

# The Connection Point

August 2023 - Vol. 1, No. 8



## High School Youth Mission Trip

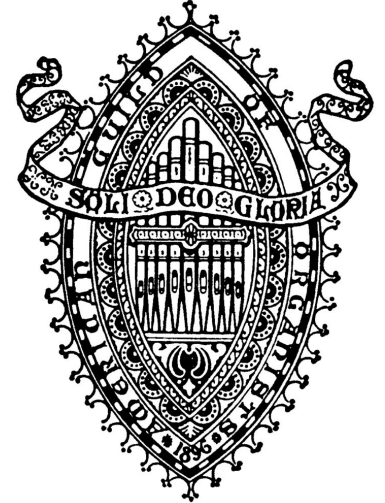
by Ginger Dennie



On the high school mission trip to Alamosa, the focus of the trip was community farming. We worked with multiple organizations that gave away their land to the community in need of food. We helped weed and harvest many crops that will go to feed the community of Alamosa. In addition to helping with those community crops, we helped with free childcare that's given to the community, so the parents can go into work everyday. Many of the kids we worked with, came from some kind of domestic abuse situation, so making those bonds with these kids was a really touching moment for our youth involved. Seeing all of our work through the week, and seeing how all the groups came together to give back to this community, will have an everlasting impact on all of those involved.

*(more pictures on page 7)*

## What's Inside:



### Why do we use the organ?

by Scott Scheetz

Page 4

### Children's Ministry Team Spotlight

by Betsy Modrzejewski

Page 8

## Upcoming Events:

### Wednesday Night

#### Potluck Dinner

August 9, 2023

### Back To School Sunday

August 13, 2023

### Sunday Morning

#### Ministry Fair

August 20, 2023

### Wednesday Night Kickoff

August 23, 2023

## A Note from Pastor Bill

What a blessing it is to celebrate the opening of our children's ministry wing! It has been a long seven months since pipes burst, flooding occurred, and demolition / reconstruction began. From the very start, we were committed to doing everything we could to make sure our children had a safe, vibrant, and engaging space where they can be inspired and learn of the amazing love of God. Our commitment to making disciples of Jesus Christ begins here, with our youngest and most vulnerable church family members. In the rebuilding of our children's wing, our first and foremost duty was to our children. This affected decisions in regards to reconstruction such as flooring, insulation, fixtures, and even the mural. Here are some interesting tidbits about our new mural.

1. The new mural continues the theme of Noah's Ark with the branding of our children's ministry as Ark Kids. We took this a profound step forward in providing a mural that visually vibrant and tells the story of Noah's Ark from beginning inspiration, construction of the ark, animals arriving in pairs, the great flood, and the ark resting on the mountain with the dove of peace bringing the olive branch to Noah with a beautiful rainbow overhead.
2. Here's an interesting tidbit about the rainbow. The rainbow has long been a teaching tool within the Christian church. Theologically, the Christian rainbow contains 7 colors that represent 7 ways we experience and interact with God. Here is a breakdown of what these 7 primary colors of the Christian rainbow mean:

- **RED** - stands for the redemption and sacrifice of Jesus Christ signifying the blood of Christ that was shed for each of us. Red reminds us of God the Son - Redeemer.
- **ORANGE** - represents the passion of God that represents itself as a flame - God the Holy Spirit - Sustainer.

- **YELLOW** - represents the sun and symbolizes God as the source of all life. God the Father - Creator.
- **GREEN** - symbolizes God's creative force in creation (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and bountiful blessings as green is often the color found in creation - grass, plants, crops, vegetation. Green symbolizes the growth of God's grace in our lives.
- **BLUE** - symbolizes God's domain over all creation, much the same way that the blue sky covers all. God's love and grace surrounds us and always wraps around us.
- **INDIGO** - symbolizes God's protection and is often experienced through God's wisdom, justice, and healing grace.
- **VIOLET** - (or purple) is considered the color of royalty and reminds us of God's kingship.



