

NBUMC's New Organ – Some Questions and Answers (update 9/28/16)

Q: Why are we getting a new organ?

A: Our present organ was installed over 40 years ago, shortly after our new sanctuary was completed. It represented the latest in electronic organs of the day, but the internal circuitry and punch-card voicing features are wearing out and malfunctioning, and repairs are no longer possible. During recent weeks, Tony found that some features were no longer available. It soon became obvious that a replacement was needed promptly.

Q: What organ are we purchasing?

A: It is an Allen Bravura digital hybrid organ. The Bravura is seven organs in one: Classic Allen; Cavaille-Coll (French Romantic Organ); Schlicker (Neo Baroque Organ); English (Willis); Arp Schnitger (German Organ); Aeolian-Skinner; and GeniSys Voices (Instrumental).

Q: Where will the Bravura be placed?

A: The new organ will sit approximately where the old organ sits. However, the "pit" will be raised to the current level of the altar area. The Bravura will be on casters, and therefore capable of being moved easily to different locations, if it is eventually decided to modify the entire altar area to a single level.

Q: Where will the speakers be placed?

A: The speakers will be installed in the loft above the choir, and tuned specifically to the acoustics of our sanctuary. There will be two antiphonal speakers mounted at the rear of the sanctuary.

Q: How long will the installation take? When will we get to hear the Bravura?

A: The construction of the organ is now underway and takes approximately 4 months. A production delay to accommodate the newest technology has moved the expected delivery from mid-January to mid-February. But we can 'hear' the sounds of the Bravura now via YouTube links provided on the NBUMC website. The organ is now expected to be in operation in the late February-early March time period, following the final "tuning" of the organ and speakers to the particular glorious acoustics of our sanctuary.

Q: How much money do we need?

A: A total of \$156,000. The organ and speakers are \$152,000. An additional \$4,000 is needed to reconfigure the "pit".

Q: What is the cost of the new organ?

A: The organ and speakers total \$152,000.

Q: What happens first?

A: Before the new organ can be installed, the old instrument needs to be removed and the floor of the "pit" built up to the same level as the altar area directly in front of it, because the new organ is not as tall as our present instrument. This costs around \$4,000. These modifications and installation of the new organ (including voicing ("tuning") for our sanctuary) will take approximately 7-10 days.

Q: Where is the funding/money coming from?

A: The majority of the money will be raised via fund raising among our members, friends of the church and outside sources. Some amount may be available from the endowment and other funds. Concerts to augment fundraising are in the planning stage. There are local musicians that are interested in holding a concert at NBUMC.

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Q: Is there an Organ Fund?

A: Yes, we have established an Organ Fund that, for the time being, is an open fund, accepting contributions not only at present, but also beyond the arrival of the new instrument. Finance Committee has added a line item in the church's budget (posted on the hallway bulletin board) to record the state of this fund for our members to see.

Q: What is the plan for fundraising?

A: The Organ Committee, working with Trustees, Finance and Church Council, put forward a plan to fund the new organ. We anticipate that most of the funds will come from our congregation, former members and friends of NBUMC. Donation forms and a Giving Guide have been prepared, reflecting that, while generosity is encouraged, no contribution is too small, allowing everyone in the church to feel to be a part of this effort. Donors may pledge and make their gifts over time, or make a single lump-sum gift.

Q: When will fundraising start? How is it done? When does it conclude?

A: "Official" fundraising began on September 11.

But since early August, "anchor donations" came in from several individuals and families so that we started with a base of \$33,385 to launch the formal campaign. Flyers were included in the worship service bulletins beginning on September 18th, for the Anniversary Sundays (and on subsequent Sundays) to bring to the attention of any former members or friends of the church our appeal for funds. Letters will be sent to friends and former members. Timely announcements during service and in CONTACT, and NBUMC Church Budget bulletin board posting of the organ fund will keep our church family informed of progress. Graphic charts will also display the fundraising progress. A dedicated and staffed table in Johnson Hall during "Happy Hour" is a source of additional information for donors as well as accepting pledges and donations.

