



The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Chapter Website: www.saago.org

Volume 40, Number 8
April 2021

April Program *Meet Our SAAGO Chaplain, Rev. Beth Rambikur*

Sunday, April 25, 3 p.m.
ZOOM Meeting

To access the meeting, follow instructions at the bottom of the page



We are delighted to welcome the Reverend Beth Rambikur, Pastor, Christ Church United Methodist and SAAGO Chaplain, to this program, which will be hosted by dean Janet Tolman.

Pastor Beth has penned insightful and interesting columns since becoming chaplain (see page 6) and this

will provide an opportunity for chapter members to meet her and to explore the role of chaplain. The program will explore a variety of topics, such as why we have a chaplain. And why we have a national chaplain—and have chapter chaplains.

Since the program will be on ZOOM, members will have the opportunity to interact and ask questions and raise ideas for discussion.

If you have questions you might like to have discussed or topics you would like to see covered, send dean Janet a note at: tolman@wvcnet.com

There will be opportunity for interaction during the presentation as well.

Pastor Beth's brief bio

Pastor Beth was born and raised in Prescott, Arizona, and earned degrees in Psychology and International Affairs from Northern Arizona University, earned her Master of Divinity at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Georgia, and currently teaches

and serves as the Dean of Local Pastor Licensing School at Claremont School of Theology. She has served in pastoral ministry since 2006 when she started as a student intern chaplain at a homeless shelter in Atlanta, Georgia. Her ministry experience includes serving as a chaplain at the Atlanta VA Medical Center, as a student pastor at Trinity UMC Atlanta, and as pastor at three previous churches in the Desert Southwest Conference. She also served all 130 churches and 28,000 members of our conference as the Director of Connectional Ministry. She was appointed to Christ Church United Methodist in June 2020. Her passion for ministry is bringing all people to God's table to learn, listen, and participate in God's transforming love by meeting Christ in one another.

To join the Zoom meeting:

The zoom link, meeting ID and Passcode are identified below. You may need to copy the link and paste it. If your computer monitor doesn't have a camera, you can use your iPad or your cell phone (although those images will be pretty small). When we're all connected, we will be able to view the program (and each other) and participate, including the option of asking questions.

Join Zoom Meeting link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84186255136?pwd=VVBXSWdjGVsSEZ6RWp2djB2VXdnZz09>

Meeting ID: 841 8625 5136

Passcode: 981766

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The CYPHER

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NOTE: Chapter members are invited to submit information about their special programs to be included in THE CYPHER. If you have programs you would like included, we would like to hear from you! Please send program descriptions, along with pertinent information—title, date, location, time, brief description, cost, and photos—to Dusty Johnson, *CYPHER* editor. The information will appear in the print edition as well as in the online edition. Material may be edited as needed.

Deadline for the next issue is April 15

Please email information to

Dusty Johnson, editor, at skj5@cox.net by the published deadlines. You may also send it via U.S. mail.

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realize what is not written is the domain of art.***

—Jean Langlais.

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message from the dean...

Dear Colleagues,

Cateura, Paraguay, South America, is a small slum town, very poor. A violin there costs more than a house, completely unattainable, but there is a supply of garbage. Out of the garbage in the landfills, violins were constructed from oil cans, with bent forks as tailpieces. What can you make with drainpipes? Saxophones, with bottle tops for keys. Tin drums became cellos, with gnocchi rollers for tuning pegs.

This was the birth not only of an orchestra, but a gift to the young players and to all who listened at home and on tour. Music from the slums became music from the heart for the people. The orchestra director said, "The world sends us garbage. We send back music".

We have come through Lent and have entered the Easter season. We have seen the despair of Good Friday and Holy Saturday turn into rejoicing. As the prophet Isaiah said, it is time to "sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things".

What better tribute to J.S. Bach than the virtual program presented by our members Steven Keyl and Jeffrey Campbell? Our colleagues shared their time, talent, and knowledge, and gave us a deeper appreciation for the music that has inspired people for over three centuries. We are very grateful to them and to Brian Pettipiece for his production skills. It is a superb piece of virtual art.

