

The image shows the interior of a church, specifically the sanctuary. The focal point is a large, ornate pipe organ with multiple tiers of pipes, set against a backdrop of a large, arched stained glass window. The organ is flanked by two smaller, similar organ sections. The architecture is made of light-colored stone or brick, with decorative carvings and moldings. The ceiling is high and features intricate, colorful stained glass designs. The overall atmosphere is grand and historic.

Inaugural Organ Recitals

Fall 2003

FOUNTAIN STREET CHURCH
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

The refurbished Sanctuary pipe organ is a splendid instrument for praising God and leading worship—a magnificent joy to behold, to hear, to sing with, to play—a wonderful tribute

(3) public programs, recitals, and concerts at Fountain Street Church.

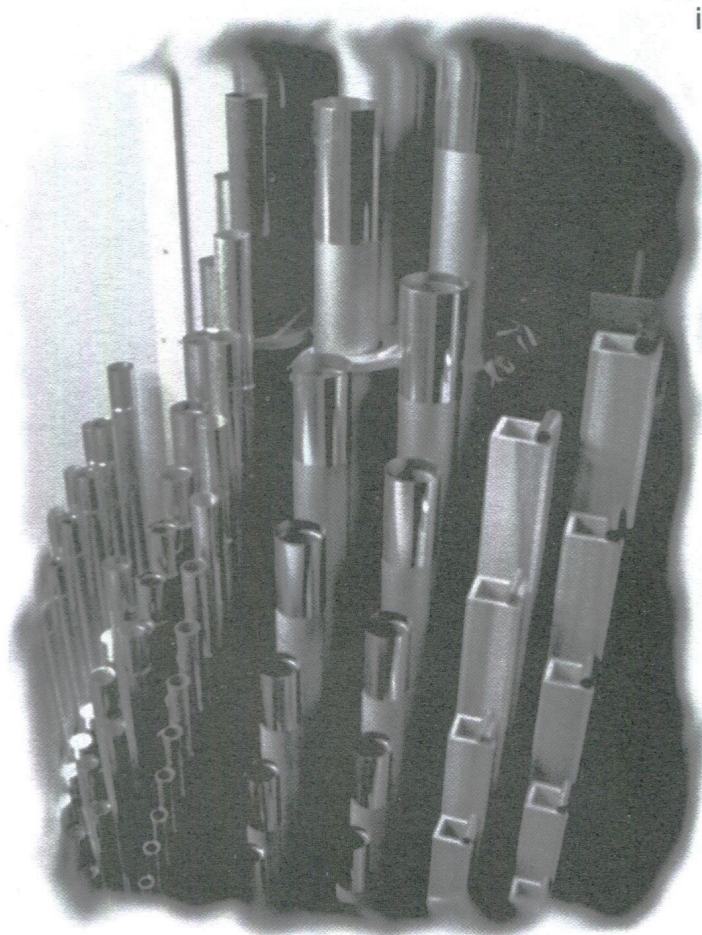
The rebuilt and enhanced Sanctuary pipe organ writes into

the pages of the church's history and into the frame of its building a profound connection with past and future. This new incarnation of "Catherine the Great" refreshes and reuses many

From the Music Minister

to our forebears and a wonderful lasting asset to share with the community. In its magnificence the new instrument exceeds even the planners' highest musical and technical expectations.

We can be assured that the instrument will be used by many competent people to stimulate and contribute to the quality of worship music both in this location and in many others for years to come. The congregation's long-term investment in the renovated instrument will reap broad rewards for the church's outreach ministries in many ways including (1) inspiration and example to those who visit the church or see services telecast, (2) education in church music through private instruction and cooperative arrangements with local institutions of higher learning, and



*Several ranks of pipes,
metal and wooden*

pipes from the organ first installed in 1924, and the renovations and additions equip the instrument to serve the congregation and community for generations to come.

The rebuilding of the Sanctuary organ represents an important step—although neither the first nor the last one—in the congregation's ongoing process of endowing the future of its ministry in downtown Grand Rapids. For me it is an honor and a profound satisfaction to have assisted with enabling the congregation's worship, music, and service in this community to outlive us all.