3. You will notice that we also use these primary colors in our worship spaces, especially in our liturgical paraments - Red (Pentecost), Green (Ordinary Time), and Blue/Purple/Indigo (Advent and Lent).

4. It is interesting how the artist painted the inside of the children's wing doors to match the mural at the entrance to our children's wing. Most of the time, these doors will remain open and would obstruct the mural as the last one did. The artist painted the inside of these doors so that when open, they will blend into the mural on the wall and will continue to welcome and invite children to experience the love of God within this space.
5. Some may ask, why not repair the previous mural? Much of it was destroyed when sheetrock was removed from the walls and mold eradicated. The company who created the previous mural was not willing to take on new clients at this time. When we searched for a muralist, so many local artists simply would not commit to painting all of these walls and only wanted to complete a small portion of a wall. The job was simply too big for them to commit to. Luckily, we found a very talented local artist who has worked with churches, hospitals, and restaurants to create murals. Our thanks go to Chris Joseph Gonzalez of C.Joseph Art, who took on this enormous project and did such a marvelous job! Check out his artwork at [cjosephart.com](http://cjosephart.com).

My favorite part of the children's wing has to be the painting of the mural that depicts the flood. What resonates so powerfully is how chaos and peace coexist. The ark is being tossed by the waves while the sea creatures - orca, sea turtle, and others are safe. Reminds me of a story when the disciples were overcome with fear as the waves were tossing their boat around. Jesus stood and commanded the chaos to become peace by saying, "Peace Be Still!" It reminds

me that while chaos may be raging, there is always peace to be felt, even if it is lurking just under the surface.



Take some time to visit our new children's wing and enjoy the Biblical story as it is told through illustrative story-telling for our children. See if you can find the hive of bees painted in the mural and follow that trail to the lone bee as it visits other animals in the Ark. See if you can find the oyster with the pearl. The mural has a really cute elephant, bear, and pigs. See if you can find the bats and even the snake.

I am filled with joy that we were able to rebuild and provide a space for our children that vibrantly inspires, teaches, and connects with their age level. Feel free to stop by and explore! Let's celebrate a new era of children's ministry and the amazing possibilities that invite us closer to God. Come and see!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Bill



# Music Ministry

## Why do we use the organ?

by Scott Scheetz

In Christian worship, we find many different types of music and instruments. Most western churches with traditional liturgical services have a long-standing history of using pipe organs. The pipe organ is often referred to as the king of instruments and the instrument leads and supports worship and liturgy in ways that no other musical instrument can.



*Musicians with horns and a water organ, detail from the Zliten mosaic, 2nd century CE*

The pipe organ finds its origins in Ancient Greece in the 3rd century B.C. The instrument known as the hydraulis used the weight of water to pump the bellows to provide wind for the pipes. By the 7th century, pipe organs were starting to become common in the Byzantine empire, particularly in monasteries and in some churches. Pope Gregory (540-604) was an early supporter of the organ and wrote highly of the organ and its use in worship. These organs were typically used for festivals and high feast days. A pipe organ with "great leaden pipes" was sent to the West by the Byzantine emperor Constantine V as a gift to Pepin the Short, King of the Franks, in 757. Pepin's son Charlemagne requested a similar organ for his chapel

in Aachen in 812, and established the use of the pipe organ in Western European church music.



*4th century AD "Mosaic of the Female Musicians" from a Byzantine villa in Maryamin, Syria*

Within two hundred years, the organ became common across Europe, and the first English organs were built in the 10th century. The early organ was used for acclamations and the sanctus in worship service, a loud and joyous part of the liturgy, a perfect time to use the instrument! The use of the organ beautifully follows the command in David's psalm, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing" (Psalm 100).

