

Make a Joyful Noise



Sardis Presbyterian Church
Organ Dedication
May 4, 2008



Sardis Presbyterian Church

2008

Opus 2233

Dear Sardis Family and Friends,

“Next to theology I give to music the highest place and honor. Music is the art of the prophets, the only art that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.”

Martin Luther

What a magnificent and delightful day it is, as we dedicate a new organ to the glory of God. It is a day of thanksgiving for the many committees and individual members who worked faithfully and patiently over the years, and for the generous response of members like you. Once again, this grand congregation has experienced how God can accomplish far more than we can ever imagine or dream when we work together, pray together and worship together for the Glory of God.

However, our work is not finished. The German mystic Silesius wrote, “God is the organist, we are his instrument, His Spirit sounds each pipe and gives the tone its strength.” That is why, in our reformed tradition, music is an expression of prayer and offering to God, which leads us from the beauty of this sanctuary out into the world to serve and love others, with the melody of Jesus Christ in our hearts.

I am confident that our new organ will not only inspire us, but will stir the hearts of future generations to sing their song as they seek to love and serve the Lord.

May the prayer of the poet Christina Georgina Rossetti be our prayer this day and everyday:

Tune me, O Lord, into one harmony with Thee, one full responsive
vibrant chord;
Unto Thy praise, all love and melody, Tune me, O Lord.

Your Pastor,

The Rev. Dr. J. Thomas Kort

Let them praise the name of the Lord; for His Name alone is excellent; His glory is above the earth and heaven.

Psalm 148:13

With these words the psalmist shows his desire to praise God in the finest manner. Here at Sardis Presbyterian Church, we have taken a great step in our efforts to bring God praise in the finest manner possible through the installation of our new Reuter Pipe Organ.

In designing the new organ our desire was to have an instrument capable of leading the congregation in worship, specifically in accompanying the singing of hymns and the varied musical styles of numerous choirs, as well as playing the organ literature for worship and liturgy, festive weddings, and meaningful funerals, all part of our corporate worship of Almighty God. Also, because of its expert design, its many new sounds and colorful solo stops allow it to be wonderfully suited for the finest organ repertoire in concert, as well. Because of today's technological advances the new instrument will perform well for a much longer time.

The addition of the Antiphonal Division in the rear of the sanctuary will help support the singing of those farther away from the front organ. The regal sound of the Angel Trumpet, the en chamade (horizontal trumpet) will be a joy for many festive occasions.

In planning for the new organ, it was right that we honor those, who in the gift of the 1960 Moller Organ, were so generous in their day and far-sighted enough to have built organ chambers that were more than ample to hold that organ and a sanctuary that was far larger than the congregation of their day. Large portions of pipework were able to be refurbished and used again in the new organ, resulting in a large cost reduction of the total instrument.

We pray that God will bless the efforts of our generation so that future Sardis congregations will continue to praise God with this wonderful instrument.

Ken and Sharon De Boer
Director of Music and Organist



The History of Musical Instruments at Sardis Presbyterian Church

In A Goodly Heritage, a history of Sardis Presbyterian Church by Jennings B. Reid, an article written in 1966 by Mrs. Gertrude M. Wallace gives a brief history of the musical instruments that have led the worship of Sardis Presbyterian Church from its beginnings.

The first musical instrument used in Sardis Church was a tuning fork. This was a great step forward as tunes were written within the compass of the average voice, and the tuning fork makes it possible to sing 'without squeaking above or grumbling below.'

The second musical instrument brought into the church, in the year 1901, was the little organ which may be seen in the Historical Room. The organ was first used in a frame church building which stood on the opposite side of the highway from our present structure.

With the erection of the new Sardis Church building in 1907, the organ was placed in the midst of the congregation.

With the purchase of the Hammond organ in 1941 the majority of the church members thought they had attained their highest goal but the organists soon impressed upon them the fact that nothing except a pipe organ would prove satisfactory. Thus, with the installation of the Moller pipe organ in 1960, it is felt that the Scriptural command as to the use of instruments of music in worship has been adequately and ultimately obeyed. Each generation has proceeded to build upon the foundation laid by others.

With the passage 48 years of constant use, the 1960 38 rank Moller showed many signs of coming to the end of its mechanical life. Our new 72 rank Reuter organ, which played for the first time on Easter Sunday, March 23, 2008, marks not only a new beginning of musical excellence and colorful possibilities, but also a continuation of past generations' hopes and desires to worship God with music, even as the Psalmist exhorted in Psalm 150: "with trumpet sound, with the lute and harp, with strings and pipes...let everything that has breath, praise the Lord."

A Litany of Dedication

***CALL TO DEDICATION - Ken DeBoer**

Beloved in Christ: Inasmuch as God has placed in our hearts a willingness to build this instrument of music as an aid to our worship in this holy place, it is right that we should now dedicate it to God's glory and set it apart for the holy use for which it was designed. In so doing, we acknowledge those who have come before us and those who will follow after us, and pray that the worship life of this congregation will be enriched for generations to come as joyfully we adore Him.

***LITANY OF DEDICATION - Ken DeBoer**

To the glory of God, Author of all goodness and beauty,
Giver of all skill of mind and hand:

We dedicate this organ.

In faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, whose transforming grace has inspired us to offer, in His praise, our best in music and song:

We dedicate this organ.

Moved by the Holy Spirit, our Guide in the worship of God and our Helper in the understanding of truth and beauty:

We dedicate this organ.

To aid and inspire us as we sing our psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, so that we may go forth with renewed energy and commitment to serve and to do God's holy will:

We dedicate this organ.

