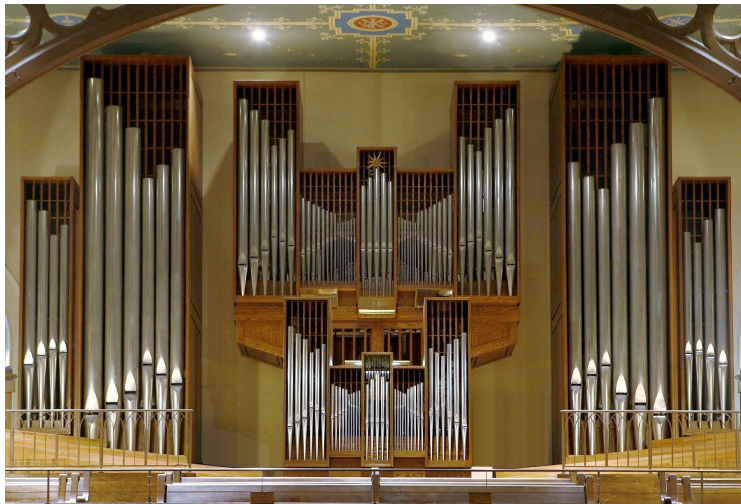


A HISTORY OF OUR PIPE ORGANS AT FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



The history of organs at First-St. Andrew's United Church began about 1857 when a small organ or melodeon was installed in what was then First Presbyterian Church. However, upon hearing about the installation, Presbytery was so offended by this heresy that two men were sent to remove the organ. Not to be silenced, the minister, Rev. J. J. A. Proudfoot, placed the issue on the agenda of the next Presbyterian General Assembly meeting in Halifax. With a majority of only one vote, permission was granted for the organ to be reinstalled in First Church. Organs of this vintage required an "organ blower" and during the 1870's, one man received \$30 a year to pump air by using a hand pump.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church had an equally dramatic process to obtain their



first organ when the choir tendered their resignation in 1869 because Session refused a request by the Sabbath School teachers to use a melodeon in Sunday School. Advocates for an organ were not successful until 1888 when the first organ was installed in the church and S. W. Wilson was appointed organist. Although a gifted musician, he died within months of beginning the job. He was followed by Charles E. Wheeler in 1890 who was organist and choir director until the union of

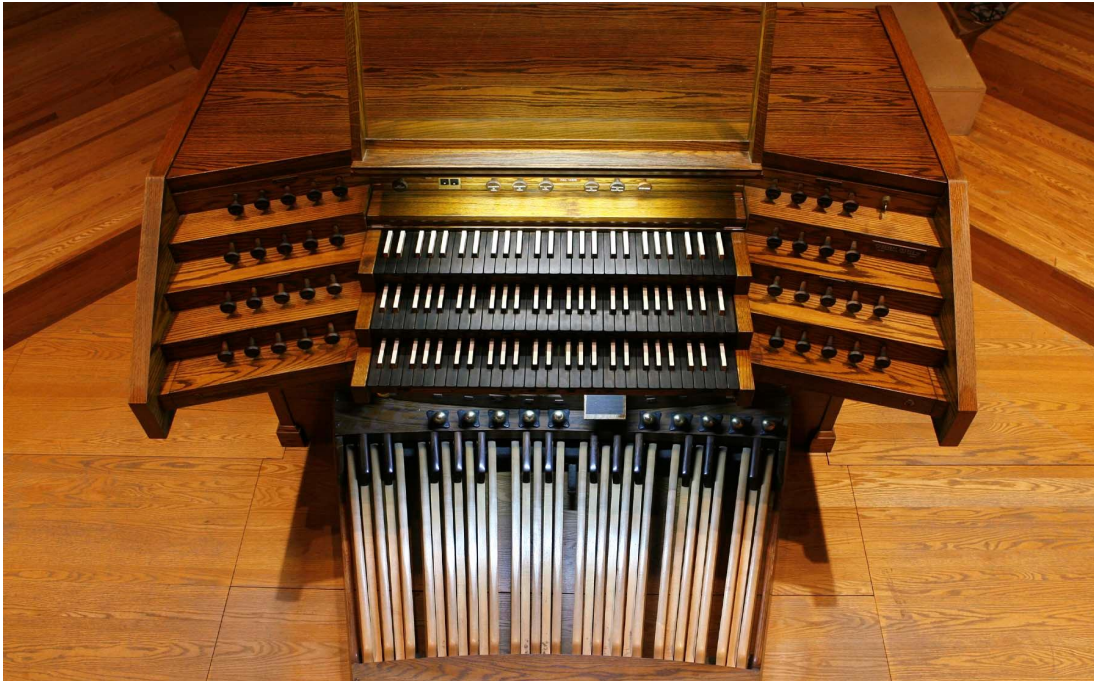
the two churches in 1937.