In April, we'll explore the AGO chaplaincy, introducing you to our chaplain, Rev. Beth Rambikur, pastor at Christ Church United Methodist. We will meet via Zoom, so you will have the opportunity to ask questions of her. I don't think we have had a program like this before, so I hope you will join us in this meet-and-greet session and get to know our chaplain.

Let us, like Isaiah, be prophets of praise, creative in our musical journeys and in the very lives we live and, if the world sends you a little garbage, send back music.

Dean Janet Tolman



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May 23, 4 pm— Membership Meeting
5 pm— Eats and Socializing
Location— TBA

We hope that our final event can be an in-person meeting while adhering to safety guidelines in effect at the time. The business meeting will begin at 4 p.m. Food and socializing will follow the business meeting.

It will be so good to be together after this long time of meeting via Zoom. We are really hoping that it will be possible. Detailed Information will be shared as it becomes available.

Be sure to put this event on your calendar.

Note: *The home organ tour scheduled for April has been postponed until next season.*

See article on page 7



Roy A. Johnson Memorial Organ Series



Dr. Lori Wiest, Director
 Fred Fox School of Music
 lwiest@arizona.edu

Dear friends,

As the newly appointed director of the Fred Fox School of Music, it is a pleasure to greet the rich organ community in Southern Arizona. I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Roy Johnson when I was a doctoral student at the University of Arizona in the late '80s, as he helped to advise me my first year in the Choral Conducting/Music Theory programs. What a wonderful, warm person! I am happy to be involved with such an outstanding organ series that honors both his legacy and his memory.

While we truly don't know what fall semester will hold for us as it relates to health during the current Covid-19 situation, we are postponing live performances, including our organ series. At this time, I would like to encourage the organ community to help strengthen the established Roy A. Johnson Memorial Organ Series Endowment at the University of Arizona. I look forward to hearing from you!

The Roy A. Johnson Memorial Organ Series, established in memory of Professor Johnson following his tragic death in 1995, showcases outstanding contemporary organists. Professor Johnson made enormous contributions to the organ studies program, the keyboard area, and to graduate studies during his 29 years at the University of Arizona. The installation of the beautiful Schoenstein organ given by Isabelle Harris, in a hall designed for the organ, was the fulfillment of his vision for a flourishing organ program.

Co-sponsored by the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Southern Arizona Chapter, AGO, Receives Generous Donation

Generous Donation Honoring Roy Johnson

Recently, we were informed by F. Anthony Thurman, Director of Development at AGOHQ in New York, that the Guild had received a bequest in the amount of \$10,000 for the Roy Johnson Memorial Fund. Made by an anonymous donor, this extraordinary gift has been forwarded to the Southern Arizona Chapter.

“What a blessing to our chapter to receive such a generous and totally unexpected gift,” said Stardust (Dusty) Johnson when she learned of the donation. “My family and I have felt overwhelmed by this generosity....It's amazing and unexpected. We express our sincerest thanks to whomever it may be.”

The Roy Johnson Memorial Fund was established following the tragic and untimely death in 1995 of Roy Andrew Johnson, past dean of the chapter and for 29 years Professor of Organ at the University of Arizona. Roy was also district convener of the Grand Canyon District and was working on a cataloging project for the Organ Historical Society at the time of his death.

The Fund supports the Roy Johnson Memorial Scholarship, established by the chapter to help fund organ study. This includes lessons at any level through college; introductory organ lessons for pianists; tuition for a Pipe Organ Encounter (POE); registration for an educational event; or for collegiate level students, full membership in the American Guild of Organists, Southern Arizona Chapter.



Roy at the old McDowell organ, Northminster

Information about the scholarship program is available on the chapter web site, www.saago.org.

