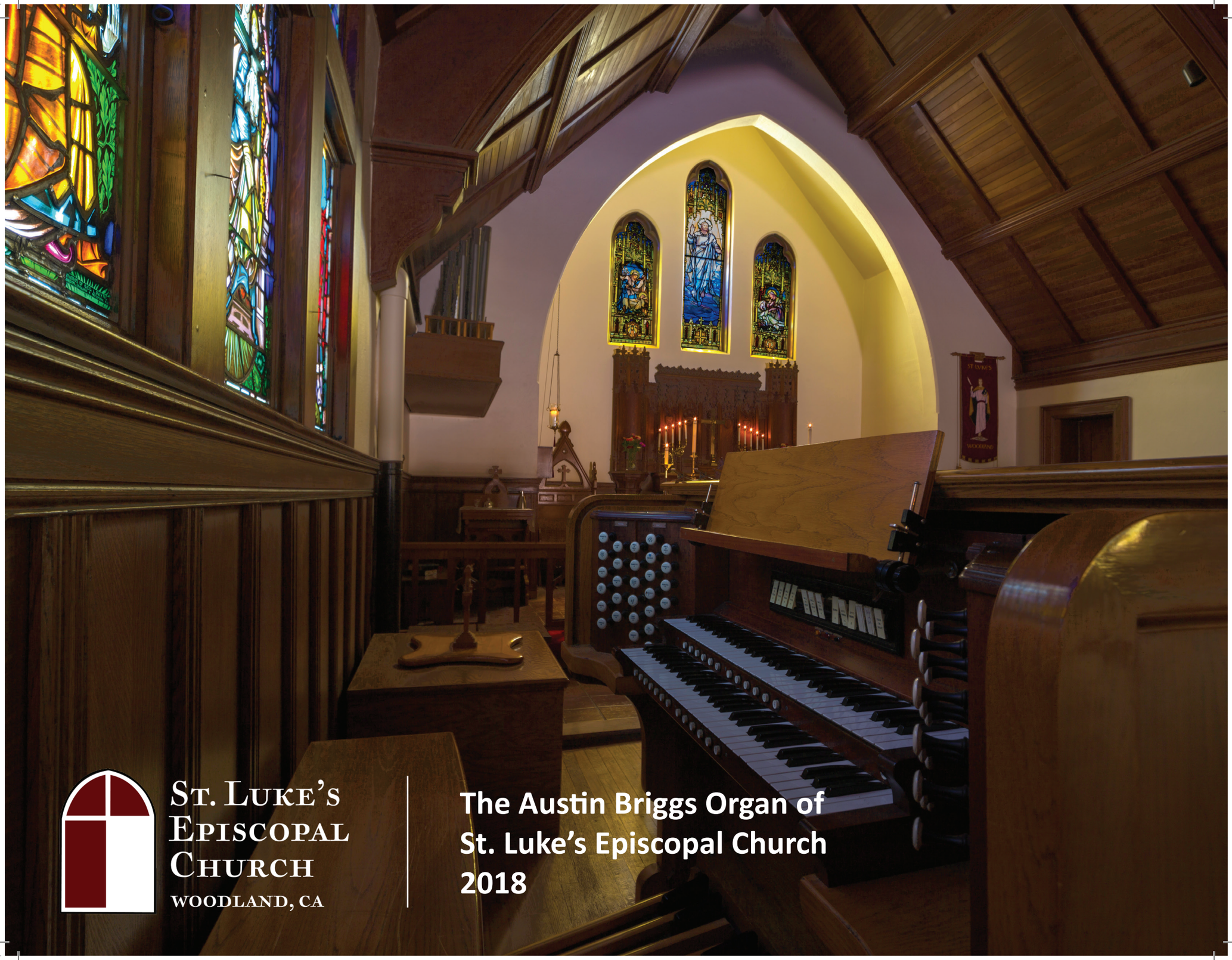


ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
WOODLAND, CA

The Austin Briggs Organ of St. Luke's Episcopal Church 2018

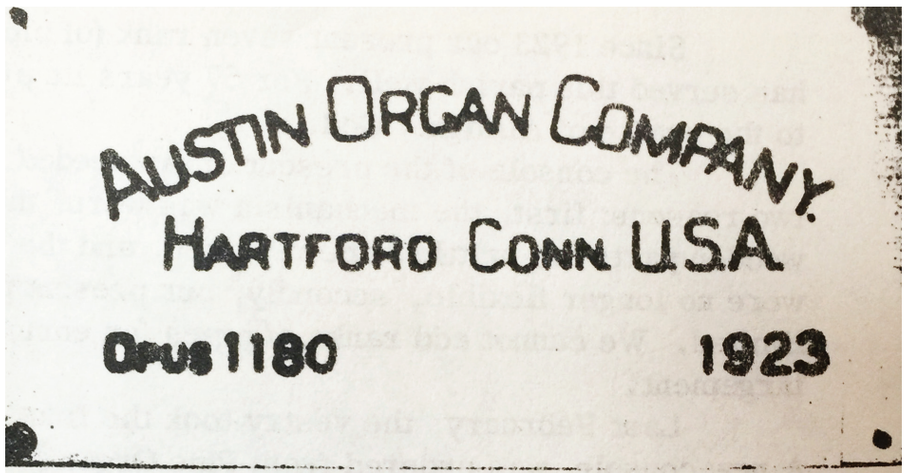
St. Luke's Austin Briggs Organ

The organ is a vital part of our worship service providing music that lifts and inspires our souls. Our organ is one of our parish's greatest blessings and is one of our most valuable assets with an estimated replacement value between $750,000 - $1,000,000. Along with our Gothic Revival architecture and historic Louis Tiffany stained glass windows, our pipe organ is one of the signature features that contributes to the beauty and awe of our worship space. St. Luke's first Austin Opus pipe organ, donated to the church by Charles Quincy Nelson, was consecrated in 1924. On any given Sunday since then, the organ boldly leads hymn singing, elegantly renders music by the great masters, and quietly invites the congregation to prayer. Whether it is the first chords and trumpets that announce Easter and proclaim "Christ Is Risen," the echoing of the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah on Christmas morn, the Memorial Day and Fourth of July patriotic medleys featuring the hymns of each branch of our Armed Services or show tunes after our services, the music of the organ is a vital part of our tradition, memories, worship and community.

History of St. Luke's Pipe Organ

