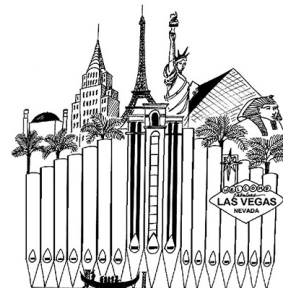


THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2013

Issue: November-December 2013



Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dean's Notes

Dear friends and organ colleagues,

The holiday season is officially here. Can you believe another year is gone? I'm on stun. My Christmas tree is already up and decorated with pumpkins, turkeys and other Halloween decorations. The grandkids loved helping grandpa put up the tree and putting all the decorations on it. As a piano teacher, I love this time of year. We put aside the lesson and theory books for several weeks and just learn Christmas songs.

We're lucky to be able to fly to Dallas the week before Thanksgiving to visit our daughter and family who moved there some months ago. We'll be home just in time for our chapter's member recital on Sunday, December 1. Please make sure you have it on your calendars. Kym Cushing has done an

outstanding job of organizing it this year. He has a bell choir coming to play and will have several audience carols to sing. This year we set a requirement that only recognizable Christmas songs were allowed so you can safely invite your friends and know they won't be overwhelmed with obscure organ music!

Christmas and Hanukkah time should be joyful and relaxing. It's usually relaxing for everyone but the musicians! If necessary, simplify your offerings, do less if possible, so the spirit of the season can be with you and you can invite that spirit to be with your congregations. I hope we all can enjoy this time of the year and look forward to yet another New Year!

Holiday Cheer! Jan



I made a mistake introducing the biography of Steven Wright last issue. I stated that Steven was Dean of the chapter during the Mid-Winter Conclave of 2006. In actuality he was the Conclave Coordinator and did not become Dean until after the Conclave. I apologize for not checking my facts. Bruce

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Re-inauguration Concert of Maurine Jackson Smith Organ At UNLV

A Smashing Success

On Friday, October 11 at 7:30 P.M. a near-capacity house of about 265 organ enthusiasts gathered at Doc Rando Hall on the UNLV campus to hear the restored Maurine Jackson Smith pipe organ. The organ had been out of service since May 24, 2012 when a failed sprinkler head on the stage rained down water on the von Beckerath organ for nearly twenty minutes causing extensive damage. The restoration process, carried out by the original builder, was completed on July 4, 2013 and cost in excess of \$600,000 which was covered by insurance. The restoration included replacement of Great, Positiv and Pedal wind chests, trackers, a few wooden pipes, the entire façade and the console.



Holger Redlick, Malanie Larkin, Ed Smith, and Paul Hesselink

Photo by Dorothy Young Riess

Dr. Isabelle Demers returned to play the re-inaugural recital. She had been the last in the 2011-2012

Southern Nevada Chapter's AGO Recital Series to present a recital on the instrument prior to the disaster. Dr. Demers, Head of the Organ Program at Baylor University presented a varied program of works by Ernest MacMillan, Piotr Tchaikovsky, J.S. Bach, Healey Willan, John Bull, Josef Rheinberger, Sergei Prokofiev and Marcel Dupré. In a graceful gesture to the organ donor's family, she concluded with an encore, "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" by Bach; it was one of Maurine Smith's favorite pieces. The recital had something for everyone, and Dr. Demer's playing exhibited panache, excitement, imagination and musicality.

Before the recital, Jonathan Good, Chair of the UNLV Department of Music, welcomed the audience, gave a brief history of the restoration project and thanked the people present who had contributed to the success of the project. Holger Redlick, President of the Rudolf von Beckerath Orgelbau of Hamburg, Germany, brought brief greetings from the company, and Dr. Paul Hesselink, Chair of the Organ Recital Series Committee and Adjunct UNLV Music Faculty for Organ Instruction, presented copies of his recently completed "As I Recall: A History of the Maurine Jackson Smith Organ at UNLV" to Edward Smith, donor of the instrument, Mr. Redlick of the Beckerath Company, and Mr. Good for the Music Department archives.

