

Let us rejoice!

*Announcing the gift for the
Dorothy Virginia Garman Blankenship Laurie
Memorial Organ*

An anonymous donor from Richmond has bestowed a gift of \$100,000 upon St. Andrew's. While attending the funeral for their beloved friend, "Ginny" Laurie, the donor recognized the great musical potential for our historic space. This gift is designated for a specific state-of-the-art organ which will greatly enhance not only our liturgies but our concert programs as well. (For details see the opposite side of this page).

To make this possible, the family of Mrs. Laurie has pledged an additional \$10,000 to which the parish must add a further \$150,000. This is comparable to what the parish could expect to pay over the next ten years to keep our current organ in operation due to its deterioration. Very little remains of the original instrument installed over a century ago.

The parish Pastoral and Finance Councils have unanimously approved this project and informational meetings will be held in early 2010, with completion of this custom-built organ anticipated by next Autumn.

In the meantime, contributions are currently being accepted from any persons in the parish or wider community who would like to make this dream possible. Simply make checks payable to St. Andrew's with a designation for the organ project. Our profound gratitude goes to the donors whose bequest in memory of a beloved parishioner has made it possible for us to be assured of the gift of outstanding music for generations to come.

The Dorothy Virginia Garman Blankenship Laurie Memorial Organ

The Problem

Our current organ is in a dire state. There are two basic problems with it: maintainability and suitability.

An independent expert consultant has confirmed that it will require significant and costly repairs in the near future.

Also, although the current organ may have been adequate when it was first installed, it is no longer the most appropriate instrument for our church sanctuary in its current state.

An anonymous donor who was a friend of a late parishioner has pledged \$100,000 to be used towards the purchase of a new organ for our church. In light of a tremendous opportunity for our Parish, our Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils have approved this project.

Our Options

The primary donor has stipulated that their donation go towards a new, specific organ built by the Allen Organ Company, of Macungie, PA.

To verify that this would be the best solution, we retained an independent expert consultant, who outlined the following options for our situation.

1. Repair or upgrade the current instrument.

Over the last 10 years the parish has spent almost \$30,000 on repairs, and these costs are accelerating.

The consultant has estimated essential repairs in the range of \$120,000 to \$175,000 over the next few years.

2. Replace the current organ with a new pipe organ.

Cost estimates for new pipe organ are over \$1 million and require significant architectural changes to our sanctuary.

3. Replace the current organ with a new all-digital instrument.

This option was strongly endorsed by the consultant.

The New Instrument

State of the art digital organ technology now provides the possibility for a full pipe organ sound completely appropriate for our worship space, without any architectural compromise, and at a fraction of the cost of a full pipe organ.

It will be appropriately designed for our worship space, with no need for architectural modifications within our magnificent sanctuary.

It will also eliminate the routine maintenance and tuning costs for the current instrument.

Total Cost

The total cost to the parish above the denotations pledged to date will be approximately \$150,000, funded by further donations and parish funds.

Schedule

The new organ will be installed and ready for use by late Fall 2010.

More Information

Additional information about this project will soon be available at the parish web site, www.standrewsroanoke.org.