

## ORGAN REPAIR FUND

We have a magnificent organ here at Grace Church. It was installed in 1967 by the Moller Company and is one of the finest instruments in this region. Replacement value of this organ would be at least \$550,000. Over the years we have done the required maintenance to keep it in good shape. However, the last few years we have had more maintenance costs due to the deteriorating leather in the existing pneumatically operated relay between the console and the pipes. It is an increasing problem, and we need to take care of it. The following is an excerpt from a communication from our organ maintenance man:



*"This organ has what is known as electro-pneumatic action. This means that the actual work of opening and closing the hundreds of valves under the pipes is accomplished with the same air pressure that plays the pipes themselves. This action is controlled using small electro-magnets, which in turn are operated by hundreds of switch contacts in the console and in the organ itself. In order to play a given pipe in a given stop, contacts must be made at the key being played, in the stop switches for each stop being played, and in the remote key action in the organ.*

*The trouble is each time one of these contacts is operated there is a tiny spark. Over the years, the key contacts that are used the most get burned the most. The ones that are used the least develop a layer of corrosion. The results are the same: occasional and scattered notes that don't play until the second or third time you hit the key. Contacts that are broken off cause permanent dead notes and can be extremely difficult to repair. Similar symptoms are caused by similar problems in the stop switches. Most of the switches in this organ are operated by leather pneumatics. This leather has been at the end of its useful life for a number of years, and I have been releathering these switches one at a time as the failures occur.*

*Transistorized switching systems came to the organ business in the early seventies and have progressed light-years since then. One of the simplest and most useful functions of a transistor is that of a switch. There are no moving parts to get stuck and no contacts to burn, corrode and break. The system I am quoting here uses a microprocessor in the console to code the information generated by the organist and transmits it to the organ through a single fiber optic cable. This 1/16" cable replaces a wad of tiny copper wires about 2" in diameter. In the organ, this signal triggers the appropriate solid state switches to play the notes.*

*This system will replace the entire contents of the console except the keyboards themselves, and all remote mechanical switching in the organ.*

*The console half is six cards 5" x 7" or less. The chamber half is another series of five cards. Fiber optic cables link all cards in the system without the use of signal wiring with additional plugs.*

*My colleagues, Reuter and I have all used this system and its predecessor since 1994. It has proven to be very well designed and extremely reliable."*

The cost of this project is \$43,500. It makes much more sense to fix it correctly and not continue with ever increasing repair bills. We have received an initial contribution in the amount of \$10,000 to get us started, and the money from the Ken Lange memorial has also been designated for this. It is my hope that many more people throughout the parish will contribute to this fund, with gifts of whatever amounts they can afford. My goal is to leave this organ in top condition so our children and grandchildren can enjoy it as we have.

– Jackie Saylor, Organist

### **Project Funding Status:**

<b>Project Quote</b>	<b>\$43,500</b>
<b>Donations as of 12/31/11</b>	<b>\$20,790</b>
<b>Balance Needed to Complete</b>	<b>\$22,710</b>

### Update 01/24/2012

We have an anonymous donor who has agreed to match up to \$10,000 in donations made in 2012. We have another anonymous donor who has agreed to donate the first \$1000. As of December 31, 2011, we had \$20,790. The projected cost of the work is \$43,500. If we raise the \$10,000, with the matching funds, we will be very near our goal.