The numbers: 87 evaluation forms were completed and returned.

First visit to Doc Rando Hall - 26 (30%)

First hearing of the Maurine Jackson Smith organ - 29 (33%)

First attendance at an AGO recital - 24 (27%)

Attendees of previous AGO recitals:

1-3 recitals - 10

4-5 recitals - 6

More than 5 recitals - 44

How did people hear of the recital?

e-mail notification - 30

flyer - 16

radio - 7

previous program - 12

from a friend - 26

other - sources included Internet, UNLV schedule, LVMTA

newsletter, Review Journal newspaper (11), AGO website



Isabelle Demers providing program notes.

Photo by Dorothy Young Riess

Descriptive statement:

Loved it! – 69 (81.2%)
Liked it a lot – 11 (13%)
Found it interesting – 3 (3.5%)
Might come back for another performance – 2 (2.3%)
Wasn't really interested – 0
Wouldn't come again – 0
No response - 2

Overall rating:

Superb – 66 (77.6%)
Excellent – 18 (21.2%)
Average – 1 (1.2%)
Fair – 0
Poor – 0
No response – 2

Those rating the program either as “superb” or “excellent” totaled 98.8%!

Thirty-one of the respondents asked to be added to the e-mail notification list for future recitals.

Just a few personal observations about the evaluations: the number of respondents in relationship to the number of people attending was a smaller percentage than usual. This may have been, in part, because no announcement about completing the evaluation was made at the recital. (It was determined that the recital itself was the “main event” and that any announcements that could be eliminated should be foregone.) We had quite a few people attending who may have been there for the first time and not familiar with the routine. One person rated the program “average.” If Dr. Demers presented an “average” program, I wonder what it would have taken for the respondent to consider putting down a rating a notch or two higher, either excellent or superb? We had a larger number of people than usual tell us that they had heard about the program on the radio and/or in the newspaper. We had been fortunate to secure good media coverage in the form of a newspaper article in The View (September 30), and I did an interview for KNPR's popular news program “The State of Nevada” which was aired twice on Thursday, October 10. Additionally, I did a video interview about the restoration of the organ for the R-J's online video blog, and we had Day-Sponsorship ads which ran on KNPR and KCNV on the Wednesday previous to the recital. It would have been nice to have filled the 34 vacant seats in the hall, but we did have a large and appreciative audience.

Paul S. Hesselink



Members of the Southern Nevada Chapter, AGO posing with Dr. Demers, and sporting their special shirts depicting the organ are (left to right): Dr. Dorothy Young Riess, Kathi Colman, Dr. Paul Hesselink (Sub-Dean and UNLV Organ Faculty), Linda Parker, Susan Lasher, Carla Swift, Laurie Swain, Jan Bigler (Dean), and Holger Redlick (President of von Beckerath Orgelbau).

Photo by Dorothy Young Riess

Fall Social

On Friday, September 20, 2013 the SNC AGO faithful gathered at the house of Steven Wright for the opening fall social event. With members, some spouses, and a guest or two, there were about thirty attending. As is typical with a chapter potluck there was a great variety and enormous amounts of delicious food. Jonathan Bacalso, student of Shireen Beaudry, talked about his experience at the POE at Stanford and played a selection on the organ. Jane Dye talked about her trip to Europe this past summer. She used pictures and sound examples to illustrate her experiences. She ended by challenging us organists to be aware of the instrument used by composers to give us a better understanding of the challenges of appropriately registering the pieces we play. Paul Hesselink introduced a book that he had written about the history of the Maurine Jackson Smith Organ at UNLV.



