

Christ Church's **AEOLIAN-SKINNER PIPE ORGAN**

The Pipe Organ was designed and custom-built for Christ United Methodist Church by Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company of Boston, Massachusetts. In November 1967, the contract was signed; the installation began in October 1968 and the organ was first used for public worship January 26, 1969.



The tonal design is such that all types of worship services would be suitably supported by the organ music. The use of the organ as a recital instrument was also included in the planning and the overall tonal design included many pipes to satisfy this requirement. The organ was finally checked by Mr. Donald Gillette, Tonal Director from Aeolian-Skinner.

The organ consists of 5 divisions; the Great Organ which has 20 ranks of pipes, all of which are unenclosed behind the 3 grille arches; the Swell Organ which is enclosed and under expression, has 17 ranks and is located in the right section of the organ chamber; the Choir Organ enclosed and under expression, has 14 ranks and is located in the left section of the chamber; the Positiv Organ which was added in 1982 by the Wicks Organ Company of Highland, Illinois, has 11 ranks and is located in front of the grille arches; the Pedal Organ of 10 ranks is located behind the grille arches and on top of the Swell and Choir chambers. The entire organ has a total of 72 ranks and about 4514 pipes. The console has 4 manuals, 80 draw knobs controlling all the speaking stops and rocker tabs controlling all manual couplers. In 1989, the combination action was replaced by a Quad-Level Solid State Action. The new Solid State System contains 4 memory banks which supplies the organ with a total of 60 Generals and 32 Manual pistons which 16 of these are toe studs for controlling all the stops.

The organ has many ranks of beautiful tonal families; there are flutes of both wood and metal, strings and diapasons of spotted metal and 9 ranks of reeds, of which the Schalmey is the smallest and the Bombarde, the largest and most powerful. The organ also contains a set of chimes and a Zimbelstern.

The organ is built of the finest materials obtainable, by master craftsmen, using a mechanical action developed by Aeolian-Skinner engineers to give Christ United Methodist Church one of the finest pipe organs in the area. Of such an organ, we can be justifiably proud.