Dave Horr

SAAGO Meeting, Holsclaw Hall, demonstration of the new Schoenstein organ, February 13, 1995



Roy and Jack Bethards, President, Schoenstein Organs



Carolyn Smith, Dottie MacElhose, David Wachter

Pastor Beth Rambikur, SAAGO Chaplain

Beatitudes



I love the beatitudes, the list of blessing statements made by Jesus and found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. "Blessed be the" poor, meek, mourners, hungry, thirsty, merciful, wholehearted, peacemakers, and persecuted, for theirs is the kingdom of God! These teachings turn everything upside down. Think about the last time you said "I am

blessed" or talked about blessings in someone's life. It probably didn't describe things like loss, death, hunger, poverty, and persecution. Yet that is what Jesus is saying with the beatitudes. Blessed are these things, for God is with us!

I remember a long time ago I had a pastor who talked about beatitudes as being a way of living our own lives aware of God's blessing. He would say "you have to put on your be-attitude and be aware of God." I would roll my eyes and think "I'll show you some b-attitude." Strange how decades later whenever I hear the blessed be statements in the Gospel the first thing I wonder is, have I been aware of God? I love the beatitudes because they are God's promise that in the hardest darkest loneliest moments, we are not alone, we are beings wrapped in God's attitude of love, no matter what we are going through. So blessed are you for the life you experience, there in the gritty is God.

Chaplain Beth

The Beatitudes

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are they who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.*

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure of heart,
for they shall see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.*

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the
sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

Position Available:

Christ the King Episcopal Church is seeking a permanent organist to start in the fall. The church is located at 2800 W. Ina Road.

The church has an Aeolian-Skinner (Op. 1192) organ that was installed in the spring of 2012. More details about the organ can be found here: : <https://ctktucson.org/ministries/music/>

The organ was originally built for the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in 1949. The church was located at 5th and Country Club and was recently demolished to make way for a high density, gated community.

Contact Elena Zimmerman via email: percypetunia@gmail.com for further information

This position has also been posted on our chapter website (<https://saago.org>) and our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/>



St. Philip's Welcomes New Organ Console

Dr. Jeffrey Campbell is delighted to share the news of the arrival of a new organ console, constructed by Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc. The new console is designed in the style of Aeolian organs of the early 20th century, and features rocking tabs, in place of the more usual draw knobs. The case is finished to match the dark African mahogany of the organ casework. Equipped with a Peterson ICS-4000 Control System, the console is moveable by means of integrated casters in the base of the console and pedalboard. The new console is connected to the organ chamber by a single CAT-5 cable, replacing the dozens of cables used in the original installation. The new console is much more compact than its predecessor, freeing up space for choir and instrumentalists, as part of an active music program.

The organ specification remains as after the most recent additions, and re-instates two "borrows" from the original Holtkamp specification. There are also several prepared for tabs included for future projects. The organ control system now contains 256 memory levels, as well as the ability to play the Great division on the bottom (Positiv) manual, in the manner of the French Romantic organs of Cavaille-Coll. The addition of sub and octave couplers for each manual, as well as Unison Off, increases the possibilities for the colorful registration of liturgical music, choral accompaniments, and solo repertoire in service and recital.



It is planned to have an open console day when we can gather again in person. A workshop on Chorale-based repertoire is also planned. The organ will first be used for in-person worship for the Holy Week services at Saint Philip's.

Dr. Campbell would like to thank the Rector, Wardens, Vestry

and several individuals and parish organizations, including the Friends of Music, and Preservation and Endowment committee, for their support of this project. Many thanks to Michael Quimby, and his team for the creation of a work of the utmost craftsmanship and practicality, which already feels like it was always in the church!



