

The Past

History of the FUMC Organ

When the present sanctuary was constructed in 1941, the Ladies Aid Society provided funding for a pipe organ. The contract with M.P. Moller, Inc. was signed August 15, 1941. The agreement called for a three manual and pedal instrument at a cost of eight thousand dollars, financed over five years. The new church was occupied in March 1942 and a recital was given to a capacity audience on April twelfth by Claude Murphree, University Organist.

In 1952 Mrs. Myrtle Waldo concluded her forty-seventh year tenure as FUMC organist and was followed by Helen Bell Jones, the daughter of a Methodist minister. Many present members remember Mrs. Jones' use of multiple choirs in both music and drama at special times of the church year. In 1971, Gloria Keister became the new organist and there have been several more since then. Ben Ehrlich has been our organist for the past five years.

Bert Kinzey led the project to rebuild the organ in 1979. In this year the Moller was expanded to 1,960 pipes with over 35 ranks, from the original installation of 1,427 pipes over 21 ranks. Other construction at this time included the removal of a masonite wall in front of the organ chamber and the addition of the present screen. Air drawn into the blower was altered to use conditioned air, as opposed to drawing hot humid-air from outdoors. This rebuilding project cost \$108,266.

A re-leathering project was undertaken in the late 80's and the swell shades were converted to use Solid-State Peterson motors in 2002.

In 2003, for insurance purposes, the organ was appraised. The certified replacement value was set at \$560,000. The Trustees were surprised by this figure since the organ had appreciated this value from an original investment of around \$120,000.



The Present

Organ Rebuilding

The tropical storms that hit Gainesville in 2004 flooded the basement blower room, as well as allowed wind-driven rain to enter into the organ chamber. These storms flooded the organ pipes and blower duct system, and caused severe damage to the leathers of the instrument. Since spring 2005, repairs were made to the blower, the Hautbois windchest and the pedal chests, but more repair is needed. Furthermore, several organ repair companies had predicted that water-damage problems, not apparent at present, were likely to occur in the future.

A major rebuilding was needed. A large number of the organ components and wiring were from the original 1941 installation and had deteriorated over the past 65 years, although many of the original pipes are in good condition. Over this time technology has greatly improved from a mechanical-and-air type of control to modern microprocessor controlled technology.

The Future

In the Spring of 2005 an organ committee was appointed by the Trustees to address the issue of necessary repairs or replacement of our organ. This committee worked very hard over the ensuing time and considered over twenty-seven organ companies, including both pipe and electronic instruments. The organ committee understood the bond between this church and our current instrument, and it was the desire of the organ committee to restore this instrument if at all possible.

After consideration of proposals that were received from five companies that visited our church, the decision was made to recommend to the Trustees that we accept a proposal from the Berghaus Organ Company of Chicago, Illinois. This was the only organ company that was truly committed to restoring our historic instrument.

On July 18, 2006 the Trustees approved the project at a cost of \$395,000. In August the organ was removed from FUMC by Berghaus for rebuilding at their factory. They plan to install the rebuilt organ in the Spring of 2007, as the construction schedule allows.

In addition to the restoration of the instrument, they will add a Sub bass 16' stop, a Viol one 16' stop, Viol one 8' stop, as well as adding 29 new pipes to the existing Pedal Trompete 8' stop. All of these new pipes will be displayed in a new pipe façade (see cover). This will achieve the dreams of our congregation. A Zimblestern will be added, and Berghaus will place a new blower in the organ chamber rather than placing it in the basement where heavy rains can cause flooding.

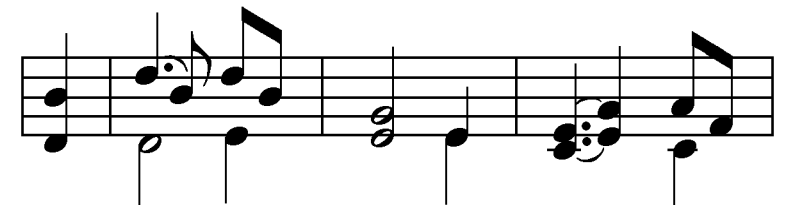
The current project includes:

The rebuilding of all windchests

- Replacing of all parts and wiring inside the console with a modern microprocessor controlled technology, including a midi connection.
- Refurbishing of the organ chamber
- Addition of pipes
- Replacement of the chamber screen with a pipe façade as pictured on the cover.
- Re-voicing of pipes

How Can I Help?

