



## **BROOKSIDE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC**

### **ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT 2012**

The Brookside Congregational Church at 2013 Elm Street in Manchester, New Hampshire is the home of two Austin pipe organs located in the chapel and Sanctuary. The Sanctuary organ was donated by the late Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Carpenter Manning (1882- 1965) of Manchester and was custom built by the Austin Organ Company in 1933 for the Franklin Street Church. It was moved to its present location without any significant changes in 1959 when the church moved to the Elm Street property also donated by Mary Manning.

A pipe organ produces sound by driving pressurized air (called *wind*) through pipes selected via keyboards (called manuals). Because each organ pipe produces a single pitch, the pipes are provided in sets (called ranks), each of which has a common timbre and volume throughout the keyboard compass. Most organs have multiple ranks of pipes of differing timbre, pitch and loudness that the player can employ singly or in combination through the use of controls (called stops). In the early 90's the median sized organ was about 20 ranks. Our Sanctuary organ has approximately 50 ranks--a large organ by today's standards. It is unique because it has more 8' pipes than most organs built in the same period, and therefore provides a much greater range and richness of sound and powerful volume.

This organ has been tuned and regularly maintained, and is in beautiful condition with an estimated replacement cost of \$1.5 to \$2 million dollars. The small leather components in a pipe organ have an average life span of 50 years, but due to the superior air quality in Manchester, the Sanctuary organ components have lasted almost 80 years. The final phase of restoration will replace these leather components in the choir division, the vox humana, and the Exposed Great division at an estimated cost of \$30,000 which is being raised through private donations and numerous fund-raising activities.

Upon completion of this project, Brookside will celebrate this milestone with a wide offering of organ and choral concerts which are always open to the public. Private walk-throughs of the internal components of this great instrument are available by appointment with Kimberly Vars Whitehead, Organist and Music Director.