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New Pipe Organ Updates - August 2022 through October 2022

The team from Cornel Zimmer Organ Builders came to Calvary UMC on August 1 and 2 and removed the existing organ. The contractor, Personalized Home Solutions (PHS), began work on renovating the blower room in the basement. Joyce and Rob Summers, Pipe Organ Building Committee Chairs, and Dr. Adela Peeva, Director of Music and Organist, traveled to Denver, NC to visit Zimmer's shop and finalize console details. Below is a photo recap of progress since August. Thank you for your support of this exciting and historic project!



1) The dismantling of Calvary's existing organ began on August 1. Pipes from the window boxes were removed, one at a time, followed by pipes from inside the chambers (behind the arches).





2) All pipes were carefully packed in large wood boxes and taken to Zimmer's shop in Denver, North Carolina.



5) The newly parged walls will be painted and the floor will be sealed and painted. The organ's new blower will live in this room again, and this



3) The Open Wood pipes, mitered into an "L" shape because of limited ceiling height in the chamber, were the last pipes to be removed.



4) In late September, our contractor, PHS, began renovating the blower room in the basement. The stone walls were covered with wire and layers of thin concrete (parging) were applied.



7) Inside Zimmer's shop, a scaled mock-up of the interior of our organ console was created. This allowed Adela to see placement of things like pistons and toe studs and make final decisions. Pictured with Adela is Jake Hill, Zimmer's sales person.



11) Manny, another Zimmer team member, is washing our pipes, one at a time. Each one is cleaned in warm water and given a gentle scrub on the outside to prepare them for their restoration.

renovation will keep out dust and dirt, extending the blower's life.



8) Jim Twyne, fondly known as the "pipe whisperer," is Zimmer's tonal and voicing expert. This is where the magic happens: Jim is primarily responsible for the voicing and tuning and blending the sound for all 2,791 pipes that will make up our organ. In this video, Jim talks about the Open Wood Flute pipes that he's working on and which can be seen behind him.



10) Zimmer has straightened the mitered Open Wood pipes. The white "V" area is where it was put back together.



12) Some of Calvary's pipes organized in racks at Zimmer's shop, waiting to be restored.

6) On October 19 and 20, Joyce, Rob, and Adela drove to Zimmer's shop to finalize details for Calvary's new organ console. Before arriving at the shop, they stopped at First Baptist Church in Winston Salem to see a newly completed console that the Zimmer team recently completed and installed.



9) The restoration of Dulciana pipes has been completed. These pipes came from our 1911 organ and they now look brand new! These are returning to our new organ as "Heritage" pipes.



13) The Open Wood pipes, all straightened and stripped, are waiting to be painted. They will be stored until the installation begins next summer.







15) Jim giving an overview of a pipe's anatomy.



16) Jake and Adela review the draw knob layout.



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