

Mr. Merritt continued the tradition of promoting international organ recitals at the church. 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. The organ was also featured in several more conventions of the Royal College of Organists.

The most surprising event for the organ occurred in November of 2014 when one of the large pedal pipes fell across the choir loft. This was due to a gradual settling of the gallery over the years from the



weight of the organ. Fortunately, no one was in the gallery at the time. After investigation, several other pipes were determined to be at risk. They were all taken to Casavant Frères to be refurbished and then were reinstalled. Once again, glorious music resounded in the Sanctuary!

CHRONOLOGY OF ORGANISTS

St. Andrew's Presbyterian/United Church
1888 — S. W. Wilson
1890-1937— Charles E Wheeler

First Presbyterian/United Church
1860s -1937
·Mrs. T. H. Purdom
·Miss Erith
·William Ellis
·Miss Raymond
·William Barron
·George C. Phelps
·Vivian Reese
·George Lethbridge
·Clarence Gilmore
·Ernest Harris

St. Andrew's merged with First in 1938 to form First-St. Andrew's Church
1937-1957 — Dr. Harvey Robb
1957-1975 — H. Barrie Cabena
1975-1977 — Timothy Zimmerman
1977-1983 — Alan Barthel
1984-2016 — Paul Merritt

ORGAN SPECIFICATIONS

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	

PEDAL

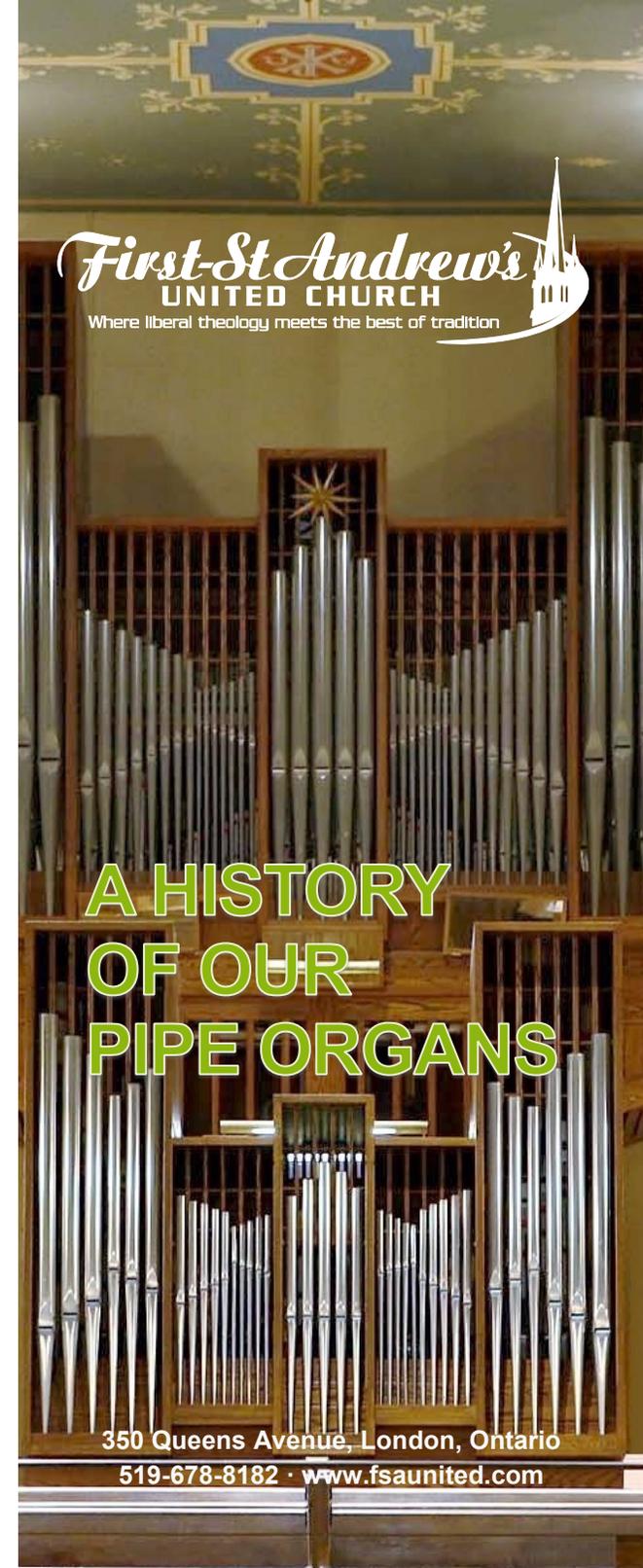
Prinzpal	16
Subbass	16
Oktav	8
Gedackt	8
Choralbas	4
Nachthorn	2
Mixtur V	2 2/3
Posaune	16
Trompete	8
Schalmey	4
Tremulant	

BRUSTWERK (enclosed)

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

HAUPTWERK

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



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 re-installed 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 hand.

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. In that same year, he was followed by Barrie Cabena, a well known organist and composer from Australia, via England.



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 and has always received excellent maintenance by Dodington and Dodington Pipe Organ Services, Inc. In 1974, a 7-stop, me-

chanical 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 (1957-1975), a series of annual organ festivals with prominent national and international organists took place, as well as hosting a 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. Paul Merritt (1984-2016), an exceptional Ontario musician, became the next organist and choir director. 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.