

The History of the Organ at St. John's United Methodist Church

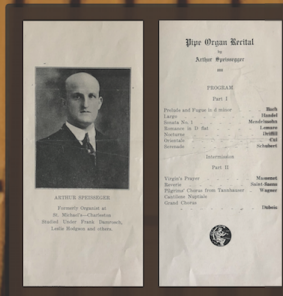
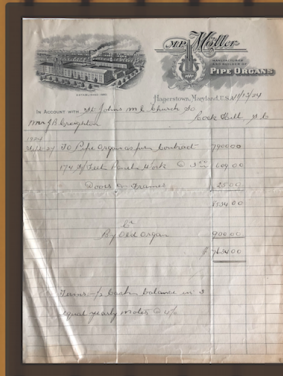
Display created as part of the fundraising efforts for the 2018 restoration.

The Beginning

Not much is known about the organs of the previous church buildings. However, according to William White's "A History of the Organs of Rock Hill," the organ in the 1897 sanctuary was a two manual instrument built in 1911 by the M. P. Möller Company of Hagerstown, Maryland. It was the company's Opus 1189 and consisted of 10 ranks and 18 stops.

On May 2, 1924, the same Möller Company was contracted to build a three manual organ for the new sanctuary of St. John's Methodist Church. This instrument was the company's Opus 4008, and boasted 19 ranks and 32 stops. The cost of the new instrument was \$7,900, with a \$900 credit being given for the old organ.

The new organ was dedicated on January 13, 1925, as part of a weeklong opening celebration for the new building. The inaugural recital was played by Arthur Speiseger, former organist at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina.



1924 Stoptist

GREAT	SWELL
8' Open Diapason	16' Bourdon
8' Clarabella Flute	8' Open Diapason
8' Doppel Floete	8' Stopped Diapason
8' Gemshorn	8' Salicional
4' Octave	8' Vox Celeste
4' Flute Harmonie	8' Aeoline
8' Tuba	4' Salicet
	4' Orchestral Flute
CHOIR	2 2/3' Flute 12th
8' English Diapason	2' Flautina
8' Viola d'Gamba	8' Oboe
8' Gemshorn	8' Vox Humana
8' Melodia GT	Tremulant
8' Dulciana	
4' Flute GT	PEDAL
4' Dulcet	16' Open Diapason
8' Clarinet	16' Bourdon
Tremulant	16' Lieblich Gedeckt
	8' Dolce Flute
	8' Violoncello

First Restoration

In 1973, a new console was built for the instrument at a cost of \$24,998. The entire organ was relathed at this time, and the choir loft was also reconfigured. Two stops (Krummhorn 8 and Trumpet 8) were to be added, but had to be cut before the installation in an effort to save money.

In 1974, a tonal refinishing occurred and a new principal chorus was added to the Great. Twelve bass pipes from the original Principal 8 were retained in the façade. The other forty-nine pipes were sold to members of the congregation to raise money for the project. Other stops were removed and/or moved to other divisions of the organ at this time. The total cost for the work was \$13, 880.

The new pipe work arrived on November 5, 1974, and was insured by Gill Insurance until the work could begin in January of 1975. When the new Great principal stops were installed, they were placed outside of the chambers. Until this point, the entire organ had been under expression.

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Albright-Gill INSURANCE

JOHN A. GILL
Insurance Broker
Residence 414

Estimates A. 1754

St. John's Cathedral Church
2 E. Main St.
St. John's, N. S. P. 10730

In Reply, to:

On the 1st day of October 1931, please be advised that we have requested
insurances applying from your office to be kept advised. This statement
will be forwarded to you within the next several days.

Please to send additional insurances, please do not hesitate to contact us
through your office.

John A. Gill
John A. GILL
Albright-Gill Insurance Agency
St. John's

1975 *Stoplist*

New Millennium

The Möller Organ Company went out of business in 1992. Midlands Pipe Organ Company of Charlotte, North Carolina was then hired to care for the organ, and discussions were begun for other repairs and improvements to the instrument.

In August of 1994, the entire organ was once again re-leathered and new stops were added. These stops included a grand Trompette 8 on the Great, a new Bourdon 16 in the Pedal, a new reed chorus in the Swell (Bassoon 16, Trompette 8, Oboe 8, and Clarion 4), and a Zimbelstern. The total cost for the work was \$73,220.

In 2001, a new electronic blower was added to the organ. Other repairs were also undertaken at that time. The total cost for the work was \$11,518. The new organ blower was installed under the organ chamber. The previous organ blower was located in the church basement, accessible only through a small door in the ceiling.

