

One Year Ago



It has been a year since McAllister's Holtkamp pipe organ appeared on the front page of the Virginian Review. It was January 18th to be exact. A picture of the front of McAllister's sanctuary and the organ was featured as part of an article on pipe organs being a key part of the Highlands' heritage.

Database records of the Organ Historical Society, the article went on to say, document the installation of 39 pipe organs in Covington, Clifton Forge, Hot Springs, and Lexington, Virginia since 1870.

Many of these instruments have disappeared into the silence of history. Some were claimed by age and disuse. Some were replaced by newer instruments and at least one was lost to fire.

In the months since January 2020, McAllister's Holtkamp pipe organ has been given a new lease on life, having undergone a complete and total restoration.

As of mid-January 2021, nearly \$89,000 has been raised through the

generosity of McAllister Memorial's church members and friends. Funds raised have covered the \$87,138 cost of the restoration and contributed to a modest reserve of \$6700 in the church's account balance at the start of the campaign. These remaining funds will go toward the organ's ongoing maintenance, periodic tuning, and future upkeep.

Contributions to the Organ Restoration Fund ranged from coins and paper bills dropped into the Organ Restoration Fund collection box at the back of the church sanctuary to a number of larger donations that came in before start of work and at key points while the restoration was underway.

The approval by the Session for the restoration of the organ was announced to the congregation in July of 2019. Significantly, some \$55,000 was raised between that July and December 2019. Thus, when Thomas Rohlfs of Rohlfs Pipe Organ Services LLC began his work in January 2020, the funds were on hand to fully cover the initial downpayment and the first two phases of the five-phase project.

Funds for the project continued to come in even as we learned of and began to experience the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Remarkably, by mid-summer 2020 all five phases of the restoration of the Holtkamp pipe organ at McAllister were fully funded. A bit over \$40,300 was raised during 2020. The restoration of the organ was fully funded and paid for in just over 12 months.

Contributions to the organ fund over the last 12-18 months have come from people throughout the Alleghany Highlands and other parts of Virginia including Amherst, Roanoke, Hardy, Hot Springs, Eagle Rock, Richmond, Reedville, and a few cities and towns in between. Outside Virginia, contributions have come from friends and family in Arizona, Wyoming, Kansas, South Carolina, Alabama, Maryland, Delaware, Texas, and California. Many of these gifts were made in honor and remembrance of family members and friends.

When announced in July of 2019 our goal seemed daunting. Today, McAllister's pipe organ is restored and lending voice to our Sunday Worship Service. We have met our goal and are now building a small reserve for the organ's future upkeep, continued maintenance, and yearly tuning. All this is thanks to your generosity – that of McAllister Memorial's church members and friends.

Thank you.

Online contributions to the Organ Restoration Fund

At 4.3 percent, online giving to the restoration of McAllister's Holtkamp pipe organ was a small percentage of the total amount raised.

The church's introduction of **tithe.ly** was still new in 2019. The amount contributed to the campaign was just over \$130. But that amount grew by more than 27.5 times in 2020.

Many people are becoming more comfortable giving online and they appreciate the ease of making payments online whether through their bank, or with their credit card, or through a service like PayPal.

Tithe.ly is a good and convenient option offered by the church for supporting the ministry of McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church and you have options to contribute in support of the church's general fund or any of the church's more targeted ministries – including the organ fund.

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 <https://tithe.ly/give?c=898167>

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



Tithe.ly