

Share the Joy!

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Hopkinton, Massachusetts**



Organ Fundraising



History of St. Paul's Hook & Hastings Organ opus 1127

The first record we have about the historic Hook & Hastings organ is from the year 1883.

Documentation in the work diary of the company Hook & Hastings, shows the organ with the specification 'opus 1127', was shipped from Tremont Street, Boston to the Congregational Church in Hopkinton on March 19th, 1883.

Originally it was a two-manual organ with 24 registers and a tracker action.

In 1938 the Congregational Church in Hopkinton was mainly destroyed by the great hurricane, but it is said that the organ remained unharmed!

While rebuilding the church the organ was moved and some changes were made such, as revoicing pipes to fit it into the new space and the tracker action was replaced with an electric action and console.

Until 1981 the organ was used, but not properly maintained, so it fell into disrepair and became unplayable. The Congregational Church decided to sell it.

That was the chance for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Hopkinton!

Carol Spengler, St. Paul's organist and choir director at that time, was the driving force. She was familiar with the organ from her time as organist at the Congregational Church and knew: this has to be "our" pipe organ! Together, with her husband David Spengler, she motivated the congregation to purchase the instrument and the journey started.



Our organ has three parts: The pedal, the great organ and the swell.

Here you see the pipes of the great organ.



Great organ

**Not enough space
for all pipes??**

Be creative!

**Pedal pipes
attached to the
wall...**

In July 1981 H&H op 1127 was purchased and all the different parts and pipes had to be stored somewhere while David Spengler worked on possible ways to fit the organ into the choir loft.

In August 1982 the re-installation could finally start. All pipes which had been stored in barns, houses, and garages had to be cleaned and repaired. Mr. William Laws from William Laws Organ Company supervised and supported the volunteer crew from the congregation.

In March 1983 the re-installation was finished, the organ was tuned by Chuck Jackson (who still tunes our two pianos at church on a regular base) and called back to life and sound in a glorious Easter service on April 3, 1983 by the organist Carol Spengler.

In 1988 Everett Carr (our euphonium player) built a swell chamber to complete the organ.

In 1993 it was time again to give the organ some finishing details and repairs to "make it a reliable and pleasant pipe organ to play and listen to." (Richard C. Lahaise)

So Mr. Richard C. Lahaise from the well-respected company Henri Lahaise & Son was hired to take care of it.

Call to Action 2017!

Now it is 2017.

For more than 24 years St. Paul's Hook & Hastings pipe organ, Opus 1127 has been playing almost non-stop with only some minor repairs and tunings all over the years.

But pipe organs are made of natural material, like wood and metal. Depending on the different metal alloys which are responsible for the various sounds, the pipes are more or less soft in their consistency. The different temperatures and humidity in the church also affect the pipes.

The wind blown into the pipes is going through leathered chambers that are moving up and down. Over the time the leather gets fragile and leaks. As a result the pipe will fall silent.

You can see a pipe organ is kind of a breathing being and needs care and devotion.



Great Organ

**Leather
chambers**

Call to Action 2017!

What needs to be done?

Since 2011 Joseph Rotella the founder and owner of Spencer Organ Company, Inc. from Waltham has been taking care of our pipe organ. Spencer Organ Company is well known for excellent restoration, repair and maintenance of historic organs in several states of the US (New York, Philadelphia, Colorado ...) as well as for newly built organs.

While we tried to keep the organ playing with tunings twice a year and taking care of the most needed repairs, it is now time to take action and make sure that the instrument remains playable right now and for decades.

We have three main projects to process:

The most pressing issue is the Swell pulldown action. We already had to releather single pneumatics. It makes more sense, though, to releather the remaining pneumatics at once instead of waiting until they fall completely apart and become unplayable.

The next work to be done is releathering the bass chests. Here we also have some leather leakage already. To do this work, the large bass pipes have to be removed from the chests.

The third project will be to restore the reed stops (oboe and trumpet). Those are the ones that are used to play solo voices and support the congregation with the melody. They are also indispensable for joyous services like Easter, Pentecost, and Christmas.

Peek into the closed

swell — box



Let's talk numbers I

To cover all needed repairs and maintenance we set our goal at \$ 35,000.

This is a lot of money, so we will go one step at a time and set a time frame of three years to do everything.

During this time all help is highly appreciated!

How can you help?

All payments can be made by check to St. Paul's Hopkinton or in cash in a separate envelope with the subject „organ fund“.

We will also have different fundraisers over the time like selling cakes or blankets or other surprises.

How will you be kept up-to -date?

At the main entrance to the sanctuary we have a display where you can see the progress and the current status of our fundraising.

We are starting with already \$ 1,500.00 in our organ fund. It would be great to reach the \$ 10,000.00 goal by the end of 2017.

Update 08/23/2017:

\$ 5,145.00 I





Thank you!

To everybody who put in love and work to bring H&H op1127 to St. Paul's.

To everybody who helped to improve and maintain the organ until this day.

To all the helping hands creating this flyer.

To everybody who will be helping to save our historic organ for the future.

Any questions?

Contact [vestry](#) for additional information



View from the organ console down into the sanctuary