By the 13th century, many large churches featured multiple organs both in the front and the back of the church. Some had as many as 3 or 4 pipe organs throughout the church: the church at Guadalupe is said to have had eight organs and the cathedral at Seville no less than fourteen pipe organs! Sometimes the organs were used in alternation with one another or with voices, allowing for song and music to join in from all parts of the cathedral. In some cases, multiple new organs were built in other locations inside the church so worship services could continue while the building was being repaired or renovated. Many of

these instruments featured very ornate casework, and like the buildings, they increased in size and grandeur to represent the majesty and glory of God. As time passed, pipe organ design and scale grew larger and larger and by the 15th century, the pipe organ was getting substantially closer to the instrument we know today and its use in church worship was firmly cemented in place. I love this beautiful painting from *The Book of Hours* in 1525 where we can clearly see the pipe organ in the balcony. Its inclusion shows the significant role of organs in Christian Worship.



*'The Mass' from Book of Hours, c. 1525*

So why do we still use the organ today? What benefits does it have over other instruments, particularly the piano? First is the organ's ability to greatly change both volume and color in a way that would otherwise require multiple instruments. In 1873, Rev. H. W. Beecher gave a lecture on music in churches, and described how the sound of an organ is like that of an orchestra but only requires one person instead of 50.

The organ's versatility in volume and color allows for flexibility in accompanying choral singing, congregational singing, and soloists, as well as solo repertoire for service music. The organ's role is to encourage and support choral and congregational song as well as aid in the musical expression of the words. This is what is known as text painting. The organ allows for creative registration options (selection of sounds or colors) which can help paint and demonstrate the text of hymns during the liturgy. Careful thought and consideration of the text results in colors from the organ that support the hymns and add variety of sound on different verses. One example is a dark, thicker, and lower timbre for text about suffering and pain, and a lighter sound for texts on peace or love. Another example is higher pitched and brighter sounds when the text talks about heaven or the skies above. The second verse of the hymn "This is My Father's World" has the text: *The birds their carols raise*. On this verse, I typically reinforce that with a solo flute sound that mimics the sound of a bird. This ability to change color sounds allows the organist to aid congregational song by reinforcing the melody with a completely different sound, such as a solo tuba, trumpet, or flute. A piano cannot change the color or timbre to represent different texts, nor can the piano create multiple different colors and sounds at the same time. It can only change volume and produce one sound, whereas the organ can change color and volume.

Second, the organ is a superior instrument for accompanying singing and teaching songs than the piano because of the way in which the sound is produced. A piano is a percussion instrument as it uses hammers flung at strings to produce pitches. This results in each note played having a sharp attack. We try to encourage and produce a smooth legato and sustained sound when singing hymns, anthems and solos. With its sharp attack and percussive nature, the piano works against us and results in non-sustained singing with poor breath support. Melodies that are supposed to be legato become detached. On the other hand, the organ produces its sound by blowing air