—The Rev. Dr. Karl Schrock, Interim Music Minister

*Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith in song always,
alleluia!*

—Fred Pratt Green

Music has always been an important part of Sunday services at Fountain Street Church, with the organ being an integral part of a varied music program. It was the mission of the Organ

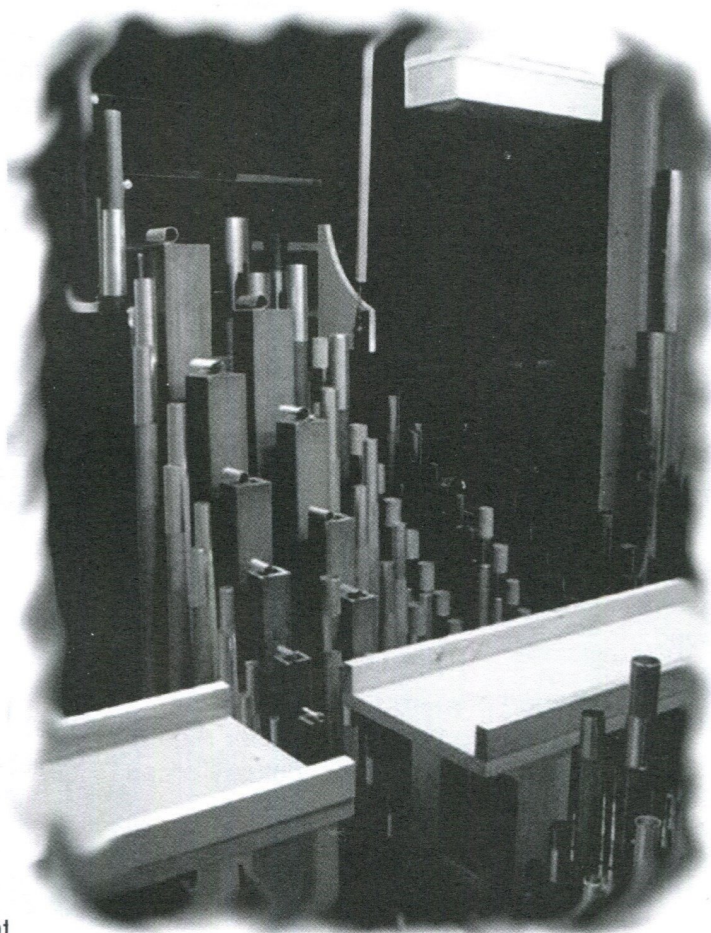
Company of Hartford, Connecticut. Allen Organ Company of Macungie, Pennsylvania, engineered and constructed the walnut console and digital relay utilizing fiber-optic technology

that interfaces the two components. The console is fully MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) compatible, enabling the instrument to record and play back performances as they were

From the Organ Consultant

Committee to provide Fountain Street Church with the most technologically advanced organ that could be designed and built while maintaining an instrument that adheres to tradition. The instrument also had to be versatile—first, as a service instrument in supporting and leading congregational singing; second, to accompany the choir in a wide variety of music; and finally, as a fine recital instrument to be used in public concerts. The new Fountain Street organ meets all of these requirements.

After several rebuilds of the church's 1924 E. M. Skinner pipe organ, the church decided to embark on a journey that would involve utilizing the best pipework of the old organ combined with new pipes and chestwork from the Austin Organ



Pipes and access walkway, with horizontal shutters of the Swell box in the background

originally heard as well as being able to interface with other digital instruments.

The Austin-Allen organ at Fountain Street Church is a spectacular, world-class American Classic instrument of immense color and dynamic diversity. Of special note is the brass horizontal Trompette en Chamade under the rose window. There are about 8,000 pipes in the organ, the largest being 32' high and the smallest the size of a pencil. The five-manual organ of 250 drawknobs is comprised of 138 ranks of pipes and 34 digital ranks for a total of 172 ranks (voices),

making it the largest and most comprehensive of any organ in the Midwest!

—Jonathan A. Tuuk,
Organ Consultant

Great discoveries and improvements invariably involve the cooperation of many minds.

