

## PIPE ORGAN EXPANSION AT LIBERTY UMC – May 20, 2017

*Given in loving memory of Gordon D. Foster by his daughter, Jane Woodruff*

Through a loving memorial donation given to Liberty United Methodist Church in 2016, we are able to offer a pipe organ expansion for the Sunset Avenue sanctuary pipe organ. The (pre-expansion) current pipe organ was built and dedicated on April 20, 1997, and was installed by Quimby Organs of Warrensburg, Missouri. Michael Quimby, owner of Quimby Organs, Inc., and organ builder, has been a leader in the pipe organ industry since 1970. He has been crucial in the finding and installation of our current instrument and the expansion of our “new” vintage pipes being celebrated tonight and dedicated to worship on Sunday, May 21, 2017, at our traditional worship services.



*Gordon D. Foster*

The pipes added and being celebrated tonight come from our Franklin Street Liberty Square church sanctuary (1911-1965). The organ was originally purchased from the Masonic Temple in Salina, Kansas, and moved to our sanctuary in 1911. When the church moved to the Sunset campus in 1966, we sold the organ to a young man for \$100, and he rebuilt it into his parents' home! Later, the organ was sold to Christ the King Lutheran Church in Independence, Missouri, where it was played until 2005 when the church was closed. Michael Quimby obtained much of the organ and stored it in his warehouse in Warrensburg, Missouri.

Through a series of wonderful coincidences or small miracles, the pipes being celebrated tonight journeyed back to LUMC. This journey began during 2012, when long-time Liberty UMC member, John Krall, brought me a 1969 article from the Independence, Missouri, newspaper, “The Examiner”, which featured a story entitled “Unique Organ Is Built in Garage,” telling of the young man who purchased the organ. After holding onto this article for a couple of years, I contacted Michael Quimby to see if he knew who this young man was who had bought the organ and where it could possibly be. There was an immediate stillness on the other end of the phone and then an excited voice answered, “he sold the organ to a church in Independence, they closed in 2005, and I have the pipes here in Warrensburg! Wouldn't it be nice to bring them home again, Bryan?” And that is where the story sat for a few years. Although I attempted to propose this in my annual music budget, the scope of the project was not a practical addition to our tight budgets. It would have to wait for something beyond our current resources.

In 2016, our current plans of how to add these pipes was changed when a memorial gift was given in hopes of enhancing the organ. Not only does this gift allow us to add these two beautiful ranks of flute pipes – 8' Gedeckt and 4' Harmonic Flute – but we were also able to add a pedal Contra Trumpet (to be added in late June) and fix several metal pipes which needed repair. Every inch of both pipe chambers is completely full from top to bottom and the overall balance of soft to loud pipes has been beautifully enhanced through this gift. One of the things we were not able to add to the current organ in 1997 was a balance of soft ranks of pipes to the full and louder ranks of pipes which the organ offered. The wonderful acoustics of the Sunset campus sanctuary also give the organ a rich and full tonal presence. The vintage pipes we have added complement the rest of the organ beautifully, as you will hear.

I am a deep believer that, through this pipe organ and a gifted player, God's Holy Spirit is alive and well at Liberty UMC, that hearts can be stirred, hope can be given, and joy celebrated through this beautiful instrument. Wonderful ambassadors for this instrument, like Jan Kraybill, continue to help us celebrate the wonder and majesty of passionate and authentic music for worship.

Bryan Taylor, Director of Traditional Music and Worship Arts  
Liberty UMC

**Soli Deo Gloria**  
*Glory to God Alone*