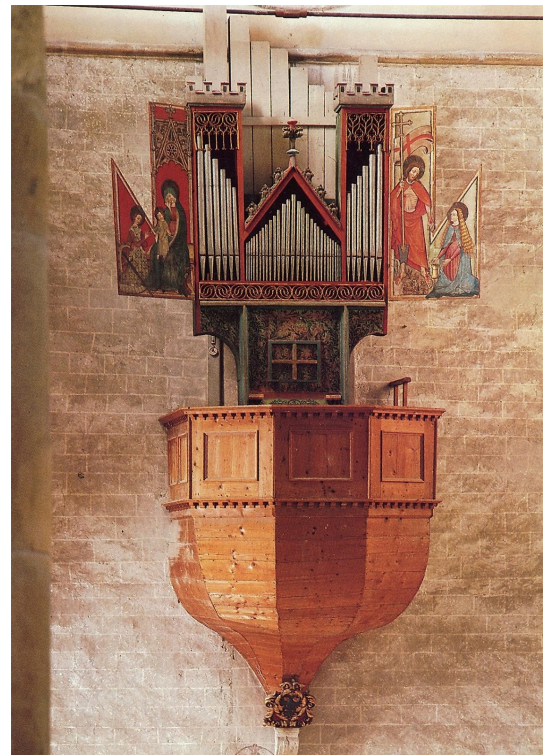


through a pipe. This process eliminates the percussive attack of each note found on the piano, and relates to singing as both utilize moving air to produce sound. In his book, *The King of Instruments*, Peter Williams relates that the organ's ability to produce a sustained sound makes it superior to other instruments to accompany singing. The organ's similarity to human breath must have surely played a role in its adoption for church music. In fact, one of the oldest organ stops (or sounds) is the *vox humana*, which translates as human voice, and was an early attempt at recreating the human voice. The organ's sustained sound can reinforce good breath support and legato singing. People sing what they hear: if they hear a sustained and legato sound from the organ, there is a greater potential for people to sing well.

Third, the organ is a prime choice due to its theological implications. Williams remarks at the end of his book, "For [the organ's] spiritual role, an advantage was that the player does not himself produce the sound but is merely an agent through whom the pipes speak--a servant not a performer." This of course parallels the idea that God speaks through His people. Good works come from God, and people are merely the vessel through which God acts. In addition, the concept of the wind of an organ representing the breath of God can be seen in early drawings which depict the organ as the most sacred of instruments. While these theological implications might be hidden behind the liturgy, the idea of me as a music minister and organist being a servant of God is something I take very seriously. Before each service, I always pray that what I say, do, sing, and play during a worship service would give God glory as well as enable congregational worship and song, enrich the worship service, and help deepen people's relationship with God.

The organ also brings a long history of written music, and a rich tradition of improvisation to the liturgy. From J.S. Bach's *Orgelbüchlein* of choral preludes, to Marcel Dupre's 79 chorales and many other compositions, one can find sacred music suited for scriptures, hymns, and particular days of the church calendar. This enables the music, the scripture, and the

sermon to form a seamless liturgy in which all of the elements are connected, enriching the worship experience. In addition to existing written music, the French tradition of service music is heavily focused on improvisation based on hymns and chant as a means to connect the liturgy into a seamless unit. The organ suits this task extremely well due to its wide range of color and timbre all at the fingertips of one person. The organist is able to become the composer, conductor, and the orchestra, allowing them to adapt to the needs of the service, congregation, and the atmosphere present in the room.



*The world's oldest playable pipe organ built in 1435*

Finally, the organ brings a sense of grandeur to the service which no other instrument can provide. Its sheer size both in regards to physical footprint and sound set the tone of the service. When we enter many churches, the first thing we see or hear is the organ. Organs are built as a symbol and testament of God's power and glory and through their massive size and sound, praise and glorify God in a way that no other instrument can.

Soli Deo gloria



# Youth Ministry





# Children's Ministry

by Betsy Modrzejewski



## Formation of NEW Children's Ministry Team

2023-2024 Children's Ministry programming at Fellowship will kick off soon and we are assembling a strong and passionate children's ministry team. No matter what your background and interests are, **we need YOU!** Look over the following roles and pray about where you would like to serve.

1. **Sunday School Teacher: Our most urgent need this fall. Curriculum is provided. Preschool-Grade 5 availability.**
2. Hospitality: Welcome new families, mail follow-up cards, coordinate Sunday School Teacher appreciation events, create new baby welcome baskets.
3. Recruiting: Spread the word about Ark Kids programming. Find opportunities for families in our community to learn about our programming
4. Music: Do you sing or play an instrument? We would love for you to help us lead worship time during Children's Chat.
5. Children's Chat Leader: Are you a natural storyteller? Curriculum is provided.
6. Missions/Service: Brainstorm and plan local mission projects.
7. Wed Night Children's Class Teacher: Work with me on designing and facilitating an impactful midweek experience for Ark Kids.
8. Special Events: Plan special events like the Fall Festival, Easter Eggstravaganza and social gatherings for kids.
9. VBS Team: Be a part of planning the best VBS ever for Summer 2024
10. Parent Education and Connection Team: Plan educational offerings and speakers for parent events. Organize connection events for parents.
11. What else? Do you have an idea that you would love to see grow at Fellowship? Let's dream big together! I would love to take you out to coffee to discuss.

