

# American Guild of Organists

*The parish acquired its first pipe organ in 1873. It was the only article to survive a fire which destroyed*

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The American Guild of Organists fosters the appreciation and enjoyment of organ and choral music through recitals and workshops.

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CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH was organized in 1852, and has been on the corner of Seventh and Francis Streets since 1857. The original frame church was destroyed in a disastrous fire on Christmas Eve, 1876. The present Gothic revival building, attributed to Francis Boettner of the local architectural firm of Stigers, Boettner and Eckel, was built on the same site in 1877, and is now the oldest Protestant house of worship in continuous use in the city. It also contains the city's oldest pipe organ.

*a shed was built to protect the organ until*

*which was installed in 1896.*

Originally, the chancel and altar of Christ Church was located in an alcove on the north wall. In 1894, the room was reconfigured and an elevated choir/chancel was constructed at the east end. In the mid 1890's, Mrs. John S. Lemon and members of the Christ Church Choir staged several Gilbert and Sullivan operas and one ladies' minstrel show to help raise money for a pipe organ. In 1896, the church purchased and installed a used 35 rank, three manual tracker pipe organ built in 1867 by William A. Johnson and originally installed in the Congregational Church in New Britain, Connecticut. *THE REV. JOHN H. HOPKINS, AN ACCOMPLISHED ORGANIST*

*became rector of Christ Church in 1895. He located a used*

The church secured Dr. Clarence Eddy of Chicago, who, in the same year was a founding member of the American Guild of Organists, to play the dedicatory recital. Afterwards, he complained that the stiff tracker action left him too exhausted to sleep that night.

Perhaps because of the stiff action, the Bennett Organ Company of Rock Island, Illinois was hired in 1910 to redesign the organ. They replaced the original console and tracker action and Johnson chests with an early version of their double stage electro-pneumatic chests and added a new console, and shifted ranks within the organ, reducing its size to 26 ranks.

The Bennett console was replaced shortly after World War II with the present Austin console. In 1970, Charles McManis re-leathered the Bennett chests. In 1986, Temple Organ Co. of Saint Joseph replaced the Bennett chests and added four new ranks, including a mixture stop originally specified, and shifted other ranks within the organ.

A Festival Trumpet created by the Reuter Organ Co. of Lawrence, Kansas, was added in 1996. The organ ~~now has 30 ranks,~~ *20 are original, although some have been shifted and revised.*  
 Although the organ case has been altered by the removal of the column finials as well as the original trefoil arches above the center pipe flats, ~~it is~~ *it is* a good example of the Gothic revival style used by many American organbuilders during the mid to late nineteenth century.

*but remain*

Please note several photos below.



Current view of Interior of Christ Episcopal Church showing Organ



Christ Episcopal Church, sometime after 1896

**SPECIFICATION**

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

WILLIAM A JOHNSON ORGAN CO., Westfield, MA

Opus 240, 1867

Rebuilt by the Bennett Organ Co., Rock Island, IL, 1910

McManis Organ Co., Kansas City, KS, 1970

Temple Organ Co., Saint Joseph, MO, 1986

now with Austin Console

III/31 Pitman chests with electro-pneumatic action

For full information on what these stops mean, click [HERE](#)

GREAT ORGAN	SWELL ORGAN	CHOIR ORGAN	PEDAL ORGAN
16' Sub Principal*	16' Bourdon*	8' Geigen Principa*	16' Principal (Gt)
8' Principal	8' Holzgedeckt* (EXTENSION)	8' Rohrgedeckt	16' Subbass*
8' Waldflote *	8' Salicional *	8' Dolce *	16' Violone
8' Bell Gamba*	8' Voix Celeste*	8' Dolce Celeste	10 2/3' Quint
4' Octave *	TC	TC	8' Octave *
4' Rohrflote *	4' Principal *	4' Traverse Flute*	8' Bourdon (EXT.)
2' Fifteenth*	4' Harmonic*	2' Piccolo*	8' Violoncello *
1 1/3' Mixture III	Flute	8' Clarinet *	4' Super Octave (EXT.)
	2 2/3' Nazard	8' Festival Trumpet	16' Fagotta (Sw)
	2' Flautino *	Tremelo	8' Trumpet (Sw)
	16' Trumpet		
	8' Trumpet		
	4' Hautbois		

