

Organ Fundraiser

Central Church's sanctuary has a spectacular Schantz organ that was installed in 1993, and has been lovingly cared for since, with upgrades and expansions throughout the years that truly make it a show-stopping instrument!

However, if you were in attendance at the 10am service on Sunday, October 2nd, and stayed through the final hymn, you were a lucky witness to what literally WAS a showing-stopping event...and what quickly become apparent was an urgent issue with the organ. While playing the final hymn, things suddenly went wrong, and even though I was playing a C Major chord...EVERY NOTE was sounding, in a glissando effect! Please watch the video below to hear what happened! (This video was made for our organ consultant immediately following the service - I clearly was still in shock at what had just happened HaHa!)

Adam Dieffenbach, our organ consultant for many years from Dieffenbach Pipe Organs (dba Emery Brothers), spent time with me trying to diagnose the issue. It was as if the communication lines within the organ were all jumbled up. I have, since that Sunday, made adjustments to how I am playing the organ every week so that that issue doesn't happen again, but that is not sustainable, nor what this incredible instrument deserves.

The truth is, the electronic system that "operates" the organ...the parts that communicate from the console (the keys, pedals and draw knobs) to the actual pipes, is more than 30 years old. It appears that the console was installed in 1987, (according to this amazing organ database: <https://pipeorgandatabase.org/organ/40715>), six years before the new Schantz organ was installed, making the console system 36 years old. And if we think about electronics and communication, and how many advances have been made in these fields in 36 years...it can seem somewhat miraculous that it is still working at all! If we do not fix this issue soon, it will one day fail completely!

So we are launching a fundraiser to fix the control system within the organ console, and make our beautiful Schantz organ last for decades to come! Adam Dieffenbach recommends the Opus-Two instrument control system, which comes with a 10-year warranty. The estimated cost of the project is \$96,000. A hefty pricetag, indeed, but it is THE central operating system of the organ; an instrument that this congregation has so thoughtfully and graciously supported through the years. And of course, the organ wouldn't be the majestic instrument it is without the support of the generous Dr. Christopher Warren as well. It truly is a beloved instrument to so many people.

Central Presbyterian Church has always highly valued its music program, and the installation of the Schantz organ in 1993 was certainly an exemplary showing of that commitment. It is an incredible asset to this church and the community at large. That asset must be maintained and updated so that it can continue to have a long life.

Please consider a donation to this organ project, so that the Schantz can continue to give in ways that only a church pipe organ can.

Most graciously,
Charity Wicks
Director of Music Ministries