Midland Pipe Organ Service

March 17, 1992
Mr. John W. Miller
22 West 1st St.
Midland, NC 28357

Dear Mr. Miller:

We are pleased to be selected this morning for your organ. We have been in the business of repairing and maintaining organs for over 30 years. We have a reputation for quality work and a commitment to the highest standards of service. We are pleased to be selected for this project and we are confident that we will be able to provide you with the best possible service.

We would like to visit you in a few days in an attempt to see the organ and discuss the work that we will be doing. We will be happy to provide you with a written estimate of the cost of the work.

Sincerely,
John W. Miller
Midland Pipe Organ Service



1995 Stoptist

GREAT	SWELL
8' Principal	16' Bourdon
8' Bourdon	8' Stopped Diapason
8' Gemshorn	8' Salicional
8' Hohlflöte	8' Vox Celeste
4' Octave	8' English Diapason
4' Flute Harmonic	4' Salicet
2' Waldflöte	4' Orchestral Flute
IV Mixture	2 2/3' Twelfth
8' Trompette	2' Flutino
Chimes	1 3/4' Tierce
	16' Bassoon
CHOIR	8' Oboe
8' Gemshorn	8' Trompette
8' Hohlflöte	4' Clarion
8' Dulciana	Tremulant
4' Dulciana	
4' Waldflöte	PEDAL
4' Flute	16' Bourdon
2' Principal	16' Open Diapason
8' Clarinet	16' Lieblich Gedeckt
Tremulant	8' Principal
Zimbelstern	4' Choral Bass
	16' Contra Trompette

The Future

By 2017, the organ was in need of significant repair. Problems included notes that did not sound, unreliable controls, constant ciphers, and air leaks. As part of the restoration, the organ would be cleaned and rewired, portions of it revoiced, a new console installed, and new stops added. The work would be done by the R.A. Colby Organ Company of Johnson City, Tennessee, a leader in the industry for restoring historic instruments. The total cost would be \$250,000.



2018 Stoplist

GREAT

16' Violone*
8' Diapason
8' Principal*
8' Violone*
8' Bourdon
8' Harmonic Flute*
4' Octave
4' Spitzflöte*
2' Super Octave
IV Fourniture
8' Tromba*
Tremulant
8' Trumpet Royale
8' Tuba*

SWELL

16' Lieblich Gedeckt
8' Geigen Principal
8' Bourdon
8' Salicional
8' Voix Céleste T.C.
8' Flûte Céleste II*
4' Prestant*
4' Nachthorn*
2 2/3' Nazard*
2' Octavin*
1 3/5' Tierce
IV Plein Jeu*
16' Basson
8' Trompette
8' Oboe
8' Vox Humana*
4' Clarion
Tremulant
8' Trumpet Royale

CHOIR

16' Dulciana*
8' Viola Pomposa*
8' Viola Céleste*
8' Hohlflöte
8' Gemshorn
8' Dulciana*
8' Unda Maris
4' Principal*
4' Harmonic Flute
4' Waldflöte
2 2/3' Nazard*
2' Flachflöte
1 2/3' Larigot*
III Mixture*
8' Krummhorn*
8' Clarinet
Tremulant
Chimes
Harp*
Celesta*
8' Tuba*

PEDAL

32' Contre Bourdon*
32' Contre Dulciana*
16' Double Open Diapason
16' Principal*
16' Violone*
16' Bourdon
16' Lieblich Gedeckt
16' Dulciana*
8' Octave
8' Principal*
8' Bourdon
8' Lieblich Gedeckt
4' Choralbass*
4' Harmonic Flute*
32' Contra Bombarde*
32' Basson*
16' Bombarde*
16' Contra Trumpet
16' Basson
8' Trumpet*
8' Trumpet Royale
8' Oboe
4' Clarion*
4' Oboe Clarion

*Indicates digital stops. Modern technology allowed the size and versatility of the organ to increase substantially without adding large costs to the project.

The Organists



Isabel Fields Johnson
1910-1947



Richard Crofts
1973-1982



Elizabeth Bagwell
1989-1991



Walter B. Roberts
1937-1973*



Jane P. Arant
1983-1984



Billy Fallaw
1992-1993



Mary Elizabeth Dunlap
1947-1964



Nancy O. Hull
1985



S. Wesley Revels
1993-2017



Elizabeth H. Cogburn
1964-1973



William B. White, Jr.
1986-1989



Justin L. Addington
2017-Present

**Dr. Roberts served as Choir Director, but was also an accomplished organist.*