



The front and back of the organ have seen a rush of activity during the last two weeks. All of the façade pipes have been removed one by one, cleaned and put back in their place. The Pedal division pipes have all been reinstalled and those Pedal division pipes were tuned on July 1st.

The large façade pipes located in the “wings” on the left and right of the organ are all part of the Pommer stop in the Pedal division. The organ’s largest pipe stands in the left “wing” of the façade. This pipe measures 127 inches in length from top to toe and is 8 ½ inches in diameter. The body or “barrel” is 108 inches long from the mouth of the pipe to its top. In Germany, there used to be a tradition that when an organ was built and approved, the organ builder would receive as much wine as the largest pipe in the organ would hold. Not including the tapered portion of the pipe below the mouth our Holtkamp’s largest pipe would hold over 26.5 gallons of wine!

The large façade pipes from the Pommer division will need to be taken down once more so that the stoppers can be reinstalled once they are re-leathered.

All 1,075 pipes comprising the Great, the Swell, and the Pedal division of McAllister’s Holtkamp organ have now been cleaned and restored. They stand ready for a final tuning once the remaining work is done

Work now shifts to the restoration of the organ’s two large wind reservoirs and to the upgrade and restoration of the console. Restoration of the wind reservoirs will ensure a reliable supply of wind to our newly installed pipes. The work on the console will regulate and improve keyboard touch, increase the available number of presets, and have a significant impact on the organist’s interaction with and control of the instrument.

Funds for the restoration of McAllister’s Holtkamp pipe organ continue to come in. Thank you to all our McAllister church members and friends who have given so generously in support of this significant and important undertaking.

The last two weeks of June have been a flurry of activity



The organ pipes were cleaned on the outside with a degreasing solution. The bore of the pipes was brushed and vacuumed, and then blown out with compressed air.

Scaffolding and ladders were used to remove each of the façade pipes on the front of the organ. It was one trip up the ladder to bring the pipe down for cleaning and inspection and another trip up to reseat the pipe in its place after the work was done.



The smaller pipes in the right side of the "crown" of the organ have been removed for cleaning and inspection.

The large pipes to the left and right in the wings of the organ are all part of the Pommer stop of the Pedal division. Pommer is a German name for a family of renaissance double-reed

instruments also known as shawm or bombarde.



Thomas Rohlf lifts one of facade pipes back into the "crown" of the organ.

The pipes in the center "crown" in the façade of the organ are all part of the Great division of the organ. The pipes in the Great were the first pipes to receive attention at the start of the restoration. All that activity was behind the façade pipes. Now, the Great's façade pipes are the last of our organ's 1,075 pipes to be cleaned and restored.



Stoppers used in tuning the pipes were removed for re-leathering.

Look at the façade of the organ the next opportunity you have. Notice that the pipes in the "wings" of the organ and in the center "crown" of the organ are darker and greyer than the pipes to the left and right in the crown of the organ. That is because of the different metal composition of the pipes.

Metal used for organ pipes consists of alloys of tin and lead in various percentages. The metal compositions used are selected for visual or tonal reasons.

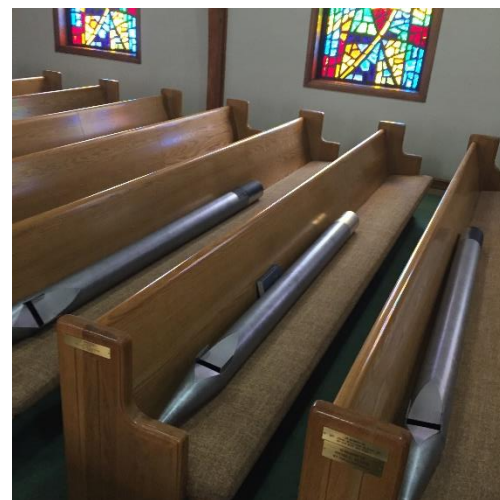
The basic organ metal alloys are:

Common Metal 30% tin, 70% lead, planed on top side
Spotted Metal 50% tin, 50% lead, planed on linen side
Plain Tin 75% tin, 25% lead, planed on both sides
Antimonial Lead 94% lead, 6% antimony
Zinc

The larger pipes in the façade in the wings and in the center of the crown are made of zinc. The smaller pipes to the left and right in the crown are made of spotted metal.



Staring down the "barrel" of the Holtkamp organ's largest pipe.



Our Holtkamp's three largest organ pipes lie positioned for their return to the front of the organ case.