—Alexander Graham Bell

A Time Line for "Catherine the Great"

1924

- Original installation by E. M. Skinner Company, Boston, Massachusetts (Opus 393)
- Cost: \$60,000 (gift of Mr. & Mrs. William A. Jack, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Nichols, and Mr. & Mrs. F. Stuart Foote)
- 4 keyboards, 72 stops, 6 divisions, about 6,000 pipes
- Most pipes enclosed in a chamber behind the (then) instrumental loft. Echo division in the rear under the Rose Window.
- Building and organ dedicated February 3, 1924
- Recitals played by Chandler Goldthwaite, Emory L. Gallup, Marcel Dupré, and others

1925

- Instrument affectionately dubbed "Catherine the Great" by Director of Music Emory L. Gallup

1959

- Reworking by Casavant Frères Limited of St.-Hyacinthe, Québec, Canada
- Cost: \$35,000 (gift of the Memorial Trust Fund)
- Retained original Skinner console, added one blower, removed stops from Skinner, added stops and a new Great division

1970

- Additional pipework installed by the Tellers Organ Company of Erie, Pennsylvania
- Cost: \$47,000, including \$35,000 for a new console (gift from the estate of Marion J. Landes) and \$12,000 for work done by organ builder James Lauck (gift of an anonymous donor and the Memorial Trust Fund)
- 79 stops, 5,006 pipes
- New console with German ivory keyboards and English ivory drawknobs
- 1 new division (Bombarde) with previous 7 divisions (Great, Swell, Choir, Solo, Gallery, Echo, Pedal)

1993

- Console updated to solid-state action by the Lauck Pipe Organ Company of Otsego, Michigan

1995

- Report prepared and given to the Governing Board in October regarding need to rebuild Sanctuary organ

1997

- Organ Committee organized

1998

- Jonathan Tuuk hired as consultant
- Options studied by committee
- Plans made for extensive rebuild of the instrument
- Austin Organ Company selected unanimously as organ rebuilders

1999

- Project redirected by a new pastor
- Plan revised by a small group
- Specifications amended and expanded

2000

- Contractual agreements signed with Austin Organ Company of Hartford, Connecticut, and with Allen Organ Company of Macungie, Pennsylvania
- Pipes removed for refurbishing

2000-2002

- Old pipes refurbished and new ones built in Connecticut
- New console built in Pennsylvania

2002-2003

- New and refurbished pipes and new console shipped to Michigan
- Rebuilt instrument installed and voiced in Grand Rapids

2003

- Completed instrument dedicated in Sunday morning worship service on October 19
- Festive series of three inaugural organ recitals

Inaugural Events

Sunday, October 19, 2003, 11:00 a.m.
Dedication Service

Sunday, October 19, 2003, 4:00 p.m.
First Inaugural Recital
Karl Schrock, Organist

Sunday, November 9, 2003, 4:00 p.m.
Second Inaugural Recital
James Kibbie, Organist

Friday, November 28, 2003, 8:00 p.m.
Third Inaugural Recital
Carlo Curley, Organist

Without music, life would be a mistake.

—Friedrich Nietzsche

Other Music Events

Tuesday October 28, 2003, 4:00 p.m.
“Nuts and Bolts of Catherine the Great”
Informal presentation/demonstration
Open to the public, sponsored by Fountain
Elders Educational Travel

Sunday, December 21, 2003, 11:00 a.m.
Advent IV festival music service
Preceded by a carol-sing with organ

Sunday, February 8, 2004, 4:00 p.m.
Organ and Brass Concert
Jonathan A. Tuuk, Organist
Professional Brass Ensemble

Sunday, March 14, 2004, 4:00 p.m.
Hans Martin Werner, Whistler
Marilyn Ossentjuk, Organist

Sunday, April 11, 2004, 11:00 a.m.
Easter festival service
Choirs, Organ, Instruments

Sunday, May 2, 2004, 4:00 p.m.
Handbell Concert with Organ
Kalamazoo Ringers
Janet L. Van Valey, Director

Friday and Saturday, May 7 and 8, 8:00 p.m.
Greater Lansing Gay Men's Chorus
Steven L. Huyser, Director
With Organ and Jazz Ensemble

Sunday, May 16, 2004, 4:00 p.m.
Memorial Choral Concert
Fountain Street Choir with Orchestra
Karl Schrock, Director

Original Organ Committee

Organized in 1997, the catalyst group for the rebuilding included Charles Bertsch, John Cook (chair), Liz Cook, Carlo Curley, Jane Goodspeed, Philip Goodspeed, Beverly Howerton, Carolyn Johnson, Carol Kooistra, Tom Logan, Jonathan Tuuk (consultant), and Dr. James Culver (staff).