Jan Bigler, Jane Dye, David Dorway and Paul Hesselink
Photo by Dorothy Young Riess

New from the Susan Lasher Goodie Bag



Once again our long distance member, Susan Lasher, has presented the chapter with a gift. An original designed lighted table sign was on display at the last concert. You may recall that last year it was a banner that she designed and gave to the chapter. Thank you so much Susan. She also designed the UNLV organ T-shirt that was worn by several members and can be seen at the bottom of page 3. Several members had expressed a desire to still get one of the T-shirts and Susan said she would do another run for about \$17.00 per shirt. Please contact Paul Hesselink (paulshesselink@gmail.com) to order within the next several weeks.

Members' Advent-Christmas Recital

Join us Sunday, December 1, 2013, 4:00 P.M at Christ Church Episcopal located at 2000 S. Maryland Parkway, for the Annual Members' Advent-Christmas Recital. Please arrive a few minutes early as there will be prelude music provided by a guest Handbell Choir. Performers will include: Matthew Estes, Kym Cushing, Jan Bigler, Cherrie Hoeft, Ronald Richardson, Bruce Behnke, Steve Wright, David Dorway, and Paul Hesselink. There will be music by Paul Manz, Diane Bish, Gordon Young and many others. As always there will be a reception in the Social Hall after the recital.

New Member Introduction

J. Barry Vaughn, the Rector of Christ Church Episcopal, Las Vegas, since March, 2013, and a new member of the local AGO chapter, comes from a long line of church musicians. His mother's family was very involved in the leadership of music in Baptist churches in Alabama. Barry's uncle, Dr. Cecil Roper, taught church music at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for thirty years, and another uncle, Joe Roper, was the pianist for the Stamps Baxter Gospel Quartet for many years and was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Barry initially planned to have a career in music. He attended the Alabama School of Fine Arts, an innovative, statewide high school for artistically gifted students and graduated in 1974. However, while an undergraduate at Harvard University, he was deeply influenced by the Rev. Prof. Peter J. Gomes, Harvard's university chaplain, and decided to seek ordination.



After receiving his M.Div. at Yale, Barry went on to study for his Ph.D. in church history at Scotland's University of St. Andrews. He also spent about a year and a half as a visiting student at Oxford.

Since his ordination in 1994, Barry has served churches in Alabama, California, and Pennsylvania. His first parish, St. Stephen's in Eutaw, Alabama, commissioned Canadian builder Karl Wilhelm to construct a 12 rank organ for their church. While in Philadelphia from 2000 to 2004, Barry founded and led Servant Year, one of the Episcopal Church's young adult service programs. He has also taught at several universities and the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia.

His piano teachers have included the late Dr. Betty Sue Shepherd of Birmingham, AL; Israeli concert pianist Ophra Yerushalmi; author and pedagogue Madeline Bruser of New York City; and Cliburn silver medalist Yakov Kasman. In the last couple of years Barry has performed at Episcopal churches in Alabama, the Birmingham Public Library, and at Kehillat Yozma, a progressive synagogue in Modi'in, Israel. He will be playing a program of French piano music on the concert series at Christ Church in May.

His organ teachers have included the late John Ferris, the Harvard University Organist, and his friend and divinity school classmate, Bruce Neswick.

Barry is honored to be working with Paul Hesselink and Kathi Colman at Christ Church, and is impressed by his new parish's commitment to musical excellence, a commitment he intends to expand and deepen.

Scotty's Castle Organ

Most of you probably know that Scotty's Castle in Death Valley has a very nice pipe organ in its music room. It is a Welte-Mignon purchased in 1928 but sat unused until 1931 when a diesel generator was installed to provide power. The organ has 1121 pipes, lots of interesting special effects, a 3-manual console, and a Welte roll-player. The organ is briefly played automatically during tours of the Castle.

In June each year, at the close of the tourist season, a crew of professional curators is brought in to clean the Castle and its contents. As part of that process, the furniture is removed from the music room and a covering is placed over the tile floor. Folding chairs are brought in and a guest organist performs two concerts nightly on a Friday and Saturday evening on one weekend. It is a wonderful experience. The funds raised from these concerts are used to maintain the organ.