God is at work in the lives of our children *AND* the lives of the newly formed Children's Ministry Team. I would love for you to be on this team in whatever way you are able. Email me at [betsy@fumctc.com](mailto:betsy@fumctc.com) and let me know where you would like to serve!

**Mark your calendars for August 6, 2023 at 5pm for our first Children's Ministry Team Dinner.**



**Children's Ministry Team Spotlight: Amy Marxer**



Every Sunday morning, the youngest members of the Fellowship family are cared for by nursery team lead Amy Marxer. Amy always greets little ones with a warm smile and is a gentle and consistent presence each week. She also is a valued 2 year old teacher at Fellowship Friends Preschool. I sat down with Amy to find out a bit more about her and her service to Fellowship babies and toddlers every week.

**How long have you served at Fellowship?**

I have worked in the nursery at Fellowship for 6 years. I have been with Fellowship Friends Preschool for 23 years.

**Why do you enjoy working with children?**

I have always loved little children and babies. It brings me great joy to hold and rock the babies, I will never get enough of that. I love being with the toddlers and watching them learn and grow.

**When you aren't serving at Fellowship, where do you like to spend your time?**

When I am not at church or preschool, I enjoy spending time with my children. They are all grown and have moved away from home, so time with them is very special. My husband and I enjoy spending time with friends, going to Broadway plays and the Symphony.

**What is a fun fact about you?**

A fun fact about me is I go to a bungee exercise class 4 or 5 times a week.

We are so thankful for Amy and love all she contributes to our Children's Ministry program at Fellowship!

## A Note from Pastor Bob

This month I want to discuss the second element of our toolkit concerning tools for Biblical Study. This item is your Bible. I have over twenty Bibles... I use many of them but certainly not all of them while preparing to preach or teach. Needless to say, you don't need that many. But you might want to have two or three for your devotional/reading purposes. And you probably already have at least one now. Open it up and see when it was printed. If the date is before @ 1991, you might want to get a new one. Most of the Bibles printed after 1991 have used the latest scholarship to use in translation of the book you have.

I have recently noted that I am a Bible nerd...so I think there may be some rabbit holes for you to explore, if you want to do so, in this column/article. I will try to be succinct, but this is mainly for you to determine if your Bible is adequate for our modern needs.

The date of the early 90's is important because by that time, publishers of Bibles could use the latest information from scholars who had been studying the scrolls for some time. The various academic procedures used ascertained that the scrolls were accurate in how our received scriptures had come to us, and where there were some new understandings of the texts.

Our scriptures come to us modified by a number of influences (not the least of which is doctrine and dogma). If you would like to read about our translators' use of various tools and codices to provide us with our Bibles, I refer you to where I learned the most about the process... an excellent resource is *Gospel Parallels* edited by Burton H. Throckmorton, Jr. I have used it for a long time (the latest edition is the Fifth) ...but I learned in an earlier edition about translations...both the materials and the processes. This information is in the first 20 pages or so of the book, before the part you will normally use in Bible



study. This book is of great value, and it would be an excellent addition to your library.

If you think about how the scripture comes to us, you will realize that if we are reading it in English, we are reading somewhere around the eighth level of translations of the source material. Even if you read in Greek, it is seldom the original level of the received literature. When I started teaching Disciple Bible Study in 1991 there were just a few versions of the Bible to choose from. Now there are hundreds or maybe a thousand different Bibles out there.