Members and Friends of First United Methodist Church Gainesville, along with members of the community, have the opportunity to “adopt” a pipe in honor or memory of someone that has been important in your life. On the following pages, the opportunities to participate in this project are explained in detail. Each person, class, or organization “adopting” a pipe will receive a certificate that designates their gift. In addition, a Celebration Booklet will be prepared with listings of all pipes adopted, their donor, and the name of the person being honored. This booklet will be on display at the church, and an organ recital will be held annually in celebration of the gifts received during this “Adopt - A - Pipe” campaign.



Adopt - A - Pipe

Category	Donation
New Façade Pipe <i>(Exposed Pipes That Will be Visible to the Congregation)</i>	\$1,000.00
16' Great Division Pipes <i>(Exposed Pipes That Will be Visible to the Congregation)</i>	\$750.00
8' Great Division Pipes <i>(Exposed Pipes That Will be Visible to the Congregation)</i>	\$500.00
4' Great Division Pipes <i>(Exposed Pipes That Will be Visible to the Congregation)</i>	\$300.00
2' Great Division Pipes <i>(Exposed Pipes That Will be Visible to the Congregation)</i>	\$200.00
16' Swell Division Pipe	\$500.00
8' Swell Division Pipe	\$250.00
4' Swell Division Pipe	\$125.00
2' Swell Division Pipe	\$50.00
16' Positiv Division Pipe	\$500.00
8' Positiv Division Pipe	\$250.00
4' Positiv Division Pipe	\$125.00
2' Positiv Division Pipe	\$50.00
8' Pedal Division Pipe	\$250.00
4' Pedal Division Pipe	\$125.00
Mixture Pipes	\$25.00
Chimes <i>(Available as Donations From Children and Youth)</i>	\$5.00

First United Methodist Church
419 NE First Street
Gainesville, Florida 32606

Adopt-A-Pipe Donation Form

Name of Donor _____ Phone _____

Address of Donor _____

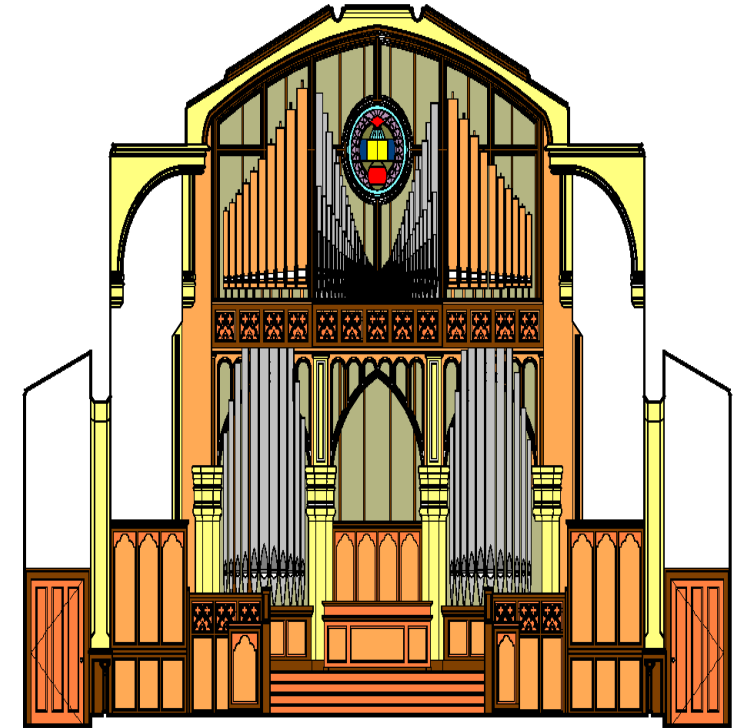
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Email _____

1. _____ Honor / Memory of _____ \$ _____
Pipe /Division Category (Circle One) Name (Please Print)
2. _____ Honor / Memory of _____ \$ _____
Pipe /Division Category (Circle One) Name (Please Print)
3. _____ Honor / Memory of _____ \$ _____
Pipe /Division Category (Circle One) Name (Please Print)
4. _____ Honor / Memory of _____ \$ _____
Pipe /Division Category (Circle One) Name (Please Print)

Total Donation \$ _____

(Additional Cards Are Available From The Church Office)

Adopt - A - Pipe Campaign



First United Methodist Church
419 NE First Street
Gainesville, Florida 32601