

## Gothic Chapel Organ Facts

This organ cost \$100,000 and was gifted by **Marianne Williams Tobias** in memory of her parents, **Russel and Mary Williams**.

It was built by Rodgers Instruments of Hillsboro, Oregon and uses a combination of pipe and digital sounds.

The cabinet is designed in the style of American organs from the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The digital sounds were recorded from historic American organs including Hook and Hastings, which was the most prominent pipe organ builder of that era.

### **Pipe Facts:**

There are 184 pipes – 183 of them really work but the one in the center is there just to balance the design. The digital sounds add an equivalent of another 2,545 pipes! A pipe organ of that size would fill the entire chapel. That is why the combination of pipes and digital was a perfect fit for this space.

The pipes mounted in the cabinet are painted because that was the common practice in the late 1800's.

The painted pipes are made of zinc. All of the rest are a combination of tin and lead.

The tallest pipe is 8' tall from the 'mouth' of the pipe to the top.

The cabinet is slightly less than 15' tall.

The cabinet alone came in 20 pieces. It was assembled on the floor of the chapel and then lifted into place.

There is a small blower that is located behind the pipes that supplies the needed air.

### **The digital portion of the organ:**

The speakers for the digital sounds are hidden in the pipe chamber.

Pipes go sharp in hot weather and flat when cold so the digital organ has a temperature sensor that automatically tunes the digital sounds with the pipes.

The sensor adjusts the tuning every 30 seconds.

The digital organ provides a wide variety of sounds that allow the organists to play both softer and much grander than a small pipe organ could do on its own.

### **Other.....**

One of the details that had to be considered in placing the organ is how to change the light bulbs in the lamp over the top. A lift is placed on the floor, raised up high and the lamp is pulled forward to the lift with a hook.

The organ concept was developed by Tom Magee, the owner of Classic Organs located here in Indianapolis. He also installed the organ.

*(Information provided by Tom Magee, owner of Classic Organs, March 2006.)*