

For almost one year now, the Organ Renovation Project – estimated to take three years – has been underway. While you may not notice many changes to the St. Thomas Memorial Organ when Jeffrey plays each Sunday, the instrument is slowly being transformed. Most recently, Organ Builder, Weston Harris, has worked on the following aspects of the Memorial Organ:

Violone

The Violone pipes are from St. Stephen's Episcopal/Hollywood Church and the Cecille B. DeMille Organ formerly at that church. These pipes have now been refurbished and installed



Relay

Below is the new relay for the west chamber organ section. The relay receives electrical signals from the console and directs those to the correct pipes.



Console Electrical System

The \$12,000 organ control system has arrived. The photo below depicts the console part of the system. Each section of the organ has additional components all coordinated through this section in the console. The system looks like a computer but is low-tech on purpose for simplicity and reliability.



West Chamber Shutters

The West Chamber Shutters depicted below have been refurbished and freshly painted. The black boxes shown on the left are the control motors which open and close the shutters as requested by the organist at the console.



Additional Developments

The blower rebuilding by Gory Electric Motors is underway.

The west chamber ("Swell Organ" of about 1600 pipes and 1/3 of the entire organ) is slated to start coming on line in early Fall.

Lastly, "Angels" continue to show up in the project. For example, strips of wood removed from the swell shutter framing happen to be, without any planning, exactly the size and lengths required for wood needed for mounting relay components. That this would happen is almost impossible given that all organ parts are customized to random sizes and shapes.

If you have any questions regarding the Organ Renovation Project, please see the Project Liaison, Randy Oglesby. Time permitting, Weston Harris has generously offered to give tours of the St. Thomas Memorial Organ to parishioners and to personally answer questions about the Project. If you are interested in a tour, please also see Randy Oglesby.