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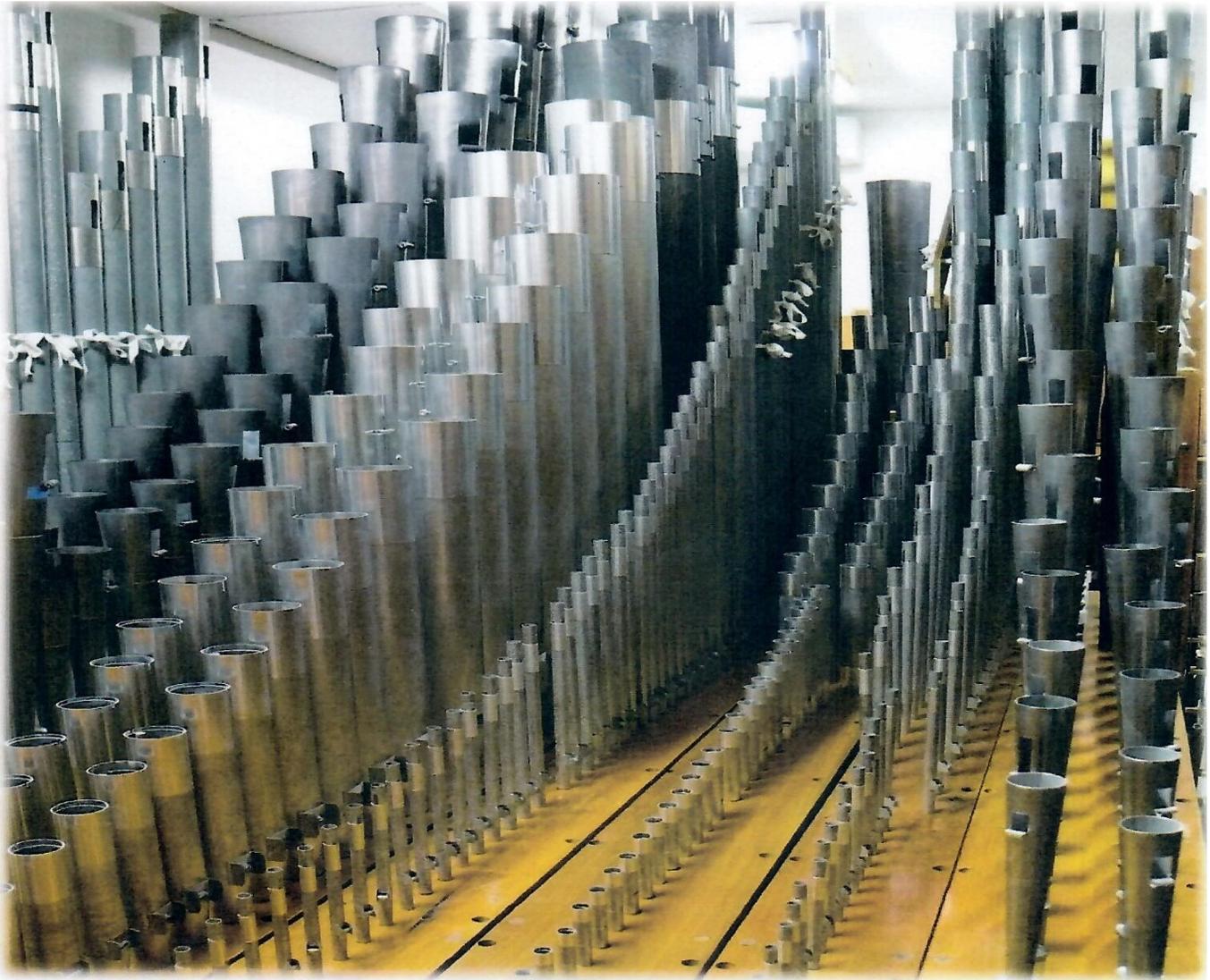
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The History of Territorial Arizona Lives on in a Pipe Organ

In 1891, Arizona was still a territory. The section of the territory south of the Gila River – along with the southern part of the New Mexico territory – had been purchased from Mexico for 10 million dollars in 1854. At that point, people still weren't sure where the United States-Mexican border lay out in the hot, dusty desert, and they drove their buckboards down rutted roads without anybody checking their citizenship. But the Gadsden Purchase was to have its first pipe organ that year.