To comfort the sorrowful and cheer the faint, to bring purity and peace into human hearts, and to lead all who hear it in the way of eternal life:

We dedicate this organ and offer our thanks and praise.

HYMN OF DEDICATION - *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!
2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Mortals, join the mighty chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward,
In the triumph song of life.

Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt.

Ludwin van Beethoven, 1824
Adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867); alt.

** Standing for those able*

Organ Specifications

Great Organ

16'	Violone	73 pipes	16'	Bombarde	from Swell
8'	Diapason	61 pipes	8'	Tromba	61 pipes
8'	Violone	Ext.	8'	Tuba	from Choir
8'	Open Flute	61 pipes	8'	Trompette en Chamade	from Antiphonal
8'	Bourdon	61 pipes	8'	Fagotto	from Choir
4'	Octave	61 pipes	8'	French Horn	from Choir
4'	Spillflute	61 pipes	8'	Clarinet	from Choir
2 2/3'	Quint	61 pipes	8'	English Horn	from Choir
2'	Super Octave	61 pipes		Tremulant	
III	Cornet	137 pipes		Chimes	21 tubes
III-IV	Fourniture	232 pipes		MIDI	
III-IV	Scharf	203 pipes			

Swell Organ

16'	Rohrflute	12 pipes	1 3/5'	Tierce	61 pipes
8'	Geigen Diapason	61 pipes	IV	Plein Jeu	244 pipes
8'	Viole	61 pipes	16'	Bombarde	85 pipes
8'	Viole Celeste	61 pipes	16'	Trompette en Chamade (tc)	from Antiphonal
8'	Flute Dolce	61 pipes	8'	Trompette	61 pipes
8'	Flute Celeste (tc)	49 pipes	8'	Oboe	61 pipes
8'	Rohrflute	61 pipes	8'	Vox Humana	61 pipes
4'	Principal	61 pipes	8'	Trompette en Chamade	from Choir
4'	Hohlflute	61 pipes	4'	Clarion	ext. Bombarde
2 2/3'	Nazard	61 pipes		Tremulant	
2'	Flautino	61 pipes		MIDI	

Choir

16'	Gamba	73 pipes	16'	Fagotto	73 pipes
8'	Diapason	61 pipes	16'	Tuba (tc)	
8'	Gamba	Ext.	8'	Tuba	61 pipes
8'	Gamba Celeste (tc)	49 pipes	8'	Trompette en Chamade	from Antiphonal
8'	Erzahler	61 pipes	8'	Fagotto	Ext.
8'	Erzahler Celeste	54 pipes	8'	Clarinet	61 pipes
8'	Stopped Diapason	61 pipes	8'	French Horn	61 pipes
4'	Principal	61 pipes	8'	English Horn	61 pipes
2'	Doublette	61 pipes		Tremulant	
1 1/3'	Larigot	61 pipes		MIDI	
III-IV	Mixture	232 pipes			

Antiphonal

8'	Principal	61 pipes	4'	Gedeckt	Ext.
8'	Gedeckt	73 pipes	2'	Doublette	Ext.
4'	Prestant	73 pipes	8'	Trompette en Chamade	61 pipes

Pedal

32'	Bourdon	12 notes (Walker)	32'	Contra Bombarde	12 pipes
16'	Principal	44 pipes	16'	Posaune	56 pipes
16'	Violone	from Great	16'	Bombarde	from Swell
16'	Bourdon	56 pipes	16'	Fagotto	from Choir
16'	Rohrflute	from Swell	8'	Posaune	Ext.
16'	Gamba	from Choir	8'	Tuba	from Choir
8'	Principal	Ext.	8'	Trompette en Chamade	from Antiphonal
8'	Violone	from Great	8'	Bombarde	from Swell
8'	Bourdon	Ext.	8'	Fagotto	from Choir
8'	Rohrflute	from Swell	4'	Posaune	Ext.
8'	Gamba	from Choir	4'	Clarion	from Swell
4'	Choral Bass	32 pipes	4'	Clarinet	from Choir
4'	Bourdon	Ext.		Chimes	
IV	Mixture	128 pipes		MIDI	

From the Builder:

Our dialog with Sardis Presbyterian Church began in 2001. Sharon and Ken DeBoer, along with several dedicated committee members, auditioned instruments in Pittsburgh, Allentown, Philadelphia, Winston Salem, Chicago, and Virginia Beach. Sharon and Ken also had the opportunity to tour our production facility in 2002. After studying the tonal resources of many instruments that we heard together, we developed an understanding of the overall concept for the Sardis organ.

This pipe organ consists of 72 ranks, or sets, of pipes controlled by a console with three manuals and pedal. The main organ is housed in chambers behind the attractive array of façade pipes at the front of the chancel. An additional division of pipes, the Antiphonal Organ, is located in the back of the sanctuary. It features a rank of pipes that is mounted horizontally over the Seal of the Presbyterian Church, a commanding solo stop called the Angel's Trumpet. All exposed display pipes were designed to integrate seamlessly with the surrounding architectural elements, unifying the entire sanctuary without overpowering the central liturgical fixtures.

The Sardis organ is an ideal instrument for leading worship. It offers a wealth of rich tone carefully voiced to support vocal music of all kinds: solo, choral and congregational. It is indeed a "Singer's Organ." These vocal qualities, along with a wealth of orchestral colors, make this instrument a magnificent concert organ as well.

This project is gratifying on more than its artistic merits. We were excited, humbled, and honored to be selected by your congregation to build this instrument. The relationships forged with the staff and membership will be life-long. In this partnership, we have developed a mutual understanding about what is important in the life of your church, and we appreciate the opportunity to be a part of your music ministry for many years to come.

Welcome to the Reuter family!





Sardis Presbyterian Church

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