

How much will it cost?

The good news is that we are *not* considering total replacement of our organ. Instead, we propose to renovate and update the current instrument and install a new console. This proposal represents tremendous savings, since the present organ cost was \$98,000 when built in 1988. The replacement value for the entire instrument in current dollars would be more than \$550,000. Our budget estimation includes the new console, repairs to the stage and instrument area, and changes to the organ chamber area in terms of environmental protection resources. These changes will update our stage area and allow the new console to fit in the available space. More importantly, the changes will provide enhanced viewing for children's performances, concerts and other special programs.

Budget	
Stage	\$20,000
Console	\$175,000
Cleaning	\$20,000
Environmental	\$5,000
Total	\$220,000



Fundraising Plan The "Adopt-A-Pipe" Campaign

We are asking all SSUMC members: the Trustees, the ORC, the Chancel Choir, all music lovers, everyone—prayerfully to consider a donation toward supporting the renovation and updating of our Wicks Pipe Organ. Naming privileges are possible at the Console Donor level. All donors will be recognized in a special Organ Dedication Service once the project is complete.

The "Adopt-A-Pipe" Campaign allows individuals to give/donate to the Organ Fund at various levels. We ask that all pledges be completed by July 1, 2017.

Pedal Pipe Donor
Gifts up to \$2,500

Swell Pipe Donor
Gifts from \$2,501 to \$5,000

Great Pipe Donor
Gifts from \$5,001 to \$10,000

Antiphonal Donor
Gifts from \$10,001 to \$25,000

Fanfare Pipe Donor
Gifts from \$25,001 to \$50,000

Console Donor
Gifts of \$50,001 and Above

St. Simons United Methodist Church



The Renovation of the
1988 Wicks Organ Opus 6132

Organ History & Facts

*The organ was built in 1988 by the Wicks Organ Company of Highland, Illinois.

*The instrument was first played in worship on Sunday, June 12, 1988.

*The original cost for the SSUMC pipe organ was \$98,000. Total replacement value at today's prices is estimated at \$550,000.

*The organ contains 1,158 pipes. Only some of these are visible from the Sanctuary. Many of the pipes are located behind those above the choir or enclosed in the Swell Chamber.

*The organ pipes are grouped into 4 divisions: Pedal, Swell, Great, and Antiphonal.

*There are a total of 15 "speaking" stops and 19 ranks.

What needs to be done?

1. Replacement of the organ console (keyboards, pedalboard, drawknobs), with the addition of a range of digital "voices". The new console will play all the pipes we currently have, and the addition of the digital component will provide wonderfully extensive sound opportunities with which to lead worship. The current console is the original console built by the Wicks Organ Company. No updates have ever been made to the console. Because the control system is performing poorly and can be very unreliable, it requires replacing. (Note: The average "life span" of a console is about 30 years. Our console is nearly 28 years old, and the Committee's research has revealed that new parts are limited.)



2. Complete re-leathering/restoration of the static reservoir. The reservoir controls the air pressure from the blower. When this reservoir begins to leak, the blower cannot provide adequate air flow and tuning, and eventually pipes will not "speak" correctly.

3. Thorough cleaning of all components. The organ, in its entirety, has never received a thorough cleaning since its installation nearly 30 years ago. In 2003 the Church commissioned a cleaning of the exposed pipes only (the Great division/exposed pipes above the choir loft and the En Chamade pipes in the balcony). Thus, the entire instrument (which comprises the exposed and hidden pipes and chambers) is in need of a professional cleaning.

Why do this now?

At St. Simons United Methodist Church, we strive for excellence in all that we do. Worship is one of the primary reasons we exist as a church. The goal of maintaining excellence is vitally important in the musical component of our worship services, for the glory of God. The pipe organ is an essential element of our traditional worship service. It represents a prayerful legacy as well as a substantial investment by those who have come before us, and the Committee believes that it must be properly maintained. The organ also plays a vital role in weddings, funerals, and other special services and programs held in the Sanctuary. Our Committee's deliberations and efforts to maintain the instrument bear witness to our reverence for worship and devoted care of the organ for future generations.

How will we fix it?

The Organ Renovation Committee (ORC) was formed out of the SSUMC Long Range Planning Committee of 2016. Following some careful study and several site visits to learn about other newly installed organ consoles, the ORC made the following recommendation to the Trustees, Finance, and Church Council at their September 2016 meetings.

1. Before any work can begin on the organ, the stage area in the front of the Sanctuary must be prepared. To attempt any construction/renovation of the stage area *after* the organ has been cleaned and the new console installed would greatly compromise the success of the entire project. The proposed budget for Phase One includes new hardwood flooring and necessary structural changes to the pulpit area and choir loft.

2. The second phase of work will be the total replacement of the organ console. The current console will be removed and recycled and a new three-manual Rodgers digital console will be installed. The new console will not only play all of the pipes we currently have, but will add a range of digital "voices" to the organ. When the pipes and digital voices are combined, they provide wonderfully extensive sound opportunities with which to lead worship.

3. Phase three would include the re-leathering work and cleaning of the entire organ. While this cleaning and re-leathering work is vitally important as the console upgrades, scheduling this part of the project as the third phase will allow SSUMC never to be without a pipe organ for even a single Sunday! Once the new combination console is installed, all of the pipes can be dismantled for cleaning and restoration, during which time the digital organ components which include authentic pipe organ voicings will enhance worship.