St. Luke's first Austin Opus pipe organ was consecrated in 1924. The console built in 1923 was 1080th organ manufactured by the Austin Organ Company This seven rank (of pipes) Austin Organ served the congregation for more than fifty years. In 1980, under the direction of The Rev. James Brice Clark, St. Luke's began a major pipe organ renovation and improvement program. St. Luke's engaged organ builder, Alan C. Briggs, to develop and execute a plan to completely renovate the organ. The goal of the project was to have the finest pipe organ in Yolo County serving as a center for organ concerts, guest artists and special musical events.

Our current Klaan console, which was built in Virginia under the direction of Pipe Organ Associates of Redwood City, replaced the Austin console in 1980. This new keyboard/pedal-board also had draw-knobs to provide for an enlargement up to 44 ranks of pipes. In the same year St. Luke's repaired the mechanism that controls the opening and closing of the swell installed solid circuitry in the basement, expanded the organ closet and added a 16 ft. bass trumpet rank. As described in St. Luke's October 5, 1980 leaflet, "the new chorus reed, which sounds only with the full organ, dominates the ensemble by sounding with maximum of éclat, providing an emotional climatic effect. During the 1980's the "flower box" an 85-note set of principle pipes and a 61-note set of mixture pipes were also installed in the northwest corner of the sanctuary to provide overtones to the organ. The installation of the Antiphonal Organ, above the entrance was completed also during this renovation. The completion of this phase added a "Positive" arrangement that included five ranks of pipes: Bourdan 8', Spitz-Principal 4', Spitz Principal 2' Cymbal II and Krummhorn 8'.



