

A photograph of the interior of the Corinth Reformed Church. The view is from the back of the sanctuary looking towards the front. On either side of the central aisle are large, ornate wooden organ cases with multiple tiers of pipes. In the center, a tall, narrow stained glass window with Gothic tracery depicts various religious scenes. Below the organ cases, wooden pews with red cushions are visible. At the front, a wooden organ console sits on a raised platform in front of a white altar. The ceiling is high with dark wood beams and arched structures.

Dedication of the Organ

Soli deo Gloria
Corinth Reformed Church - Hickory, NC



Praise Him

*Praise Him with
the timbrel and dance:
praise Him with
stringed instruments
and Organs.*

PSALM 150:4

Corinth Reformed Church is pleased to present a very special performance by renowned organist Vincent Dubois, one of the finest concert organists in the world. He is currently one of three titular organists at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, France. Mr. Dubois also serves as the Director General of the Strasbourg National and Superior Conservatory of Music in France, and he teaches organ at the Freiburg Musikhochschule in Germany.

Organ Dedication Performance by:

Vincent Dubois

Oct. 22, 2022 • Corinth Reformed Church • Hickory, NC

Vincent Dubois will be performing the following musical compositions:

Prelude and fugue in E-flat major BWV 552

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Cantabile

César Franck (1822-1890)

Allegro maestoso (first movement from the 5th Symphony Op. 42)

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

Danse macabre

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Prelude and fugue on name A.L.A.I.N.

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

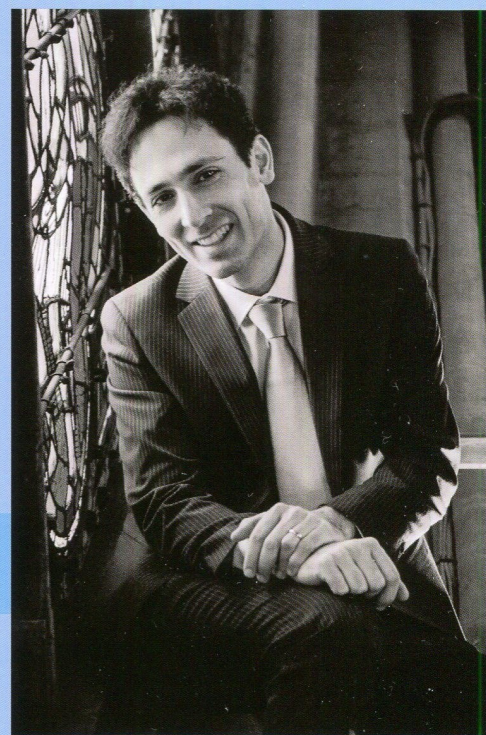
Allegro deciso, (from the Symphonic Poem, Evocation, Op. 37)

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

Improvisation on submitted themes

“Dubois possesses maturity far beyond his years. He plays with consummate passion and breathtaking virtuosity, yet with absolute technical control.”

-The American Organist, March 2006



A graduate of the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris, Vincent Dubois took the world's stage in 2002 by winning two major organ competitions: the Recital Gold Medal at the Calgary International Organ Competition, and the Grand Prize at the International Competition of Toulouse, France.

In January 2016, Mr. Dubois was appointed the newest of three titular organists of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, where he continues to serve along with the two other titular organists, Olivier Latry and Philippe Lefebvre.

Mr. Dubois has performed in major concert venues and international music festivals throughout Europe, North America, Asia, and the Pacific. He has also appeared as guest soloist with many orchestras and ensembles, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Dallas Symphony, and the Hong-Kong Philharmonic, among many others. Mr. Dubois is featured in solo recitals on several commercial recordings, and his performances have been broadcast over international radio.



History

of Corinth Reformed Church

The town of Hickory was originally called "Hickory Tavern" after a small tavern, the first known building in the area. Among the first settlers from Pennsylvania were Adolphus L. Shuford and Henry W. Link, loyal members of the German Reformed Church. With a desire to carry on their religious heritage, these men sought the services of Rev. Jeremiah Ingold—a "true prophet of the Lord." Rev. Ingold preached the first sermon in 1860 in Hickory when it was still called "Hickory Tavern."