Two years earlier, the first Grace Episcopal Church had been built and it was decided the parish needed an organ. The arrival of the railroad and electricity in downtown Tucson in the 1880s made it possible for a small organ to be installed. The case was made of oak and fit neatly into the small chancel with a footprint of only 6' x 6' including the pedal board. That organ served the first two Grace Church buildings.

The third Grace Church – *far* out east at the time, on Adams Street – was significantly larger and featured space for a larger enclosed organ, installed by David McDowell in 1959. That year Bruce Anderson arrived in Tucson – the toddler son of Carl Anderson, who had brought the family to town as he started as organist/choir director at Grace Church. David Wachter had been born in Tucson a few years earlier. He would go on to start his studies as an organist in just under a decade, and played for many years down the street at Saints Peter and Paul.

But the story of the little organ continues in 1964, when McDowell installed a small organ at Chapel of the Resurrection on south 12th Avenue. In a 1965 article from the Arizona Daily Star, McDowell stated, "All pipes and action are new, but the outside casework is the original . . . of the organ in Grace Episcopal Church when it stood on the corner of Stone and Jackson in the 1890s." In October, Carl Anderson played a recital at Chapel of the Resurrection to honor Albert Schweitzer, who had died the month before. Bruce always remembered that his father spoke fondly of the organ thereafter.

Years later, David Wachter became the organist at Chapel of the Resurrection (then a mission of St. Michael and All Angel's) for a period of time in the 1970s, and became familiar with the capabilities of the 4-rank organ. The mitred 16-foot stopped Bourdon pipes give it a good foundation, and are reputedly from an old pipe organ installation from the University of Arizona Main Auditorium.

Skip forward again to 2002 when David was working in the office at Grace St. Paul's (GSP) and came home to tell Bruce that he had heard the Chapel of the Resurrection was closing. Bruce's immediate response was, "What about the organ?" David went back to Grace St. Paul's the next day and told other church employees of Bruce's exclamation. By coincidence, it happened that the sexton of GSP was the son of a deacon at Church of the Resurrection, and told his father that Bruce & David had some interest in the instrument. (Notably however, the gentlemen didn't know of this passing of information, until . . .)



Chapel of the Resurrection

One Tuesday morning in January, Bruce was working at Intuit, and had a surprise call. The Senior Warden of Resurrection was calling to say, "You need to come get the organ this weekend; we have to have the church cleared out by Monday!" The gentlemen were bowled over, but scurried to rent a lift truck and find some volunteers to help.

That Saturday, they were at the Church of the Resurrection with the truck, some pipe boxes, and the help of 4 dear friends. Nobody was really sure what the job would be like, but by 1:00 the case was disassembled, the pipes had been photographed, and the 1' pipes were taped to a piece of cardboard, in order to know where to put them back on the chest. They loaded the spaghetti of wires and boards, along with the pipes onto the truck, and oh-so carefully drove the 34 miles across town to their home. By 3:30, an exhausted cadre of amateurs had piled all the parts into a 6-foot-wide walkway in the gentlemen's house, where it would remain covered by a comforter (so cats wouldn't chew on wires) for many months . . .

(Continued on page 10)

History of Territorial Organ *continued*



But that evening of the acquisition, Bruce called his parents and talked excitedly about this find. While talking, Bruce's mom found a scrapbook of Carl Anderson's various recitals in Tucson. Only then did they realize that the organ console had come from the original Grace Church. The gentlemen were delighted! It seemed the organ had found its way back to a long-time Grace Church member 90 years after it had come to the AZ

Territory. The gentlemen were honored, and perhaps a bit daunted.

The moving day was January 19th . After 8 months of delay, Bruce and David were scheduled to host a parish welcome newcomer dinner in late September. They decided – um, correctly! – at the end of August that a pile of organ pipes in the walkway would never do. So they quickly put the console back together, re-fitted the wind chest so the pipes would fit under their 10-foot living room ceiling, and figured out which pipes went where (with the help of those photos). Grahame Davis wired the pedal unit chest back in, and re-leathered the reservoir, and the organ became functional for the dinner.