Fun Facts about Pipe Organs

- At St. Luke's organ console one organist using both hands and feet can play more notes than an entire symphony orchestra.
- The origin of the pipe organ dates back to antiquity. Egyptian tombs have images of Pan playing two pipes of various lengths at once.
- Organs are wind instruments and require constant airflow. In 284 B.C. a barber named Cteoibius invented the water organ. The water pressure made air pressure with trumpets attached. This instrument was a great attraction in the Temple of Venus and was used in the Coliseum and Circus Maximus.
- The first modern organ was built in Venice in 1470.
- During the Baroque period, cities through Europe competed to build the best organ.

Glossary of Organ Terms

Blower - A circular fan in all modern organs, which compresses the air into wind for the pipes.

Celeste - two or more ranks of pipes that are intentionally out of tune (only slightly). The resulting undulation results in a "celestial" quality.

Chest - a wooden chamber on which a rank of pipes sits. The chest contains pressurized air that is used to play each pipe.

Combination Action - a computer system by which the organ remembers a certain combinations of stops.

Console - the key desk of the organ, containing manuals, pedals, stops, couplers, music rack, and other devices used for playing.

Coupler - a device that allows multiple divisions to be played together.

Crescendo Pedal - a balanced, pre-set pedal which brings on all of the stops of the organ gradually, producing an impressive crescendo effect. Crescendo means getting gradually louder.

Division - a grouping of stops that are designed to be used in similar ways. Each division often has its own keyboard (or pedal-board), swell shades, tremulants, pistons and couplers.

Divisionals - a combination of pistons that affects only a particular division.

Expression Pedal - the pedal that controls a swell box. They are larger pedals that are located just above the pedal-board.

Flue Stop - non-reed stops, namely foundation, string and flute stops.

Manual - a keyboard. Ex: Four-manual organs have four keyboards.

Mixture - Combinations of ranks that provide "brilliance."

Pipes:

- *Principals (diapasons) - these are the main pipes. They are described as being smooth, round and velvety.*
- *Flutes- this is the second general class of pipes. They are stopped pipes, pipes with a lid on them or open wooden pipes.*
- *String Tones - these pipes make mostly open tones (harmonics) with a weak ground tone. Two ranks of these pipes makes a Celeste that can be used to make a shimmering tone.*
- *Reed Pipes - these pipes supply fire to the organ. These are the trumpets, bassoon and oboe.*
- *Zimbelstern - the term literally means "Cymbal Star." It was originally a German mechanical device in the shape of a star with small bells or "jingles" at each point. When revolve manually or pneumatically, a jingling sound resulted.*

Piston - a button that the organist pushes to recall a saved stop combination.

Rank - a single row of pipes controlled by a stop.

Reed Stop - as opposed to flue stops, which have no moving mechanical parts in their interiors, reed stops have vibrating tongues. Reed stops often imitate orchestral sounds like a trumpet, oboe, or clarinet.

Stop - a single sound on the organ that can be played by itself or in combination with other stops.

Swell box - an enclosure of wood for the purpose of permitting the organist to control volume by means of an expressional pedal that opens and closes a set of Venetian shutters in the front of the pipes.

Toe Stud - a piston, but pushed by the feet Swell box - an enclosure of wood for the purpose of permitting the organist to control volume by means of an expressional pedal that opens and closes a set of Venetian shutters in the front of the pipes.

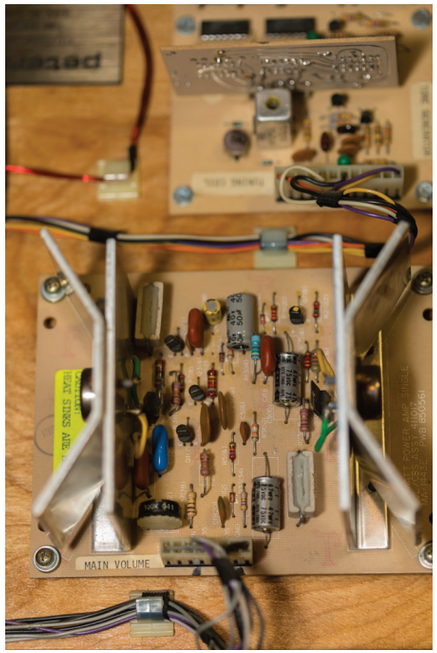
Tremulant - a mechanical device that pulsates the wind pressure up and down. It gives the stop a soft vibrato effect.