The major part of the campaign will continue until the organ is received and performing; however, the Organ Fund will remain open, to ensure that the full cost of replacement is met over time.

Q: How do I give?

A: No amount is too small, but we hope donors will be as generous as possible. Donation forms will be provided in the Sunday bulletin and on the narthex table that solicits the giving. Options are given for either a lump sum one-time donation, or an extended "installment" donation over weeks, months, or years. So, people who wish to give can schedule their gift(s) to their own financial circumstances.

Q: Can I/we donate to the organ in lieu of our regular church pledge?

A: No. That is not the purpose of the organ capital campaign, which is completely separate from our church obligations for ministry, staff, and upkeep of our facility. The organ fund is over and above our regular church financial support.

Q: Will I/we be recognized for our donation?

A: Yes, if you wish to be. If not, a donation may be given anonymously. Gifts may also be made "in honor of" or "in memory of" loved ones or other individuals. Donors will be recognized by identifying with a part of the organ, or higher spirits. Starting with the organ keys and graduating up the scale, the giving scale soars to heavenly heights (as does the magnificent sounds of the organ!). Pricing the 'keys' at an amount below \$100 permits our children and those with very limited resources a chance to participate and feel a part of this addition to our church.

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Angels (\$20,000 and over)

Seraphims (\$10,000 to \$19,999)

Cherubims (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

"Choir" Manuals (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

"Great" Manuals (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

"Swell" Manuals (\$500 to \$999)

Pedals (\$250 to \$499)

Stops (\$100 to \$249)

Keys (\$1 to \$99)

Q: How will we know the progress toward our goal?

A: A chart of expense vs. donations posted in the Narthex will allow all to track our progress towards our goal. The monthly financial statements posted on the bulletin board also contain a line item for the Organ Fund. Verbal announcements will be made during Church services from time to time, and other graphics posters showing progress will be used.

Q: When and how will the organ be dedicated?

A: This is to be determined, but likely sometime in early Spring 2017.

Q: Will there be concerts?

A: Yes! Initially, Allen Organ will provide, gratis, an "inaugural concert" on the Bravura by an expert on the instrument sometime early in 2017. Tony, our Director of Music, will present specific programs on the organ, and we also hope to attract local musicians looking for a great venue as part of a fund-raising concert series.

Q: Where can we get more information on the instrument?

A: Tony has detailed Technical Specifications for the organ that shows the extreme versatility and voicing variety possible on the instrument. The Console features 3 manuals, a standard AGO pedalboard, 2 expression pedals among others. Also, for example, through the GeniSys program, there are 8 variable stops, each with hundreds of sound possibilities. GeniSys also can reproduce a wide range of real sampled acoustics from small rooms to large cathedrals. Other features are a Hymn Player (150+hymns), a Performance Player with 350+ pre-recorded selections, a record/playback feature (Sequencer), a USB memory for Capture, Save, and Load. The organ can be programmed to play automatically. The church's website displays links to Allen Organ Company's several videos that describes and demonstrates details of the organ.

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Q: How did we decide to purchase this particular organ?

A: A small committee worked with Tony to preview different organs suitable for our sanctuary and in our price range at several area churches. Their recommendation was forwarded to and approved by Trustees, Finance Committee and Church Council.

Q: Why aren't we getting a pipe organ?

A: The Bravura reproduces pipe sounds with high fidelity. A pipe organ would cost about double what we are paying and would require regular and frequent costly maintenance. The Bravura requires very little maintenance and remains true in tone and sound over a long period of time, irrespective of temperature, humidity, etc.

Q: I've sometimes noticed a delay in the music between the front and back of the church. Will this be the same with the new organ?

A: No. We will have "antiphonal speakers" and the organ sound will be synched with choir singing at the rear of the sanctuary.