A few months later, the instrument made its debut at the gentlemen's Epiphany party on January 5th, 2003 - with a different organist playing a piece at the top of each



hour all afternoon. For an added Christmas treat, a glockenspiel made from a turntable for Chapel of the Resurrection by AGO member Tom Orr had been installed up near the ceiling, and rang out as David played "In Dulce Jubilo."



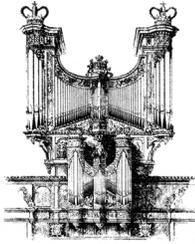
Years later another AGO member, David Gay, gave a presentation of some of his research titled "The Organs of the Gadsden Purchase," and David and Bruce attended. Many Tucson organs were featured that evening, but the gentlemen were quite surprised to learn more of the history of the console in their living room, and that it was from the *first* organ of the Gadsden Purchase. Dr. Gay was discussing the timeline of those organs, and they suddenly realized the organ in their house a couple miles away had this distinction. They turned and looked at each other with surprised grins.

These days, the direct-electric stop action still works, but could use some touch-up, there are a couple dead notes, and the keyboard contacts have been known to throw ciphers from time to time. But the sound and scale of the instrument is a great match for a large living room, and serves as a reliable practice instrument for David. Bruce has only tuned the whole instrument once, but touches up the most egregious notes from time to time. It is a good practice instrument; the 4 ranks include a Gedeckt, a Principal, a Gemshorn and a String. It's not bad to look at, and terribly fun to decorate at Christmas, too!

So this little piece of history from Arizona's territorial days lives on in the home of David and Bruce. Someday soon, they look forward to sharing it with the Chapter once again.

Bruce Anderson

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- ◆ introductory organ lessons for pianists;
- ◆ Registration fees for an educational event, including a Pipe Organ Encounter (POE);
- ◆ for collegiate level students, registration fees for regional and national conventions of the AGO.
- ◆ for collegiate level students, full membership in the American Guild of Organists, Southern Arizona Chapter.

Scholarship awards for organ study will range from \$350 to \$500. For educational events, the scholarship will cover the cost of registration.

An application form may be found online at www.saago.org. **Completed forms may be submitted to the Scholarship Committee Chair at any time.**

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- Chapter Friends and those without computer access. Please contact Lars Andersen for information on renewal or joining as a new Chapter Friend (L.andersen@q.com) or at 520-909-9038.

Membership Directories are being prepared and will be mailed to the membership when they are completed.