There was no building suitable for religious services. Mr. Link and Mr. Shuford built a temporary outdoor shelter called a brush arbor. During the warm months, Rev. Ingold led worship in the brush arbor. In the winter, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Link was used for services. Worship in Hickory was not held every Sunday, but about once a month since Rev. Ingold also preached in other churches on the Grace (South Fork) charge.

There were many challenges to the residents of the area. The Civil War was raging from 1861 to 1868. After the Civil War, their confederate money was worthless. Fires were frequent in the area. The brush arbor burned in 1868; however, Rev. Ingold had built the Free Academy, Hickory's first school, the same year. The Free Academy was used for school purposes, for a union Sunday School and for "preaching by any and all denominations, and by any show that happened to come along."

On May 22, 1869, still meeting in the Free Academy, 22 charter members organized Corinth Reformed Church. The congregation worshipped there until 1874 when they moved to their newly constructed wooden building which cost \$500. This wooden church burned in 1887.

A brick church at the corner of the present Second Street and Trade Avenue NW was Corinth's meeting place from 1887 to 1910. It was Hickory's first brick church and was the first place of worship in Hickory to install a pipe organ, which was purchased from the Church of the Good Shepherd for \$200.

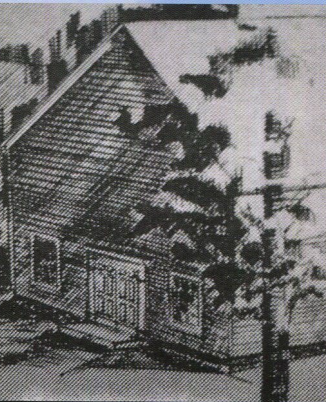
The little brick church soon became too small for the growing congregation. The first service in the new church, located where the Southern National Bank now stands, was held on November 6, 1910. In 1940, the church was completely renovated. The congregation approved the plans for relocating the church to its present site in 1954. In September of 1959, the present edifice was dedicated.

Corinth was a part of the Reformed Church until 1934 when the merger of the Evangelical Synod of North America and the Reformed Church in the United States created a new 600,000 member of Evangelical and Reformed Church. The United Church of Christ, of which the congregation is a member, was formed in 1957 when the Congregational Christian Church and Evangelical and Reformed Church merged into a new 2,000,000 member denomination. Corinth Reformed Church presently has 1,898 members.

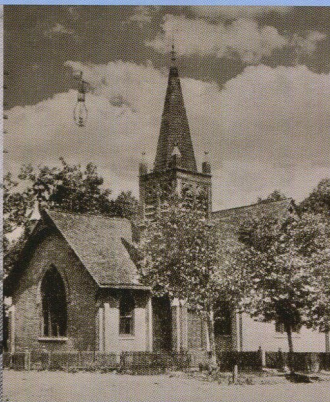
Corinth's vision, excitement, and passion for music is an integral part of its profound legacy of inspiring worship. We give thanks to God and to our forefathers and their foresight and contributions in giving us an organ platform and a musical heritage that has withstood the test of time.



< 1871



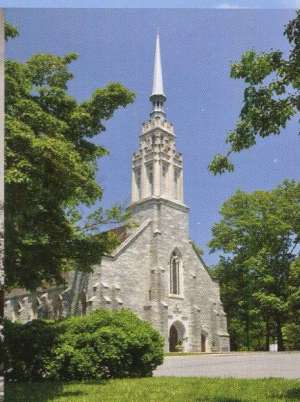
1874-1887



1887-1910



1910-1959



1959-Present



A black and white photograph of the interior of a church, showing the altar area. A large, ornate pipe organ is mounted on the wall behind the altar. The altar is decorated with flowers and a cross. Pews are visible in the foreground.