Wind Pressure - the wind that pipes are given must be raised in pressure above that of the surrounding atmosphere. The higher the wind pressure, the louder the stop. Wind pressure is usually measured in inches.

The Backside of Pipe.

Tiny Whistles Produce the Highest Notes.

Our current blower was manufactured by Spencer Steel Orgoblo in 1921. We continue to grease it regularly.

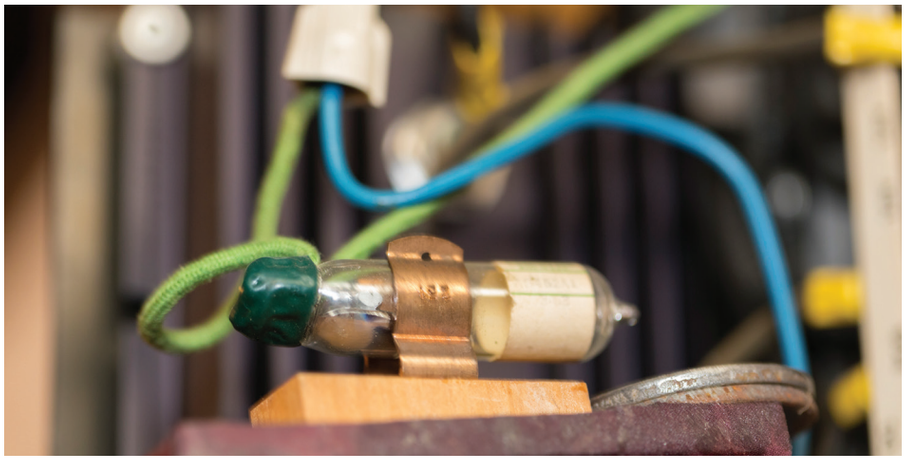


“Modern” Electronics Installed over 40 years ago!

The Blower in the cellar which provides most of the wind for the organ. (CIRCA 1933)

Our Existing Antiphonal Organ Above Entry.

Inside the Rectifier: A mercury switch tilts on a small bellows as the system fills with air. This action electrifies the low voltage system which powers the stops and electromagnet valves.



Proposed Organ Project

It has been over forty years since the components of our current pipe organ were restored and the current console and antiphonal organ were dedicated. Organs need to be kept up: the console — the control center — takes a lot of use, and is expected to last 40 - 50 years. You may have noticed some strange sounds and sticking notes in recent months. Ours has stops that stick and notes that don't always sound - all reliability issues. Heavy and constant use, over-crowding in the organ chamber, and huge swings in temperature take their toll on this complex instrument. Over time the stops in the console, the leathers in the ranks and other components begin to wear out and pipes need to be re-voiced. The "voice" is the tone quality of the pipe and is controlled by manual adjustments to direct the airflow so that the pipe "speaks" as intended. Though our organists, Dean and Jere coax beautiful music out of our organ, it is difficult to play and currently held together with "duct tape, baling wire and bubble gum." The time has come for us to replace the worn out components and restore the organ to its full functionality. A restoration will maintain the value of our organ and ensure that it will last another 50 years or more preserving our legacy. With regular maintenance, the pipe organ's life span is indefinite.

The church for centuries has been the major custodian of the arts in society, and music has been chief among those arts it cultivated. Music is one of the best ways that creation has to express outwardly its inner spiritual being. The restoration of our organ will allow St. Luke's to continue the beautiful musical tradition of The Episcopal Church. We also believe it will create opportunities for us to witness to God's glory through music by becoming a destination in the greater Sacramento area for high quality, organ music, chamber and choral concerts.