Kiel Yost and I attended the concerts the last two years. Ty Woodward was this year's guest organist. He performed a mix of both classical and theatre organ repertoire, Broadway musicals, ragtime and orchestral transcriptions. He took us on a wonderful musical journey, exhibiting the capability of this great instrument. It was almost more of a demonstration than a concert, the atmosphere was informal, and we were able to spend time chatting with Ty Woodward. These concerts are wonderful occasions.

In 2012, a silent film was shown and the organist (I don't recall his name) played as would have been done back in the silent film days in addition to the other program numbers he performed.

The year before that Jim Welch was the guest organist and as part of the program he showcased the musical ability of his two sons, aged 12 and 14.

I highly recommend that many of our chapter friends attend next year's concert. Yes, it is hot in Death Valley, but the music room is air conditioned. For information about next year's concert call 1-800-478-8564, or go to www.dvnha.org. Tickets have been \$40, and this is a very worthwhile cause.

Paul B. Winn



Organ and Strings Program

at Christ Church Episcopal on November 8

The first concert in the Christ Church Episcopal 2013-2014 series will be presented on November 8, 2013 at 7:30 P.M. at the church (2000 S. Maryland Parkway). The program will feature the 23-member Chamber Orchestra of Nevada School of the Arts under the direction of Dr. Charles Cushinery. Joining the orchestra in three well-known works for organ and strings will be AGO member and parish organist Dr. Paul Hesselink. Dr. Hesselink served as the Dean of Nevada School of the Arts for twelve years. The program:



Epistle Sonata in C Major, K 336

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

"Adagio" in G Minor

Tomaso Albinoni / Remo Giazotto

Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana

Pietro Mascagni

Concerto in G Minor for Organ, Strings and Timpani

Francis Poulenc

Admission to the concert and a reception following in the Parish Hall is \$15. Ample free parking is located in the parking lots adjacent to the church accessed from Maryland Parkway.

Obituary for Douglas Earl Bush

(Doug Bush played a recital for us and did a workshop on Bach's Orgelbüchlein at the Paradise Stake about ten years ago. He was also a close friend of several of our members)

Douglas Earl Bush was born March 1, 1947 to Joe and Phyllis Bush and died in his home on October 4, 2013 after battling cancer. He frequently talked about his upbringing in rural Montana -- working on the farm with his grandparents, gardening, cooking, and spending time with his family.



From a young age, he had a deep love and interest in history and a strong inclination toward music and organs specifically. These two loves became the defining interests of his life. His passion for good music led him to become a world-renowned organist, a "Bach-aholic", and beloved teacher, with a particular gift to love, motivate and inspire others to want to become better people. He was passionate about family history and temple work as though it were his second profession, spending all of his time invested in family -- both here on earth, and on the other side of the veil. His faith was the guiding force in his life, along with a persistent quest for that which would bring depth, beauty and meaning to all around him. He had magic hands; everything he touched always bloomed. His was a life characterized by selfless service, compassion, gentleness, and excellence. He created beauty wherever he went, and his family feel profoundly blessed by such a lovely father, example and friend.

He is survived by five daughters: Sarah Bush, Rebecca Buchert (Martin), Susan Bush (Joshua Trammell), Elizabeth Bush Campbell (Scott), and Christa Groesbeck (Garrett); 12 grandchildren who were the light of his life; his father, Josiah Douglas Bush (Mary Bush); and two siblings, Rick Bush (Jackie) and Dianne Reeder.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at the Provo Central Stake Center, 450 North 1220 West, Provo, Utah.

Kym Cushing Presents Educational Event

I taught a fall organ workshop for LDS organists at the Green Valley Stake Center on October 12. About 10 people attended. The organ at this building is a brand new Allen LD-34 which was designed for LDS stake centers by Tabernacle organist Clay Christiansen. It has 62 independent voices/stops including two 32' stops in the pedal. The default position is American Classic, however, the entire organ can be converted to French Romantic by using the in-console computer controller. Doug Lemmon, Ethelyn Petersen, Jan Bigler and I helped "voice" the instrument over a period of about one week. It is amazing how much technology has changed over the years, and this latest generation digital instrument sounds very authentic. The next workshop will be held in early 2014 -- for all interested organists.

