

## St. Paul's Renovation Newsletter May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014

I do not remember ever starting a communication saying that the congregation has helped move the repaired organ back into the nave! But we did! Following the May 12<sup>th</sup> service about 40 members of the congregation gathered in the chapel to get instructions from Matthew Bellocchio of the Andover Organ Company on how they should proceed to unload the truck holding our restored organ. With glorious sunshine, even the heavens smiled on us. This task is typically done by the Congregation and takes about two hours. And, as promised, it was fun. We had so many volunteers that we got it done in about an hour. There truly is a wonderful spirit at St. Paul's these days.

We found ourselves carrying boxes of confusing looking bits, enormous wooden pipes, smaller wooden pipes, pumps, air chambers, long mysterious pieces of PVC pipe and yet other plumbing parts from the truck to the nave. We discovered that the new "trombone" pipes were wooden and made in Germany and that the new metal pipes were our trumpet stop. They were all lovingly laid out across the backs of the carefully padded pews at Matt's instructions and the nave soon looked just as it did when they disassembled the organ some seven months ago. By last weekend – the 19<sup>th</sup> – the Andover team was well into the reassembly process and one could get some sense of the remarkable transformation that has taken place. The pipes facing the nave are no longer dented and they cast a lovely golden hue. The rebuilt organ is coming home and Ann Colgrove cannot wait until the blower is powered up and she can again play hymns on an organ – that might even happen this weekend. Matthew's team includes Andrew Hagberg who plays the trumpet and Ryan Bartosiewicz who is also an organist.



**On the left is a before restoration view of the external pipe ranks and to the right the restored pipes.**

Andover Organ is a 17-person company that builds, maintains and repairs organs. Organs are complicated instruments and for me talking to Matthew about them was little different from talking to someone who works in a high tech industry – the language and work is highly specialized. This project was designated Opus R-55D – meaning that our organ was among the first 55 refurbished by Andover, the R designating a refurbishment and the D the number of times Andover has done significant work on the organ – the company is now up to Opus R-508. Additionally, Matthew commented, the St. Paul's organ at 100 is relatively young, most of the organs in Nantucket Churches date from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and organs are designed to last hundreds of years. About 50% of Andover's employees are church musicians and one of the benefits of having the Andover team with us has been the addition of two very strong voices (Matthew and Ryan) and Andrew's trumpet playing during the service.



**The Andover team - Ryan Bartosiewicz, Matthew Bellocchio and Andrew Hagberg sitting on the bellows.**

So what happened to the organ over the last seven months? I recently talked to Matthew to get a sense of what has been accomplished. The bottom line is that when the organ is fully reinstalled by mid June, we'll "have an instrument that, with ongoing care, should last for the next 100 years and beyond." It will have "a greatly enhanced tonal palate, greater power, more color and a greater variety of sound" according to Matthew.

Once the organ arrived in Andover last October it received a full evaluation and documentation, and it was soon clear that the organ needed some serious work. The metal pipes were cleaned and when necessary repaired and the wooden pipes were in many cases re-glued (Nantucket's damp weather played havoc with the glue that held the wooden pipes together) or even screwed back together. They also received new leather packing on the stoppers at the tops of the wood pipes. All pipes were "re-voiced" assuring that their tone and power were correct. The "wind chest" – which is the operational heart of the organ controlling the movement of air to the individual pipes – has now been expanded to accommodate the additional pipes and is essentially new. The bellows – the "lungs" which maintain air pressure for the organ – have been repaired, had a second set of "ribs" installed, have received new leather hinges and are now powered by a new, quiet blower.

Our organ had 15 ranks of pipes when it arrived at Andover and came back with 19 through the addition of over 200 new pipes. While it is beyond my skills to describe all the enhancements, we will get new tonal ranges with the addition of a trombone and a trumpet stop as well as a celeste that will provide a shimmering sound. We have essentially a new – and very handsome enlarged console (keyboard desk) that is now consistent with the original 1904 design. If you haven't been in St. Paul's recently you'll get a pleasant surprise.



**Matthew Bellocchio gives instructions on how to unload the truck, and we took turns to unload.**



**Matthew lovingly handles one of the new trombone pipes, here is another coming into the Church along with assorted other things.**



**It is apparent everyone had a good time.**



**Within an hour the pews were being used to support restored organ innards.**



**The new trumpet stop, some parts and visible repairs to the original wooden pipes.**



**The new keyboard partially installed and the largely new wind chest.**

The balance of our renovation project continues to move forward. They are hard at work in Gardner Hall with rough plumbing and electricity in place. Our commercial hood to vent the ovens is going in this week and sheet rocking and finish carpentry lies in the immediate future. Stone-work on the “Daume Entrance” has been on hold as the interior of that space is framed out for stairs and the elevator. We are on a tight schedule, but still expect a ribbon cutting on June 29<sup>th</sup>.



**The entrance and upper level views of the Daume Entrance.**



**Gardner Hall as a work area and a current view from Fair Street.**

None of this would have been possible without the broad participation of the Parish. While we have been the beneficiary of a generous gift to help offset the cost of the organ rehabilitation, whether it has been physical or financial or both the fruits of our labor are very close to fruition. We are truly blessed both in Gene’s spiritual leadership and your support.

*Martin McKerrow on behalf of The St. Paul’s Vestry*