Hupalo and Repasky Organ Builders have submitted a proposal to the Vestry to replace components, leathers and stops, re-voice the pipes, provide better access for tuning and maintenance and upgrade the console so that St. Luke's could host organ concerts and guest organists. After conversation and prayerful discernment, the vestry believes that an investment in our organ and worship space is consistent with our Core Values of

- Providing a welcoming sanctuary for all
- Nurturing the next generation
- Engaging the world around us
- Honoring our legacy and traditions
- Taking faithful risks

We see this as an opportunity and an obligation to maintain and contribute to the legacy that is St. Luke's. We are excited about ensuring future generations will have a beautiful and welcoming worship space to experience the transcendent music and timeless liturgy that has, throughout the ages, united people of divergent backgrounds and views by bringing the beauty of God more fully into our common life.

View of the Proposed New Antiphonal Organ Above Narthex.

Organ Restoration - Scope of Work

The purpose of this restoration is to make the organ reliable, musically worthy, and capable of attracting talented organists for the future. The transformation of the Briggs/Austin will consist of re-positioning some present components, while also adding several major new components to the organ to effect the changes desired. This will include:

- Relocating the Great organ chest (from the North chancel wall) into a new organ case custom-designed and built to harmonize with the church interior. This will improve the sound quality and minimize the effect that temperature swings on the north wall location have on the pipe's ability to stay in tune.
- Re-building the console with a state-of-the-art digital switching system, integrated with a new combination action (memory system). This technology is more reliable, more compact, and provides the modern console features upon which today's organists have come to expect and rely.
- Designing and building a façade casework for both the main organ in the front, and for the antiphonal organ in the rear balcony.
- Rebuilding winding system to provide a stable and adequate wind supply throughout the organ.
- Inspecting all pipes; cleaning and repairing as necessary, and selecting ranks to be re-scaled and re-voiced as deemed appropriate to provide for a more musically cohesive ensemble chorus.
- Installing a donated set of Mass-Rowe chimes on the North wall of the narthex.

View of the Proposed New Main Organ Cabinet.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long will this restoration last?
With proper care, our pipes will last for hundreds of years. The electronic components should last for another 50+ years.

How long will the restoration project take?
Once we sign the contract with Hupalo and Repasky, the work on the organ should be completed within 4 months. The other work in the church will be completed during that time. Also during this time the new organ chest is being built we will move worship into the Guild Hall.

How much will the restoration of our organ cost?
The cost of the work proposed by Hupalo and Repasky is $143,000.

What about the needed restorations to the other facilities:
Based on the input that we received and the core values that emerged from our Holy Conversations in the fall of 2017, the vestry has been developing a multi-phased approach to renovating and maximizing the use and income potential of the spaces that we have. The first phase involved addressing outstanding maintenance and repair items, cleaning and organizing our spaces. The second phase, which will be completed in the summer of 2018, involves the relocation of the church offices and the renovation of the rectory so that we can rent it to visiting professors at U.C. Davis. The next two phases will be (1) addressing the restoration of the organ and necessary improvements to our worship space and (2) renovating and improving the Great Hall, kitchen and classroom facilities in order to fully maximize their income potential.

Given the current condition of our pipe organ, its restoration is time critical. We need to raise the money and complete the project before the organ is unplayable. In addition, a facilities plan that identifies desired and potential uses for the Great Hall, kitchen and basement classrooms is currently being developed. We are focusing on creating multi-use spaces that will both serve the community and create income streams for St. Luke's. This plan will also identify the upgrades needed to utilize the space as we desire and projected cost estimates.

Once renovations to the Great Hall are completed, we envision a desirable space that can be rented for large events, serve as an overflow shelter, and host summer camps and afterschool enrichment programs. We see the kitchen in the Great Hall as one of our most valuable assets. Making the necessary improvements to qualify as a commercial kitchen will allow us to provide in house catering for rental events, host cooking camps/ programs and lease space by the hour as a kitchen incubator. The preschool is making plans to increase its program and expand into the basement classrooms.

We expect the funding for these projects to come from a variety of sources that will include the new revenue streams that the facility improvements will generate, grants and targeted donations.

View of the "Mish-Mash" of crowded pipes in the existing main organ chamber.

Jere describes how a pipe “speaks”.

Dean at the console.


O praise ye the Lord
All things that give sound;
Each jubilant chord
Re-echo around;
Loud organs, His glory forth tell in deep tone,
And sweet harp, the story
Of what He hath done.
Hymnal 1982 #432 v3