Kym Cushing

Green Valley Presbyterian Music Staff

Member Spencer Baker is now the music director at GVPC and they have just hired Amy Homer-Smith to be their organist. They wish to announce the following programs:

- DECEMBER 4 – WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 PM
8th Annual DIY Handel's Messiah, Spencer Baker, Conductor
- DECEMBER 15 – SUNDAY AT 2:30 PM
Holiday Brass & Organ Concert and Sing-a-Long
Featuring Randy Crawford Ensemble, UNLV Brass Players, and the Summerlin Saxophone Quartet

DR. RIESS PLAYS KNOXVILLE TRACKERS

On a recent trip to Knoxville, Tennessee, Dorothy Young Riess had an opportunity to play two beautiful tracker organs. Wilhelm, Opus 110 (III/61/1987), at Church of the Ascension Episcopal and Richards, Fowkes & Co, Opus 1 (II/33/1998), at Westminster Presbyterian. The Wilhelm is a fine, brilliant instrument, situated in the rear loft, well balanced for the reverberant room, with combination action and light key touch. The Fowkes is a simple tracker

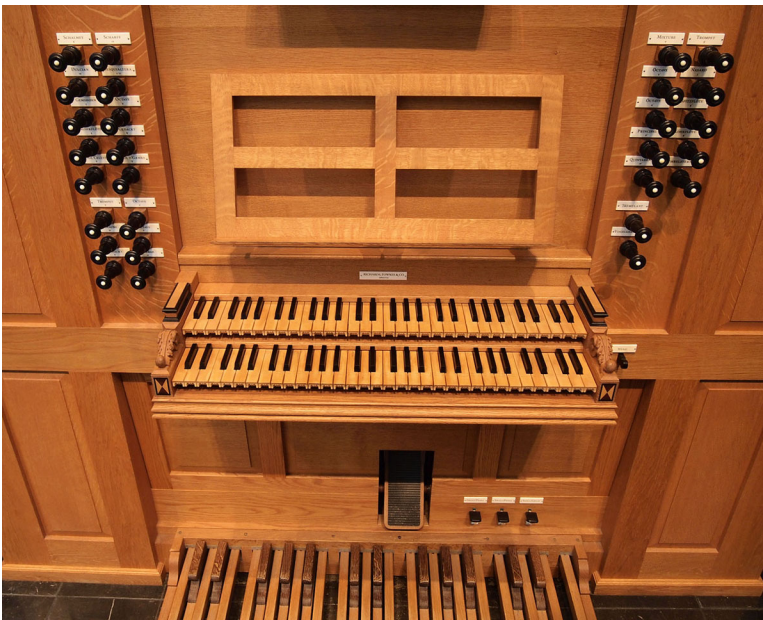


Top two pictures are the Assension Episcopal Wilhelm

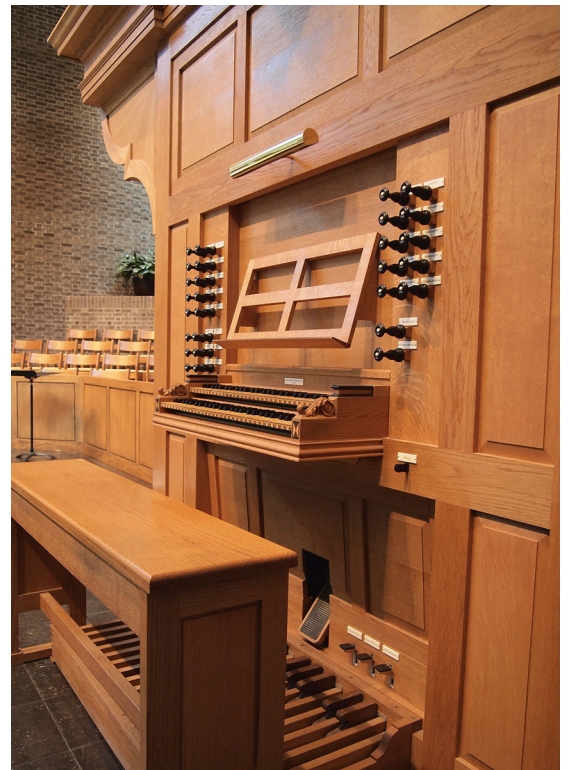


with no combination action and sits in the front of the sanctuary. The room is large and reverberant and each rank is delightful.

