utilizing computer controlled multiplexing. This is an electronic digital based system with no moving parts built by Artisan Classic of Toronto, Canada. Not only is this the most comprehensive system on the world market, it is among the most affordable. The four original, three hundred wire cables that connected the console to the organ chamber, have been replaced with a single six wire cable the size of a lead pencil. This system provides the organist with unlimited control of stop registration. The sequencer feature enables the organist to record that which is being played on to a 3 1/2 " floppy disk. The organ will then play itself, much the same as a player piano does. The completion of this work has brought the 1957 Aeolian-Skinner organ up to the standards of today's organ building industry. The cost of this work, though underwritten by the church, has been generously contributed to by personal donations of church members and friends. A sincere *"ThankYou"* to all whose who have shown an interest in this project.

Philip Welker -
October, 1996

A History of the Organs of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

410 North Main Street
Jamestown, New York

THE AEOLIAN-SKINNER ORGAN
ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK

A History

There is no record of an organ in the first St. Luke's Church building which was destroyed by fire on December 21, 1862. The second Church building was consecrated on May 20, 1865. In 1867 Garret House, an organ builder from Buffalo, New York, installed an organ which was used until 1888 when it was replaced by a new instrument built by the Johnson and Son Organ Company of Westfield, Massachusetts, *Opus 704.*

In 1894, a new and much larger St. Luke's Church building was erected. The Johnson organ, which was tracker action, was rebuilt by the George S. Hutchings Organ Company of Boston, Massachusetts as *Opus 351.* At that time the tracker action was converted to pneumatic action. Alexandre Guilmant, organist of Trinity Church, Paris, France and a well-known composer of church music, was the first of the many distinguished artists who have played the organ at St. Luke's.

This organ served the church faithfully for sixty years. In 1954 it became evident that rebuilding was impractical. A committee, chaired by Stanley Davis, selected the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company of Boston, Massachusetts to build a new organ.

G. Donald Harrison was president and chief tonal architect of the company. He was considered by many as the best tonal architect in the country and served as consultant during the building of the organ. Mr. Harrison died in 1956. Herbert Pratt served as continuing consultant until the organ was finished during the summer of 1957. Joseph Whiteford and Edward Gress did the final on-site voicing and tone regulating. Since organ pipes, if well-made, cannot wear out, many ranks from the Hutchings and Johnson organs were revoiced and used in the new Aeolian-Skinner.

On September 8, 1957, the new organ was blessed and dedicated as the Kate Vanderburgh Ashwell Memorial Organ and used for the first time at a regular church service. A dedicatory recital was played by Vernon de Tar on October 7, 1957.

The organ served the parish from 1957 until the summer of 1984. At that time it became evident that it would have to be re-leathered. Paul Fischer of Erie, Pennsylvania was contracted to re-leather the organ. Work began January 2, 1985 and continued until the middle of May 1985. No tonal changes were made at that time.

In 1990, a new 8' Trumpet was added to the Great manual. In 1992, a 32' Bourdon was added to the Pedal organ. This stop was given by Stanley Davis in memory of his wife Ruth Almy Davis. The sound of the bottom twelve notes of the 32' Bourdon are produced electronically.

The present instrument, while not massive, is extremely flexible. In 1957, the Aeolian-Skinner Company took advantage of the architecture and construction of the building, to produce a clarity and presence which are notable contributions to this instrument as a work of art. The concept of the creation is tied together by one precious thread - the regard for the music. The organ itself is a combination of the best elements of classic and romantic design, known as ***American Classic.*** The Great Organ is unenclosed while the Choir and Swell Organs are under expression. In design, the organ has adhered to the central objective of the production of music for the worship of God, as expressed in the Liturgy of the Episcopal Church.

In 1996, the Fischer Organ Company of Erie, Pennsylvania completed the replacement of all console and switch stack pneumatic actions, with solid state circuitry

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

410 North Main St.
Jamestown, NY
14701

George S. Hutchings
Opus 351 - 1894

Aeolian-Skinner Organ
Opus 1303 - 1957
Joseph S. Whiteford

Major re leathering and new keyboards - 1985

New 8' Trumpet added to Great in 1990

Installation of 32' Bourdon pedal stop in 1992

Installation of 32' Bombarde set for installation in Nov. 1997

Installation of Solid State circuitry from
The Artisan Classic Organ Company of Toronto
in 1996,
Installed by

Paul Fischer and Son Organ Company
of Erie PA

Pedal Organ

Clarion 4' (Sw)
Trumpet 8' (Gt)
Trumpette 8' (Sw)
Bombarde 16'
Mixture III
Super Octave 4' (Gt)
Quintade 8' (Gt)
Octave 8'
Quintade 16' (Gt)
Lieblich 8'
Montre 16'
Santbass 16'
RAD 32' (Electronic)

Swell Organ

Trumpet 8' (Gt)
Hautboie 4'
Trumpette 8'
Fagot 16'
Plein Jeu III
Italian Principal 2'
Spitz Flöte 4'
Viola Celeste 8'
Viola Pomposa 8'
Bourdon 8'
Glockenstern
Tremolo
Sw 16'
Sw Unison
Sw 4'

Great Organ
(unenclosed)

Clarion 4'
Trumpet 8'
Fourniture IV
Fifteenth 2'
Rohr FlÖte 4'
Octave 4'
HÖltz Gedackt 8'
Principal 8'
Quintaton 16'
Chimes
Tower Bells
Gt 4'

Choir Organ

Krummhorn 8'
Block FlÖte 2'
Terce 1 3/8'
Rohr Nasat 2 2/3'
Koppel FlÖte 4 '
Dolcan Celeste 8'
Dolcan 8'
Gedackt 8'
Zimbelstern
Tremolo
Choir 16'
Choir Unison
Choir 4'

Pistons

5 General Pistons and Toe Studs
Toe Stud Chimes
Toe Stud Zimbelstern
Tutti I
Tutti II
5 Pistons (Thumb) for Gt.
5 Pistons (Thumb) for Sw.
5 Pistons (Thumb) for Ch.
5 Pistons (Toe) for Pedal

Reversibles

Sw to Ped (Thumb)
Gt to Ped (Thumb and Toe)
Ch to Ped (Thumb)

Couplers

Sw to Ped
Sw to Ped 4'
Ch to Ped
Ch to Ped 4'
Gt to Ped
Gt to Ped 4'
Ped 4'
Sw to Gt 16'
Sw to Gt
Sw to Gt 4'
Ch to Gt 16'
Ch to Gt
Ch to Gt 4'

Solid State Circuitry for Midi and Digital Controls

88 Levels of Memory

R. Richard Corbin
Organist/Choirmaster
since 1976