

A brief history of the pipe organs of  
First United Methodist Church, Temple

1895  
The original First Methodist Church building on the present site, called "the Stone Church", was erected in 1911. The front of the Sanctuary was dominated by a majestic Kimball pipe organ of two-manual design. The grand Kimball had exposed facade pipework and was unenclosed, lending a colorful, orchestrally imitative sound in the tradition of the times. This instrument was destroyed in the fire of 1912 which completely engulfed the "Stone Church". The congregation raised the funds to build a new Church on the same site, the current Sanctuary building, in 1913. <sup>THE</sup> That new structure, however, had no organ. In 1919 a committee of the leading women of the Church began a funding project for a new pipe organ. Dr. J.M. Murphy, a member of the Choir, gave the Church the necessary funds for a new instrument, and the Henry Pilcher's Sons firm from Louisville, Kentucky was selected in 1920. The Pilcher organ was completed in 1922 and dedicated in recital on December 7th of that year. 11/22/1911

2 Carl Wiesemann, Organist and Choirmaster for St. Matthew's Cathedral in Dallas gave the dedicatory recital, which opened with the "Concert Overture in C" by Hollins. The rest of the first half of the program consisted of "Chant de bonheur" by Lemare; Fritz Kreisler's "Caprice"; the famous "Toccata and Fugue in D minor" by J.S. Bach; "Madrigale" by Simonetti, and an intermission. The second half began with another Lemare piece, "Serenade". Handel's "Largo" came next, followed by "Evensong" by Martin. Pietro Yon's "The Primitive Organ" led to the final piece, another selection by Hollins, "The Triumphal March". For many years the Pilcher organ was the premiere concert instrument in the area, and supported numerous major works by the Church's Chancel Choir and community musical organizations.

3  
AND was  
The Pilcher organ had 19 speaking stops in 17 ranks, on pneumatic wind-chests (Pittman principle). It had a two-manual console, ~~but~~ no exposed pipes, being located in the third floor chambers above the choir loft, behind the wooden screen. <sup>RETAIN</sup> (In order to incorporate certain aspects of musical value from the Pilcher instrument, the new Schudi organ will re-use some pipework and mechanical systems from the 1922 organ.) *put into separate paragraph or new organ*

Between 1930 and the 1960's various additions and renovations to the Pilcher instrument were made. Tremolo units were added, <sup>and</sup> a sheetrock wall was installed between the organ's two main divisions, including sets of swell shades, to better effect a balance among the divisions. In 1967 a set of Maas-Rowe chimes was given to the Church in memory of Mr. Ira Victor King, a long-time member of the Chancel Choir and active leader in the Church. This set of chimes was playable from a special little keyboard attached to the organ console. ~~In the new Schudi instrument the chimes will play from the Great manual, as a stop on the organ.~~

4  
proposals  
The question of how to improve and renovate the Pilcher organ has been a high priority item for almost every Organist or Music Director in this Church for the past twenty years, and various studies and proposals were made. Because this Church has traditionally played a leading role in the musical life of the community, and because a good pipe organ is essential to the worship and concert needs of this congregation and community, a study was made in 1980, and bids received, for the rebuilding and expansion of the organ, as part of the Church's new building and renovation project.