The straight pedal board was not quite like any other I have played and took some time to adjust the feet! My thanks to organists, Jim Garvey and Peter Van Eenam, for permission to play these fine instruments. Sound samples for both organs are available on Soundcloud. Fowkes at <https://soundcloud.com/dorothy-young-riess/jean-louis-dandrieu-offertoire> , and Wilhelm at <https://soundcloud.com/dorothy-young-riess/pierre-du-mage-grand-jeu>.



Bottom two pictures are the Richards and Fowkes at Westminster Presbyterian
All photos by Dorothy Young Riess



Las Vegas Sandstone Stake - LDS
221 Lorenzi
Las Vegas, NV 89107

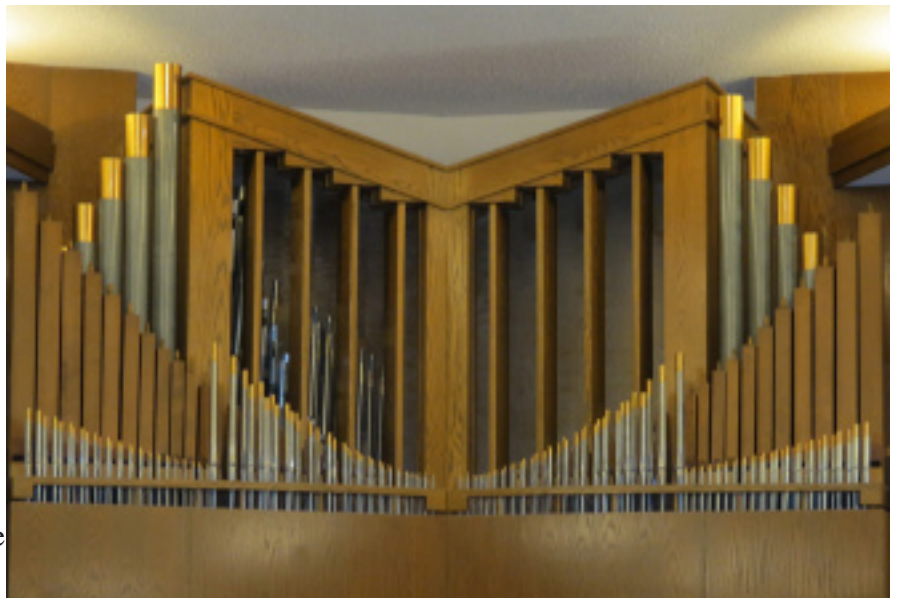


This is the second pipe organ installed by Wicks Pipe Organ Company under the supervision of John R. “Dick” Mitchell of Salt Lake City. It is an eleven-rank instrument spread over two manuals and pedals. After the Paradise Stake installation, it is the second oldest pipe organ in Las Vegas playing in its original location. New relays were installed in 1995 and later the building was hit by lightning and the swell motors had to be replaced.

Today marks the forty-year anniversary of the dedication of the Las Vegas South Stake Center (renamed in 1977 as the Redrock Stake Center) and now known as the Sandstone Stake. Phylis Pack Tonks held the first organ position as Stake Organist. She provided the organ music for the dedication program on October 28, 1973. She accompanied the choir, congregation and soloist, Barney Rawlings, who was a prominent vocalist in Las Vegas. One of the anthems performed by the choir was “How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place” from Requiem by Johannes Brahms.

