

History of the St. Aidan's Pipe Organ

This organ has as its origins a Kimball theatre organ built in 1924 for the Wishart Theatre in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was a II-manual, 3-rank organ with Diapason, Concert Flute, and Viola.

Lake Burien Presbyterian of Burien (Seattle) wanted an organ, but with WWII going on, Kimball had closed its doors to organ work. Charles W. Allen — the Seattle Kimball representative — was forced to search *The Diapason* want ads for an organ. He purchased something from a regular advertiser in Philadelphia, but what arrived was not the same as what had been discussed. Mr. Allen did the best he could with what arrived, giving the church a concession, and also getting about \$90.00 back from the seller. This organ was replaced in 1955 by a new, II-manual Reuter.

The Allen/Kimball was sold to Mr. Larry Milligan of Seattle for \$500.00 and moved to his parents home on 11th NE and 78th under the direction of Charles Wassberg. In 1967, the Milligans retired to Orcas Island, and the organ was moved and reinstalled, again by Charles Wassberg.

In 1982, the organ was sold by Mr. Milligan and, again, moved and installed by Charles Wassberg. At that time, it arrived at the Camano Island home of David Thoreson, and was set-up in the dining room of the home.

In 1993, the organ was offered for sale by the Thoresons. It was purchased by St. Aidan's Episcopal Church of Camano Island in July, 1994, and was installed at the church by Jim Stettner of Meadway & Stettner Pipe Organs of Monroe, Washington.