### Organ's New Capture System and Wiring



Thomas Rohlfs made good progress Wednesday, 11/18 and Friday, 11/20 installing the new capture system and completing the myriad wiring connections between the new stop tab units at the console, the capture system and the organ's new stop motors which had previously been installed in the organ case.



Stop tablet wiring connects to a set of pin boards at the back of the organ console from which the wiring travels beneath the floor connecting to the capture system mounted in the organ case. Each pin serves as a connection point.

At the end of the day on Friday, it was time to program the capture system by setting and releasing the stop tabs for the Swell, the Great, and the Pedal divisions of the organ.



There are five wire connections to each of the 21 stop tablets plus wiring for the stop pistons (those little black buttons below the key board).

Each of the thumb pistons and the pistons at the pedal board needed to be set. All worked as they should except for two of the stop tablets. Once set, they would not cancel or return to the off position when the cancel was pressed.

"That's a part of organ building," Thomas said. Some troubleshooting revealed that one of the new stop tab units may be faulty and needs to be replaced. The cause of the other tablet not releasing most likely is a fault in the wiring. Both issues will be addressed on Thomas' next visit. All things considered and given the number of wiring connections that needed to be made, it was a good two days work.

### New Mics Hold the Promise of Adding Piano to our Future Livestream

Someone commented that they heard the sound of the piano coming through the loudspeakers at last Sunday's service.

The sound is the result of suspending a stereo pair of new small diaphragm condenser microphones in the piano.



New piano mics suspended over the strings of the piano.

The microphones are a part of the effort to bring the sound of the piano into our livestream with the new livestreaming equipment installed in the balcony.

It is important to find a balance between levels needed in the sanctuary and what is needed to provide a good level of sound for the livestream.

The piano sound through the speakers at the front of the church and through the headphones at the livestreaming desk is of good quality. However, the sound of the piano heard in the livestream is not yet adequate.

How to best set the mics to achieve a consistent, level quality sound from the piano in our recording is still a challenge and requires some considerable learning regarding gain structure and the use of filters available in the OBS audio mixer to condense and limit sound and thus enhance it. It seems like a whole new language and field of study but hopefully reaching out to some recently made contacts at DSLCC and elsewhere can accelerate our learning and

help us achieve the sound quality we need.

While work continues on capturing the right sound from the piano, the source of the hum and buzz in our audio that was attributable to our source of electrical power has been isolated and a temporary fix put in place. A permanent solution is being explored, but for now the incessant interference signal has been eliminated.

At this writing, all aspects of the camera are working. We can capture voice in our livestream from all of our church microphones.

The immediate challenge now is capturing quality sound from the piano. Once the organ is back in service we will need to understand what, if anything, needs to be done to capture sound from the organ.

What we learn in our work to deliver sound from the piano should also help once we look to capture sound from the organ.



# **McAllisterLIVE**

McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church

Covington VA

## Thank you for your faithful support of McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church!



We have several ways to support the many ministries at McAllister Memorial. Please pick the one that is most convenient for you. Thank you!

### **GIVE ONLINE**

It's easy to give online at McAllister. You can make a one-time gift or a recurring gift using tithe.ly. Go to this link <u>https://tithe.ly/give?c=898167</u>

### **GIVE IN-PERSON**

Simply stop by the office any weekday to drop off your check. Collection plates can also be found at the back of the sanctuary.

### **GIVE BY MAIL**

If you would like to give by mail, you can mail your checks to the following address:

McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church 900 N. Alleghany Avenue Covington, VA 24426



We are pleased to welcome Linda Trumbo to the pulpit on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. As Pastor Jim will be on vacation there will be no livestream of the 11:00 AM in-person worship service. Livestreaming will resume the following Sunday.