President LeGrande Bindrup (AGO member Jane Bindrup Dye’s father) became the Stake President of the fourth newly formed stake in Las Vegas on March 29, 1970. President Bindrup approved and sought church approval of the installation of a new Wicks pipe organ for that building. His daughter, Jane, received six group-organ lessons from Phylis Tonks, and later when she was fifteen years old, an additional six group-or-

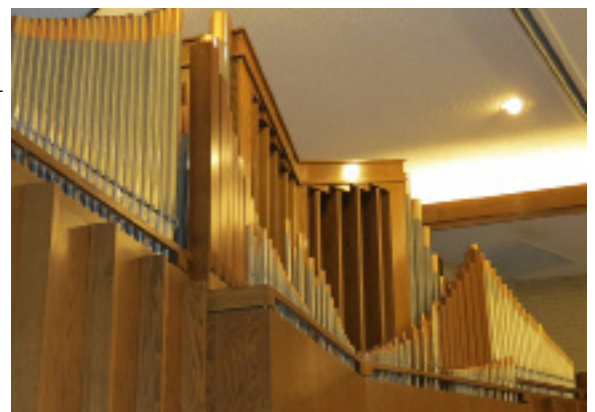
gan lessons from her on that organ, learning music of Johann Sebastian Bach. Jane's first performance in an organ recital was on this same organ in Tonk's first Bach Organ Recital of young students. Tonks has had a life-time of educating students of all ages about the organ and repertoire, as well as accompanying choirs and vocalists with the organ. She recently retired from accompanying the Southern Utah Heritage Arts Choir in St. George, Utah, where she presently resides.



16 foot Trumpet pipes

Phylis Tonks tells about one of the first conferences held in the new building on a Sunday morning. Early that morning, she received a call that the organ had been vandalized during the night; that the organ could not be used to accompany the ten o'clock meeting anticipating one thousand members. Piano was to be used instead. She wasn't pleased with the news so she hurried to the church in scrubby clothes, and spent several hours climbing around the inside of the organ trying to repair and spot-tune. Her young son sat at the bench playing necessary notes for tuning the organ. She said her son was "old enough to know his notes." Pipes were bent with many taken out of the wind holes and scattered about the chamber and around the organ. Tonks was able to tune what was needed to accompany the conference congregation that morning. She had been so busy that when she climbed down off the ladder at 9:30 a.m., she surprisingly noted that half of the chapel was filled with people! Embarrassed as to her "scrubby" clothes, she hurried on home for a clothing change and back to provide a few minutes of quiet prelude music before the conference began at 10:00. Through the years, many have remembered how

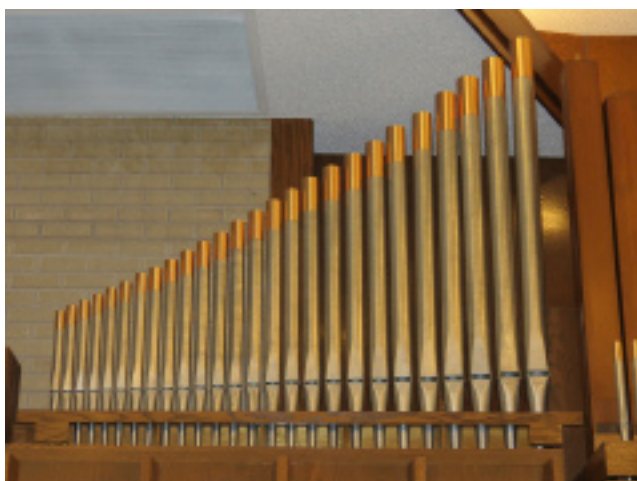
impressed they were with her that day; for her knowledge and skills, not only as an organist but also as a technician understanding her instrument inside and out. It is believed that the vandalizing was not all malicious, but more out of curiosity with the display of shining pipes on the intriguing new instrument. The easy accessibility of pipes no doubt, sparked the curiosity.