Final Planners

With the support of a new pastor, a small group including Carlo Curley, Beverly Howerton, and Jonathan Tuuk built upon the work of the Organ Committee to revise and expand the design and arrange the final specifications.

Project Coordinator

As Properties Committee Chairperson, Bill Stubbs served as project coordinator and had the

Planners

mammoth and sometimes daunting task of coordinating considerations, decisions, plans, and schedules with committees, Governing Board, architect, consultants, contractors, sub-contractors, organ builders, installers, voicers, sextons, ministers, administrators, and program staff. Without his faithful and tireless work over a period

of several years this project could never have come to fruition.

Organ Celebration Committee

The group planning the inaugural organ recitals included John and Liz Cook (chairs), Tim Chester, Charles Gallmeyer, Jane Goodspeed, Philip Goodspeed, Karen Hoekstra, Carol Kooistra, Bill McDaniel, Jerre McDaniel, Rufus Teesdale, Dick Wood, Sue Wood, the Rev. Dr. Karl Schrock (staff), and the Rev. Dr. Judith Walker-Riggs (staff).

*One generation plants trees, and
the next enjoys the shade.*

—Old American Adage

The Organ Celebration Committee expresses special appreciation to the following persons and groups whose time and talents have added immensely to the success of this celebration:

FSC Adult Choir: Ticket Sales

FSC Art Committee: Keeler Lounge exhibition "Celebrating Fountain Street Church"
and commemorative stationery

FSC Women's Association: post-concert receptions

FSC Staff: administrative assistance

FSC Ushers: concert assistance

Bill Thompson: program photographs

Maud Hamilton: program graphic design

John Barfuss: FSC website design

Color House Graphics: program printing

Long recognized as one of the finest builders of instruments in the American classic tradition, Austin Organs was the unanimous choice of the church's Organ Committee for a project of the importance and scope of the rebuild at Fountain Street Church.

The Austin Company –

- repaired and refurbished about four thousand pipes from the previous instrument
- built about four thousand new pipes
- constructed new windchests
- produced deeper-pitched pipes to support congregational singing
- created four boxes (rooms, actually) for housing the pipework

In addition, the Allen Organ Company –

- built a 5-manual console that controls both pipe and digital divisions
- created digital pipe organ sounds to supplement the Gallery organ, whose former chambers could not house real pipework due to perpetual water damage

- created lower-pitched sounds for the organ to bolster congregational singing while assisting acoustics in the Sanctuary to produce a fuller, deeper sound

- installed Musical Interface technology allowing sounds of other instruments to be played
- installed a recording and playback mechanism that controls the complete instrument

Organ Project Summary

Tonal changes in pipes for the new installation:

- create a new Great division with 20 stops of pipes
- add new pipes for principal and upper stops in Swell, Choir, Solo, and Pedal
- add fifteen new reed stops, including a horizontal trumpet in the Gallery and other reeds in the Great, Swell, Choir, Solo, and Pedal divisions
- recreate the English Horn in the style of the original Skinner instrument
- add new extensions for some previously existing stops
- relocate, redesign, rebuild, repair, rescale, and revoice pipes from the previous instrument



Vincent Coggin, from England, voicing pipes of "Catherine the Great"

The artisan precedes the artist.

—Organ builder's maxim

A Capital Campaign Committee is planning to announce a Capital Fund Campaign soon, for the rebuilding of the organ, attendant construction and repairs, related Sanctuary refurbishing, and other capital needs of the church.

When the campaign is completed, all gifts—

including past and new contributions of whatever size—will be permanently recognized with a complete listing of donors' names for publication and for the church archives. If desired,

contributions may be specified in honor or in memory of someone.

In addition, for those contributors interested, major gifts can be designated for significant portions of the organ or Sanctuary refurbishing. Possible selections related to the Sanctuary

Fountain Street Church by the Austin Organ Company.

The rebuilding of the organ and refurbishing of the Sanctuary represents an important step—although neither the first nor the last one—in the congregation's ongoing process

of endowing the future of its ministry in downtown

Grand Rapids. All members and friends of Fountain Street Church are invited to consider what their own investment in this major project might be.

Gift Opportunities

organ are given on the facing page. One special gift has already been designated: the new horizontal 8-foot Trompette en Chamade in the rear Gallery organ has been donated to

The great use of a life is to spend it for that which outlasts it.

—William James

If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are gone, either write things worth reading or do things worth writing.

—Benjamin Franklin