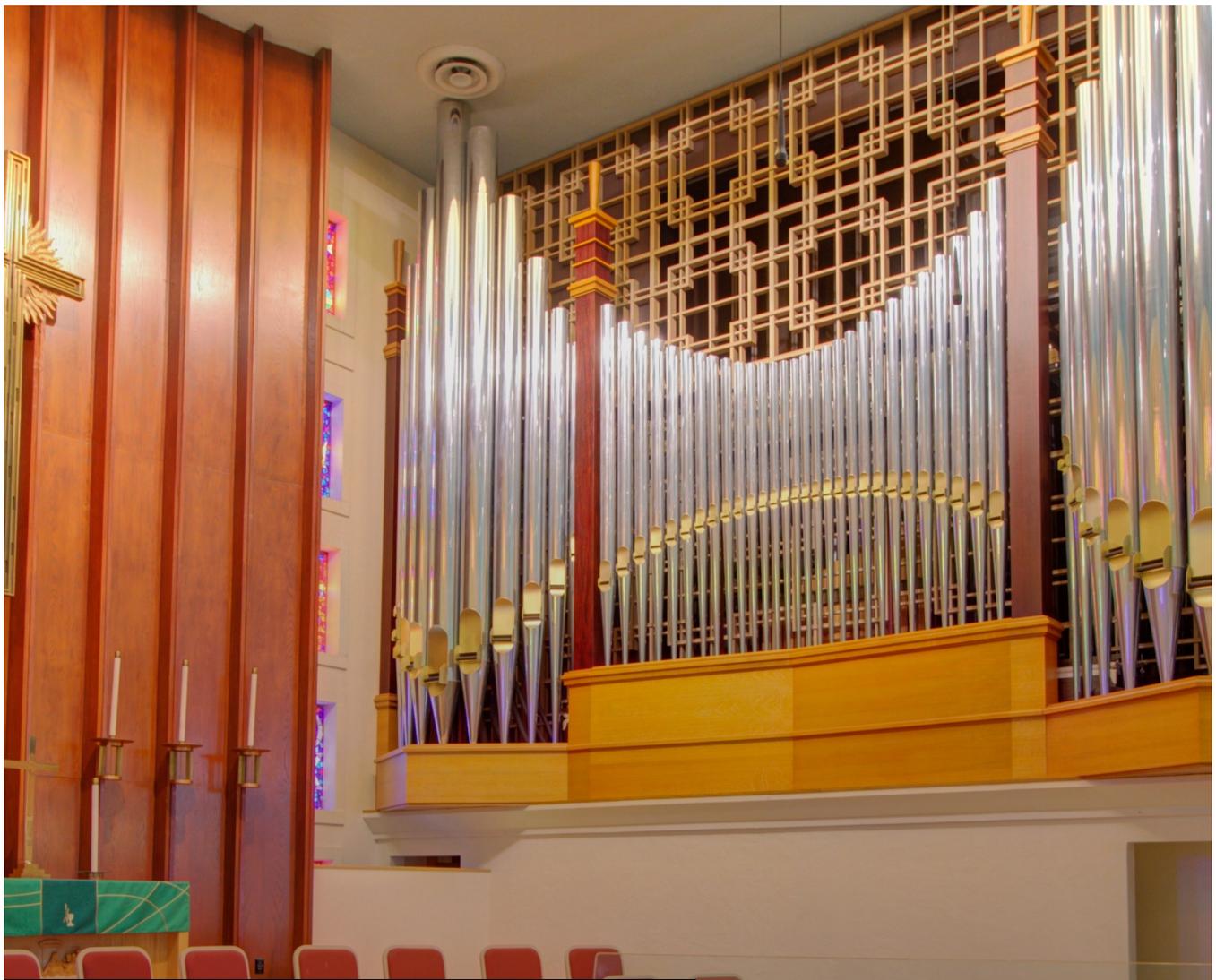
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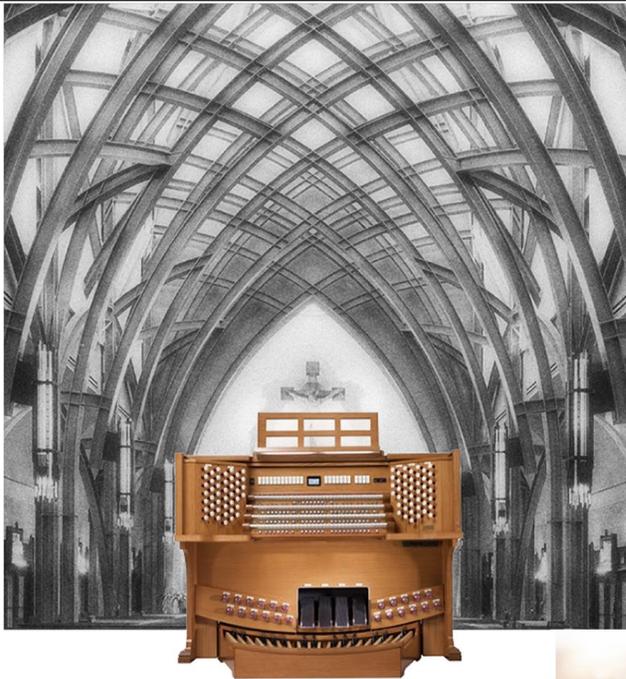
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