At First Church there were a larger number of organists over these years including Mrs. T. H. Purdom on the original, small reed organ, Miss Erith, William Ellis, Miss Raymond, William Barron, George C. Phelps, Vivian Reeve, George Lethbridge, Clarence Gilmore, and Ernest Harris. At the time of union, Dr. Harvey Robb, an accomplished church and theatre organist, was hired as organist and choir director of the combined choirs of the two churches and served until 1957. He was followed by Barrie Cabena, a well known organist and composer, in that same year.

The current Casavant Frères tracker organ was installed in the sanctuary of First-St. Andrew's United Church in 1968 when Barrie Cabena was organist and choir director. This 3-manual, 54-rank organ is known nationally as a unique and outstanding organ. In 1974, a 7-stop, mechanical action Casavant Frères organ was installed in the Chapel and was given in memory of Edwin McLean by his family. During Mr. Cabena's tenure as organist (1957-1975), a series of annual organ festivals with prominent national and international organists took place, as

well as hosting an annual convention of the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

The next two organists and choir directors were Americans, Timothy Zimmerman (1975-1977) and Alan Barthel, (1977-1983), who were both accomplished musicians. In 1984, Paul Merritt, an exceptional Ontarian musician, began his tenure as organist and choir director which continues to this day. Under his leadership, a solid state logic combination system and zimbelstern were installed on the organ in the 1990's, with the zimbelstern being donated by Camilla Wilson. Mr. Merritt continued the tradition of promoting international organ recitals at the church with such noted organists as Simon Preston, John Scott, and Gillian Weir. As well, he gave high quality Advent and Lenten organ recitals every year. The 25th anniversary of the organ was celebrated in 1993-4 with a series of organ concerts including Mr. Merritt performing the Saint-Saens Organ Symphony with the University of Western Ontario Symphony Orchestra and the Poulenc Organ Concerto. Another organ highlight occurred in the summer of 2005 when the Royal College of Organists held their national convention in London and several concerts were given with the organ. The organ receives excellent maintenance by Dodington and Dodington Pipe Organ Services, Inc.



Celebrating 175 Years in 2007

ORGAN SPECIFICATIONS

HAUPTWERK

Quintade	16
Prinzpal	8
Rohrflöte	8
Oktav	4
Spitzflöte	4
Mixture VI	1 1/3
Kornett V	8
Fagott	16
Trompete	8

RÜCKPOSITIV

Gedackt	8
Prinzpal	4
Koppelflöte	4
Nasat	2 2/3
Blockflöte	2
Terz	1 3/5
Quinte	1 1/3
Scharf IV	2/3
Krummhorn	8
Tremulant	

BRUSTWERK (enclosed)

Holzgedackt	8
Salizional	8
Rohrflöte	4
Prinzpal	2
Zimbel III	1/3
Rankett	16
Vox humana	8
Tremulant	

PEDAL

Prinzpal	16
Subbass	16
Oktav	8
Gedackt	8
Choralbass	4
Nachthorn	2
Mixtur V	2 2/3
Posaune	16
Trompete	8
Schalmei	4
Tremulant	

CHRONOLOGY OF ORGANISTS

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN/UNITED CHURCH

1888 – S. W. Wilson

1890-1937 – Charles E. Wheeler

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN/UNITED CHURCH

1860's – 1937

Mrs. T. H. Purdom

Miss Erith,

William Ellis

Miss Raymond

William Barron

George C. Phelps

Vivian Reeve

George Lethbridge

Clarence Gilmore

Ernest Harris

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

merged with

FIRST UNITED CHURCH in 1938

to form

FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

1937-1957 – Dr. Harvey Robb

1957-1975 – H. Barrie Cabena

1975-1977 – Timothy Zimmerman

1977-1983 – Alan Barthel

1984- Paul Merritt

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