\* ORIG. RANKS



**William A. Johnson Organ Co., Westfield, Massachusetts, op. 240 (1867),**

originally installed at South Congregational Church, New Britain, Connecticut, re-installed at Christ Episcopal Church, St. Joseph, Missouri by Hutchings Organ Co. (1896), rebuilt by Bennett Organ Co., Rock Island, Illinois (1910); Austin console (1945); rebuilt by Chas. McManis, Kansas City, Kansas (1970) and Temple Organ Co., St. Joseph, Missouri (1986)

**Original specification**

**GREAT ORGAN, 58 notes**  
 16 Double Diapason 58 pipes  
 8 Open Diapason 58 pipes  
 8 Gamba 58 pipes  
 8 Melodia 46 pipes  
 8 Stopped Diapason 58 pipes  
 4 Octave 58 pipes  
 4 Concert Flute 46 pipes  
 2 2/3 Twelfth 58 pipes  
 2 Fifteenth 58 pipes  
 Mixture No. 1, 4 ranks 232 pipes  
 Mixture No. 2, 3 ranks 174 pipes  
 8 Trumpet 58 pipes

**SWELL ORGAN, 58 notes**  
 16 Bourdon Bass } 58 pipes  
 16 Bourdon Treble }  
 8 Open Diapason 46 pipes  
 8 Stopped Diapason Bass }  
 8 Stopped Diapason Treble } 58 pipes  
 8 Salicional 46 pipes  
 8 Vox Celeste 46 pipes  
 4 Octave 58 pipes  
 4 Flute Harmonique 46 pipes  
 2 Super Octave 58 pipes  
 Cornet 3 ranks 174 pipes  
 8 Trumpet 58 pipes  
 8 Oboe 46 pipes

**CHOIR ORGAN, 58 notes**  
 8 Open Diapason 58 pipes  
 8 Stopped Diapason 58 pipes  
 8 Dulciana 58 pipes  
 4 Octave 58 pipes  
 4 Flauto Traverso 46 pipes  
 8 Clarionette 46 pipes

**PEDAL, 25 notes**  
 16 Double Diapason 25 pipes  
 16 Bourdon 25 pipes  
 8 Violoncello 25 pipes

**Mechanical Movements**  
 Swell to Great  
 Swell to Choir  
 Choir to Great  
 Great to Pedal  
 Swell to Pedal  
 Choir to Pedal  
 Tremulant

Bellows Signal  
 Pedal Check

Two Pneumatic Combination  
 Movements to act on Couplings  
 Ratchet Pedal to operate the Swell

2,055 pipes

**Conjectured Bennett Organ Company Specification (1910)**

**GREAT, 61 notes**  
 16 Double Diapason  
 8 Open Diapason  
 8 Gamba  
 8 Melodia  
 4 Octave  
 4 Flute  
 2 2/3 Twelfth  
 2 Fifteenth  
 Mixture III

**SWELL, 61 notes**  
 16 Bourdon  
 8 Open Diapason  
 8 Stopped Diapason  
 8 Salicional  
 8 Vox Celeste  
 4 Violina  
 4 Harmonic Flute  
 2 Flautino  
 8 Trumpet  
 8 Oboe  
 8 Vox Humana (prep.)

