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ST. LOUIS - Last Sunday was a particularly important one for **Trinity** Episcopal Church, a little stone edifice in the Central West End where the pews were filled for the 10:30 Eucharist.

Two small boys were baptized. It was **Trinity** Sunday, the parish feast day. And it was the debut of **Trinity's** brand-new pipe organ ...' a major investment of time, talent and treasure.

Pipe organs are important in traditional Anglican church music, but they are expensive. **Trinity** is a small parish, with a diverse congregation that consists of 243 members. Their new instrument cost close to \$250,000, and the journey took six years.

For **Trinity**, it was worth the wait. Music has a role in helping people to reach the divine, and that may be as important as the food ministry **Trinity** has offered the poor for more than 30 years. Electronic organs are cheaper, but the sound of a pipe organ is special, visceral - you feel it as well as hear it, and the pipe organ's life span is indefinite.

The church had a thoroughly undistinguished instrument "held together with bubble gum, baling wire and Band-Aids," in the words of one parishioner. It was so hard to play that the organist, Jeffrey Nall got a sore wrist from the effort; other organists refused. That was a hardship for what Nall terms "a singing congregation."

Buying a new organ wasn't simple. "We went through stages," said the rector, the Rev. Anne H. Kelsey. They considered repairing the old organ, but it wasn't worth fixing.

When a parishioner left a bequest of \$100,000, the real work began. Kate Haggans, a music professor at University of Missouri-St. Louis, chaired the committee. "We did an extensive listening tour," she said, and garnered the wisdom of Pat Partridge, canon precentor at Christ Church Cathedral.

They had to decide what they wanted, what they needed and what they could afford. Three builders then presented a complex plan.

They chose **Quimby** Pipe Organs of Warrensburg, Mo. **Quimby** has a solid reputation. It built the new organ for the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. "And Michael **Quimby** was the only one who asked me what I thought," Kelsey added.

**Trinity's** new organ is a relatively small instrument. It has 24 sets, or ranks, of pipes and well over 1,000 pipes, each pipe playing a different note. **Quimby's** organs average between 40 and 57 ranks. For its size, said **Quimby**, this one is "highly versatile and very colorful. It's exceeded my expectations."

The church had to wait more than a year to get its new instrument. It has to be made, pipe by pipe, and that takes time.

Meanwhile, fundraising proceeded, with a total of 84 pledges, including \$10 from an 8-year-old boy, "It really was a community undertaking," parish treasurer Barbara Uhlemann said, adding that almost everyone gave. "In this difficult fundraising time, we have enough money to pay for it," she said. "That is a blessing."

The old organ was hauled out in January, and the parish made do with a piano for the next six months. Two pews were removed in the back of the nave to make space for the organ cases, and other preparations made. On May 20, organ builders Brad McGuffey and Joseph Nielsen of **Quimby** began the installation, pipe by pipe.

They worked from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., six days a week, to meet Sunday's deadline. They finished tuning at 6 p.m. Saturday.

"It plays the church very well," said Nielsen. Added McGuffey, "Instruments wake up differently. This one, so far, is waking up beautifully." Nall just calls it a dream come true.

On **Trinity** Sunday, every head turned as Nall played the first notes on the new organ, which looked as though it had always been there, tall wooden cases of gleaming pipes framing a handsome stained glass window. The voluntary, on a familiar hymn tune, built from a quiet start and explored all the organ's myriad tones and colors. It sounded wonderful.

"Music feeds our souls as bread and wine feed our bodies, and through the gift of music here at **Trinity** we'll feed the souls of St. Louis," said Kelsey in her sermon. "The organ reminds us that visions can become realities and that a small group of people working together can make dreams come true."

Let every instrument be tuned for praise; Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to sing always "Alleluia!" - From "When in

Our Music God Is Glorified," Hymn 420 in The Hymnal, 1982; words by F. Pratt Green, music by C.V. Stanford; sung Sunday at **Trinity** Episcopal Church.