Written by Jane Bindrup Dye
Pictures by Bruce Behnke

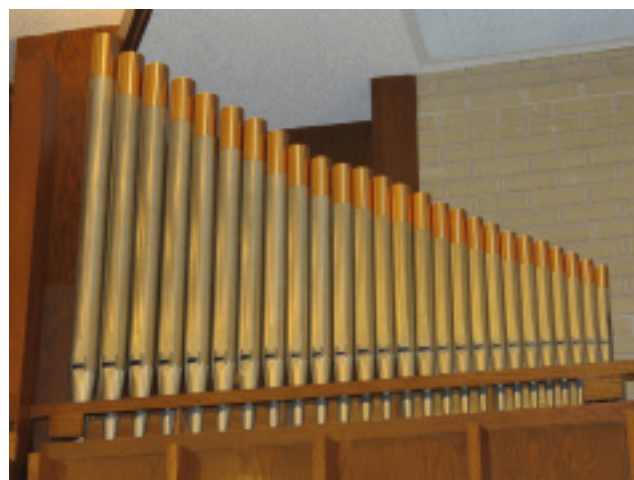
Great

1.	Principal	8	
2.	Holtz Gedeckt	8	61 pipes
3.	Gemshorn	8	from Swell
4.	Prestant	4	61 pipes
5.	Nachthorn	4	61 pipes
6.	Blockflöte	2	61 pipes
7.	Mixture	II	61 pipes
8.	Trompette	8	from Swell
Swell to Great 16 - 8 - 4			



Swell

9.-10.	Rohrflöte	8	61 pipes
10.	Gemshorn	8	49 pipes
11.	Gemshorn Celeste TC	8	49 pipes
12.	Koppelflöte	4	61 pipes
13.	Nasat	2 2/3	
14.	Spitzoctav	2	61 pipes
15.	Trompette	8	61 pipes
Tremulant			
Swell to Swell 16 - 4			
Swell Unison Off			



Pedal

16.	Subbass	16	32 pipes
17.	Principal Bass	8	12 pipes
18.	Gemshorn	8	from Swell
19.	Choral Bass	4	from Great
20.	Trompette	16	12 pipes
21.	Clarion	4	from

Great to Pedal 8

Swell to Pedal 8

4 combination pistons duplicated by toe studs with two levels of memory

Sforzando toe stud

LIVE at GVPC CONCERT SERIES 15th Year



7:00pm Wednesday, December 4, 2013

The Eighth Annual Charity Fundraiser Do-It-Yourself

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

with COMBINED CHOIRS, SOLOISTS and CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Spencer Baker, Conductor

A Charity Event for the HENDERSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOOD BANK ~ Free Will Offering
A raffle drawing for numerous Gift Baskets will also be held! Come early and see!

► Sing in the Audience Seats! ◀

Come and Sing! Scores are available. Info (702) 454-8484



Green Valley Presbyterian Church
1798 Wigwam Parkway, Henderson, NV 89074
Northeast corner of Valle Verde at Wigwam (just north of I-215)
(702) 454-8484 www.greenvalleypres.com A free-will offering will be received.
GREAT MUSIC GREAT ACOUSTICS



Christmas Concert

Dr. David Dorway and Friends

Sunday, December 8, 2013
3:00 p.m.

Grace Presbyterian Church
Charleston Campus
(formerly First Presbyterian Church)
1515 W. Charleston Blvd
Las Vegas, NV 89102
702-384-4554

Please join us in church as we have fun celebrating Christmas with a variety of religious and popular music, featuring our Abbott and Sieker Pipe organ, plus piano, flute, clarinet, percussion, vocal soloists and choir.

Everyone is welcome! There is no charge.