

12. ORGAN:

DESCRIPTION:

The ten rank organ was manufactured by the M. P. Moller Pipe Organ of Hagerstown, MD in 1941 or 1942. It was installed in the church to replace one that had been heavily damaged in a fire. The blower that supplies air for the organ was manufactured by Kinetic Blowers of Hagerstown, MD and it is powered by a 1 ½ horse power electric induction motor. The blower and motor are located behind a small door inside a locked storage area that is two doors down the hallway from the finance office. The blower pumps air at 1,000 cu. ft. /min., at 4 ins of pressure up four stories to the organ loft, through an 8 inch metal pipe, where the air goes into the various organ pipe that are controlled by the organist. The organ loft is located directly above the entrance to the sanctuary and access is through a locked door on the upper lever of the education wing.

OPERATION:

The organ is a very valuable (\$275,000), old (76 years), and a very delicate instrument with many moving parts that could easily be damaged. Therefore no one should enter the organ loft except the organ service people or someone who has a legitimate reason to be there. It also requires climbing a difficult ladder and finding the light switch in the dark.

The organ keyboard is also kept locked and no one is allowed to use it without permission from the choir director. The power switch that turns on the blower motor is located under the keyboard on the right side of the organ. The organist can turn it on by feel, while sitting at the keyboard, but for anyone else it takes a bit of looking. This bit of information is provided in case the organ is accidentally left on with the motor running and someone needs to turn it off.

Maintenance:

The organ is serviced and tuned twice a year, once before Christmas and again before Easter. The work is done by Larry Hochhalter of Hochhalter Inc., 8177 Saghale Drive S., Salem, OR 97306. 503-315-8211. He works on organs all over the state and usually calls the choir director to make an appointment when he plans to be in the area working on other organs. He has many years of experience working on this organ and he purchased his business from the man who had been working on the organ before him.

One maintenance item that needs to be done in the next year or two is the replacement of the leather hinges and corner gussets on the top of the blower reservoir that is mounted above the blower. The top of the blower reservoir rises and falls to regulate the wind pressure and the gussets are starting to crack and will soon leak. The repair involves removing the blower reservoir and taking it to his shop in Salem. The cost will be about \$5,850 and the choir director is working on getting some grant funding.

Another more significant expense the church needs to be prepared for within the next ten years is a complete restoration of the organ at a cost of \$50-60,000.