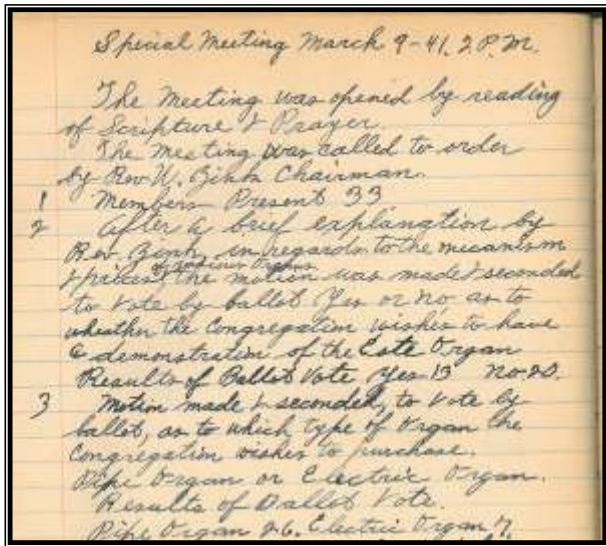


ABOUT OUR ORGAN

In 1934, in anticipation of St Paul's 75th anniversary a special fund was begun (*and borrowed from often*) to purchase an organ. Eleven years later, in 1941 at the January Voters' Meeting,



St. Paul members voted 31 to 14 to purchase a new organ. Two months later at the March Voters' meeting, there was an "explanation by Pastor Zink in regards to the mechanism and prices of various organs. The motion was made and seconded to vote by ballot as to which type of organ the congregation wishes to purchase. Pipe organ or electric organ. Results of ballot vote: Pipe organ 26. Electric organ 7." At that same meeting a specific vote was taken to see whether a new organ console should be purchased, as opposed to a used one. Unanimously it was determined to purchase a new one. In May of that year a committee was formed to organize and carry out construction on a pipe chamber in the balcony. Voters also decided to have a dedication service for the new organ as soon as possible and determined that "in the forenoon the service be conducted in the English language, with an additional short German sermon and an English service only in the afternoon...and to leave the matter of church time to Pastor...and the matter of serving the dinner be left to the Ladies." (*It could also be mentioned here that the year prior to the organ installation, a separate offering was called for to purchase and use the new Lutheran Hymnal [TLH] in recognition of the 90th anniversary of the Wisconsin Synod.*)

The building of our pipe organ itself was carried out by Lee Stoll and his apprentice and son, Robert who was in high school at the time. An article featuring their work mentions that the organ at Dale was the first organ Robert Stoll ever worked on.



He went on to found the Stoll-Lee Organ Co. in Oshkosh, WI. Our organ was purchased at a cost of \$2,050.00 from Lee Stoll and was installed in 1941, just before the start of World War II on Dec 7, 1941 when the Japanese

bombed Pearl Harbor. This was fortunate because the U.S. government banned the production of new pipe organs for the duration of hostilities until 1945. This action was taken because the lead, tin and zinc used in the manufacture of organ pipes and the copper used in wiring was needed for the war effort. Altogether, our pipe organ has 10 ranks of 630 pipes in all. However, not all the pipes in the organ were new at the time of installation. For example, pipes of the Great Octave 4' stop bear the date 1887 and inscribed "Kenosha." The first 20 pipes of the Swell 8' Trumpet stop are inscribed "W[ald] Horn." A number of other stops appear to be new. Since organ pipes do not wear out, recycled and new pipes can join together to produce a nice sounding instrument. A major improvement was made in 1997 with the addition of a Peterson Multiplex Solid State Electric module. It is interesting to note that in today's market, a pipe organ such as ours today would cost upwards of \$120,000 to purchase.



The rigors of playing and passage of time had made it necessary to carry out a program of major maintenance above and beyond periodic tunings and adjustments. Accumulation of years of dirt and dust in the organ called for a complete cleaning. Pipes were removed and washed, regulated, and wooden pipes were given a coat of shellac to protect the wood. Wind chests and other organ parts were cleaned. Leaning pipes

were straightened in their rack boards. Twelve pipes were taken to the J. B. Meyer organ pipe shop in Milwaukee to be repaired. The electric Chime unit and Speakers were moved to the outside of the chamber. The console keys and stop controls were adjusted. A music light was added to the pedal keyboard. Additional lights were also installed in the organ pipe room. A 2' Flautino stop was added to the Swell manual through the addition of a circuit card. The entire organ was tuned.



The organ Builders Larry Marowsky and John Milner wish to thank Jim Tank and members of the congregation and Pastor Finn for their volunteer help with the pipe washing and shellacking, and also Loren Hawk for installing chamber lights and donating the circuit card for the new Flautino circuit card, and many others who made our work easier.

Others helping with our organ project include: Billy, Tommy & Rebecca Finn, Robert & Debbie Grunwald, Nancy Hawk, and Warren Mueller who refinished the organ bench.

The preceding information was gleaned from the 125th anniversary commemorative booklet, the 1892-1958 voters' meeting minutes, an article from the 1971 Appleton Post Crescent, and was supplemented with a summary report courtesy of Larry J. Marowsky.

