

First Presbyterian Church

May 25, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian,

We are mailing out this letter regarding an important facility issue at the church. As you know, we manage many facility issues on a day to day basis. However, some projects are major and require all the congregation to pull together in special ways. This letter asks you to consider the state of our sanctuary pipe organ and expenses related to it upkeep.

Our Reuter pipe organ is the heart of our shared life. It calls us in to worship, syncopates our individual rhythms to a whole when we sing, and it sends us forth in majesty. Its familiar resonance binds us closer together. In its present form, the pipe organ arrived to our Sanctuary in the early 1990s as part of a larger building expansion. That generation of Presbyterians left us with an organ of tremendous presence and power. What was left undone was the attention to the more nuanced color and tone of the organ. Though this was in their plan, budget constraints did not allow them to include pipes that would produce softer and more nuanced sound to compliment and inform the louder range of the organ.

In addition, after almost 30 years of drawing spiritual strength from this instrument, our organ is showing signs of disrepair and failure of the pipes. We received a formal report from our organ builder and repairman, Dr. Jason Alden, in July of 2016. Part of that report reads as follows:

“At the time of its building, metallurgical techniques had become more efficient and metal content more pure, organ builders neglected to realize the importance of these trace elements in their alloys. Trace elements like Nickel and antimony create the stability in organ metal that will allow the pipes to last for hundreds of years. Unfortunately, several sets of pipes in the organ at First Presbyterian suffer from metal fatigue. Once the crystalline structure of the metal is compromised (much like folding a piece of paper back and forth several times before tearing it on the edge of a desk) the pipes can never be supported enough to prevent them from failing again.”

The Session has received a demonstration and tour of the organ deficiencies and inadequacies at its March 2017 meeting. They also had a chance to examine the pipes themselves, and to see the failures Dr. Alden discussed above. Considering their experience, Session members felt it was important for the congregation to experience the same tour and demonstration. The



Session voted to call a Called Congregation Meeting on May 21, 2017. In the meantime, the Executive Committee secured a formal bid from Dr. Jason Alden in the amount of \$250,000 allowing for variable costs for transportation. This will provide all the necessary repairs and complete the installation of division of pipes that will allow our organist to play all complex and beautiful music of our Presbyterian and classical tradition.

At their May 2017 meeting, the Session received a recommendation from the Executive Committee of the Session (a committee of all committee moderators) that a capital campaign with a goal of \$150,000 begin on the organ to make the necessary repairs and provide the important additions for this generation of the organ's life. The remaining balance of \$100,000 would come from reserve funds. The recommendation was approved unanimously

This letter is to invite your participation in this summer campaign, *Pull Out All the Stops*. We have scheduled the campaign so that it will not conflict with our annual stewardship campaign that funds our operating budget. Our goal for this campaign is to raise approximately \$150,000 of the \$250,000 total. Regarding any concerns or questions, Session members or any of the music and worship staff are happy to be available to share information or clarify the details of this important project.

Within our pipe organ, there are 42 ranks of pipe. Within a rank, there are 61 individual pipes. Each pipe is responsible for one pitch. Pressurized air allows each pipe to sound. Then, when a musical score organizes the pressure, sound becomes music. Our organ reminds us there is tremendous potential when individuality, appropriate pressure, and a grand score are brought into concert. Each of us are instruments of communicating God's grace and love. Music is one of the most powerful ways we do that. And so, like so many other things in life, we approach this campaign knowing that success is most possible when everyone plays their part.

Enclosed find a *Pull Out All the Stops* pledge card. We thank you for your prayerful consideration of this need at this point in our church's life and consider returning this card no later than July 31, 2017.

Respectfully, Your 2017 Executive Committee

Carol Barrett, Worship Moderator
LaRaine DuPuy, Personnel Moderator
Doug Heitmiller, Congregational Life Moderator
Mark Jaynes, Administration Committee Moderator
Dick Kettler, Facilities Moderator
Sue Koehler, Outreach Moderator
Chuck Weaver, First Presbyterian Foundation President

Photo by Dr. Brad Willis,
May 23, 2015

☐ Debit Card ☐ Credit Card

\$_____one time gift to be received in the summer of 2017

Or \$ _____/week to be received in full by November of 2017

In order to complete my pledge, I would like to use one of the methods below:

Photo by Dr. Brad Willis,
May 23, 2015

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\$ _____ one time gift to be received in the summer of 2017

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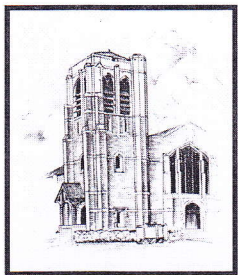
Photo by Dr. Brad Willis,
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THE TOWER

First Presbyterian Church, Waco, Texas
Volume 60, Number 7

July 1, 2017

Scale and Harmony

By now, many of you have reviewed the Session's invitation to support a restoration and appropriate expansion of our pipe organ at First Presbyterian. I am privileged that so many of you have shared your thoughtful support for the campaign. Below, I have brought many voices into a sampling of three voices. I hope they help you imagine your own response to our campaign.