**CHOIR, 61 notes**  
 8 Geigen Principal  
 8 Concert Flute  
 8 Dulciana  
 8 Unda Maris (prep.)  
 4 Flute  
 2 Piccolo  
 8 Clarinet

**PEDAL, 30 notes**  
 16 Open Diapason  
 16 Violone  
 16 Bourdon  
 16 Lieblich Bourdon (Sw.)  
 8 Bourdon  
 8 Violoncello

**Specification, January 1958**

**GREAT ORGAN, 61 notes**  
 16 Double Diapason  
 8 Open Diapason  
 8 Bell Gamba  
 8 Melodia  
 Octave  
 4 Flute  
 2 2/3 Twelfth  
 2 Fifteenth  
 Mixture III

**SWELL ORGAN, 61 notes**  
 16 Bourdon  
 8 Stopped Diapason  
 8 Salicional  
 8 Vox Celeste  
 4 Principal  
 4 Violina  
 2 2/3 Nazard  
 2 Flautino  
 8 Trumpet  
 4 Oboe

**CHOIR ORGAN, 61 notes**  
 8 Geigen Principal  
 8 Concert Flute  
 8 Dulciana  
 4 Chimney Flute  
 2 Piccolo (sic)  
 8 Clarinet  
 Tremelo

**PEDAL ORGAN, 32 notes**  
 16 Open Diapason  
 16 Contre Basse  
 16 Bourdon  
 16 Gedackt  
 8 Octave  
 8 Violoncello  
 4 Super Octave

**Present Specification**

**GREAT ORGAN, 61 notes**  
 16 Subprincipal (marked "Double Diapason 57 scale," 1-5 sw; z to TB; sm from C)  
 8 Principal (Temple, 1986; 1-12 z, used; 13-61 sm)  
 8 Waldflote (marked "Melodia," 1-12 sw, Bennett; 13-61 ow)  
 8 Bell Gamba (1-12 zinc, 13-61 sm)  
 4 Octave (1-12 zinc, 13-61 sm, CC# inscribed "New Britain")  
 4 Rohrflote (marked "Clarabel," possibly old St. Diap.; 1-12 sw, 13-61 cm chimneys w/ solid caps)  
 2 Super Octave (marked "Choir Pr," cm)  
 1 1/3 Mixture III (Temple 1986, sm)  
 8 Festival Trumpet (Reuter, 1996)

**SWELL ORGAN, 61 notes**  
 16 Bourdon (sw)  
 8 Holzgedeckt (Stopped Diapason, sw)  
 8 Salicional (1-12 z, 1-8 capped; 13-61 sm)  
 8 Vox Celeste TC (cm)  
 4 Principal (old 8 Open Diapason, repitched; cm, marked "245")  
 4 Harmonic Flute (1-22 cm, marked "Gt. 12ftH"; marked "Harm. Flute" from C, sm)  
 2 2/3 Nazard (marked Reuter Principal op. 382, 1-26 cm with z tops, cm from C)  
 2 Flautino (marked "Flautino," however, original stoplist says "Super Octave," cm)  
 16 Fagotto (12 note ext., Temple 1986)  
 8 Trumpet (Durst)  
 4 Hautbois (Durst)

**CHOIR ORGAN**  
 8 Geigen Principal (1-12 z, 13-61 90% tin)  
 8 Rohrgedeckt (1-12 sw, 13-61 cm chimneys with solid caps)  
 8 Dolce (marked "Dulciana," 1-12 z, 13-61 sm)  
 8 Dolce Celeste (Temple, 1986, used pipes)  
 4 Traverse Flute (marked "Flauto Traverso," 1-48ow, 49-61 cm, harmonic from C)  
 2 Piccolo (marked "Gt. 15th," cm)  
 8 Clarinet (original from TC)  
 8 Festival Trumpet (Gt)

**PEDAL ORGAN**  
 16 Principal (from Great)  
 16 Subbass (Bourdon) sw  
 16 Violone (Bennett) ow  
 10 2/3 Quint (from Subbass)  
 8 Octave (marked "Gt Pr," 1-12 z, 13-44 sm)  
 8 Bourdon (from Subbass)  
 8 Violoncello (1-12 z, tin feet to TF#, 19-30 tin)  
 4 Super Octave (extension of 8)  
 16 Fagotto (extension of Swell Trumpet, Temple 1986)  
 8 Trumpet (Swell)

*20 19 of 30 ranks original*