At Left, Mike Eaton Assists David Nelms in Unloading Some 16-Foot Organ Pipes, Which Are Similar To The Ones Being Installed And Carefully Aligned By Some Of Nation's Fellow Organ Builders. A.J. & Sons Organ Co., Inc.

WILLIAM SELF
SUNDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER THIRTEENTH
1959

Corinth Evangelical and Reformed Church
United Church of Christ
Hickory, North Carolina

HARRY D. ALTHOUSE, D. D., MINISTER
RESIDENCE 535-2ND AVENUE N. W.
PHONE DA 7-8221

The new Three Manual Pipe Organ was designed and built by M. P. Moller, Inc. of Hagerstown, Maryland. The organ is the gift of Mrs. Eli T. Watson.

The organ is divided into two large organ chambers, on each side of the Sanctuary.

Pipes and wind chests for the Great and Choir Organs and a portion of the Pedal division are placed in one chamber, and the pipes and wind chests for the Swell Organ and a part of the Pedal, is located in the other chamber.

The console is installed on the left side of the chancel. This is the brain, or nerve center of the instrument, that is, the entire organ is controlled from the console.

Wind supply and low voltage electric current come from the blower and orgelectra; each putting a continuous amount of air and electricity of the proper pressure and voltage.

The organ chambers, console and blower are connected by cables and wind conductors.

Tonally, the organ is capable of producing very soft beautiful effects, barely audible at the rear of the nave—through a gradual, smooth build-up of volume of the various tone families, to the full organ, which includes all of the sets of pipes being used together.

There are twenty-two ranks of pipes, with a total of over thirteen hundred individually hand-made pipes. These range in pitch from the low 16', up to very small ones of 1'. Provision has been made to add additional tone colors in the future, should these be desired.

The organ was custom-built in the plant, set up and tested before being shipped to the Church.

Mr. Albert Discepoli of the Moller Company has charge of the installation.

A reception honoring Mr. Self will be given in Fellowship Hall following the recital. You are cordially invited to the reception.

A photograph of a large, ornate organ console with multiple tall, slender pipes, likely part of a church organ. The pipes are arranged in a row, with varying heights and widths, and are set against a dark, arched wooden frame. The organ is made of polished wood, and the pipes have a metallic, possibly brass, finish. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.



History of the Organ

In the year 1890, Corinth Church was the first house of worship in Hickory to install a pipe organ. The equipment was purchased second hand from the Church of the Good Shepherd in Raleigh, NC, on September 23, 1890. It required the stamina of young boys to hand pump the instrument. The story goes that some of the boys would go to sleep during the service and have to be awakened to pump. Some boys would pay others to do their work. Many people came to the church to hear “the big organ.”

Never had such a price been paid for an organ in Hickory. It cost \$200.00—five-eighths of the cost was to be paid in trade, three-eighths to be in cash. When the church moved into a new building where Southern National Bank sits (presently BB&T), a new two manual Moller Organ was installed in November 1910. The original organ was torn down, moved to the new church, and placed in the basement. No one seems to know what happened to the remnants of the first old pipe organ.

In 1959, when the present gothic church was built, a three manual Moller Organ, a gift from Mrs. Maude Shuford Watson, was installed. At that time, Wade H. Shuford bought the old church building and gave the two manual organ to Catawba College.

On November 8, 1989, a contract was signed with M.P. Moller, Inc., Hagerstown, MD, to complete the organ in the present church. Moller has since that time gone out of business but was the largest organ building company in the world. The expansion of the instrument added a new console and doubled the size of the instrument from 21 up to 43 ranks. The project resulted from input from area organists, giving it the ability to function as both a concert and church instrument. Dr. David Lowry of Winthrop College was the organ committee’s consultant to Moller.

The organ continued to faithfully serve the congregation and community but began to falter in the Christmas season of 2016. Many components had been in service since the 1959 installation. A newly formed, highly focused organ committee was commissioned by the church administration with Mr. Neil Forrest as committee president. On November 28, 2018, a contract was signed with the R.A. Colby organ building company of Johnson City, TN—one of the premier organ builders in the United States.