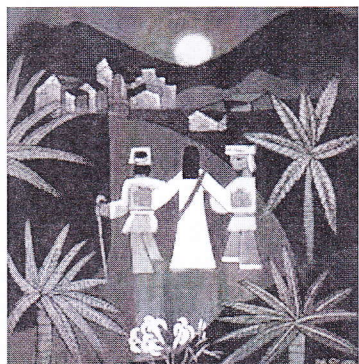
A member of the choir – "I am going to try to make a lead gift to this campaign because we are at an important phase of strengthening the music program that has long been valued at First Presbyterian. The organ is the heart of our program and just like I take care of my own heart and its ability to keep me strong, I want the heart of our worship to remain strong as well."

Child of the church – "I am going to try to make my gift significant and I may need to pay in installments. I love our commitment to congregational openness as well as our commitment to traditional worship. The organ is a sophisticated piece of technology that needs the attention of every generation. I remember people like Goodhue Smith and others who helped make this church what it is and I want to do my part. I sometimes worry I don't have enough to make a difference, but with God's help, I am going to stretch myself."

The father of a young child. "We are going to try to give to the organ project. While we love and appreciate music, that is not our primary reason. Our reason may seem silly but every Sunday morning our daughter, when we stand up to sing the hymns, says "Hurry let's stand up so we can feel God's power." Sometimes she takes her shoes off so that she can feel the strength of the organ through the floorboards. The organ helps our daughter understand God's power as melodious and unifying. We want to support that experience."

Indeed! God's scale and ability to harmonize our worship and shared life through something like our pipe organ is tremendous. Gifts from every household and of every scale will make a difference in this campaign. We continue to trust in a God who can harmonize each gift for the strength of future generations who will call First Presbyterian home.

Faithfully, Leslie



Sermon series:

Guilt and Traveling Mercies

Join us for the first three Sundays of July for a sermon series focusing on the backward glance and the forward motion in God's providence.

"Road to Emmaus" – He Qi

July Service

Coffee Fellowship Hosts:

2-- Sara & Sam Odajima

9 -- Kathryn & Jamie Delk

16 -- TBA

23 -- Krystal & Jeremy
Goodman

30 -- Monica & Mark Anderson

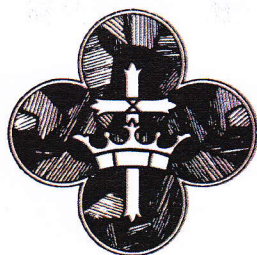
Sanctuary Guild:

Jamie Jackson, Chair

Keri Knight, Casey Rollins

The deadline for the next edition of the Tower is noon Thursday, July 6. Please e-mail submissions to office@firstpreswaco.org or bring to the church office. The next edition of the Tower will be mailed July 26.

Editor: Laura Streetman, First Presbyterian Church, 1100 Austin Ave. Waco, TX 76701, 254-752-1665
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Monday—Friday

Service & Mission:



Join the Outreach Committee for a Service Saturday on Saturday, September 16, at 9am at Alta Vista Elementary School. We are excited to help support Alta Vista, where our tutors and pen pals serve throughout the year. Sign up with Dee Dee Carson or in the Narthex.

Organ Campaign Update

The Session would like to thank the congregation for their generous response to the 2-month organ campaign Pull Out All the Stops. The congregation was challenged to contribute \$150,000 toward the cost of restoring and appropriately expanding our organ. Generously, everyone, in thought and prayer, helped to exceed this goal contributing approximately \$200,000. The Session and the First Presbyterian Church Foundation will be working together to fund the remainder in the most fiscally conservative way. Of course, gifts are still welcome and every decision to join in the effort builds morale and minimizes debt. We anticipate installation in January and February of 2018 with a celebration of our restored/expanded organ by Easter of 2018.



First Presbyterian Church of Waco, Texas
Organ Restoration Campaign
Photo by Dr. Brad Willis,
May 23, 2015