I cannot tell you what version you might like best. When I am teaching a Disciple class, I ask people to get a version of the Bible that is a translation to use to discuss the scriptures in class. Many people enjoy/prefer versions like *The Message* which is a beautiful and very rewarding version to read, but it is a paraphrase which is wonderful for our personal use but adds another layer of information we have to sort through to study the Bible in a class. Thus, I have a copy of the *Message*, but use it mainly in times of personal devotionals, not when using the Bible for scholarly consideration of it in a class or for a sermon. And you may decide to do the same... one for study and another for seeking the Holy Other more intimately.

Another factor in choosing a Bible is the supporting information in it. I love my *New Interpreter's Study Bible* because its footnotes and maps are informative and enlightening. Although my version is 20 years old, it has been revised anew, with terms and definitions updated for our times within the last year or so.



The type of translation you might like is also colored by two other considerations. The seminary terms for these approaches are “formal” and “dynamic” equivalences. You can probably best relate to this issue if you studied a foreign language in high school or college. Your teacher probably wanted you to translate passages of literature in those classes. He or she would tell you what they expected from your class work. Some teachers would want you to translate quite literally “the brown cow leapt over moon” or your teacher might have wanted you to catch the meaning of the material and express it in a different way...so it might be translated in that manner as “the moon attracted the brown cow and caused it to leap for joy”. Both translations catch the drift, but they are expressed very differently. The first is more formal, the second is dynamic. And guess what, that happens in our Bibles. The translators have certain ways of doing

their work and our received scriptures are thus affected. Sometimes it doesn’t matter, but people have died over the centuries, due to scriptural interpretations and/or their expressions of it through deeply felt positions based on what has been received.

So, buy a Bible you enjoy reading...one that informs you and helps you meet the Holy Other on your spiritual journey. This is not an easy subject, but as always, you can call or email me with any questions you might have.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Bob  
214-533-4080 | bob@fumctc.com

---

## Missions Opportunities



Please contact Karen, our office administrator ([karen@fumctc.com](mailto:karen@fumctc.com) | 817.430.1500) for information or ways to connect and serve!

### **Snack Sack Donations**

Food donations for children at Lakeview and Medlin schools. Please contact Ginger Dennie for more info at [ginger@fumctc.com](mailto:ginger@fumctc.com)

### **Desserts for the Roanoke Senior Center**

FUMC has partnered with the Roanoke Senior Center and provides desserts the 2nd Wednesday of each month. If you would like to partake, please donate desserts to the Roanoke Senior Center by 10:45 am on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

### **Roanoke Food Pantry Donations**

This partnership helps those in need right here in our own community. Please see the back page for this month’s needs.

### **Pop Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House**

The pop tabs go to help fund the Ronald McDonald House in Dallas. This 13 bedroom house provides housing for traveling families who have a sick child being treated at a nearby hospital. Pop tabs are being collected on the Missions Bookcase in the narthex.



How you can help serve our community needs!  
Purchase any of the items below:

**Canned Fruit**

**Ketchup,  
Mustard,  
& Mayo**

**Cake Mix  
Cookie Mix**

Bring them to church and place them in the  
labeled bins in the narthex.

Our youth will deliver the donations to the  
Roanoke Food Pantry.

Thank you for your generosity!

**Recurring Weekly Events:**

**Sunday**

- 9:00 am Modern Worship
- 10:00 am Sunday School Hour
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship
- 4:00-6:00 pm Middle School Youth Group
- 6:00-8:00 pm High School Youth Group

**Monday**

- 10:00 am Creative Christian Women

**Tuesday**

- 6:45 am Men's Bible Study (at Dove Creek Cafe)
- 8:30 am Men's Bible Study (at Dove Creek Cafe)

**Wednesday (August -May)**

- 5:00-6:30 pm Wednesday Night Dinner
- 5:30-6:15 pm Children's Bible Study
- 6:00-7:00 pm Adult Bible Study
- 6:15-7:00 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 6:15-7:00 pm Children's Drama Team
- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal