

REACH and RENEW RECAP

Hearing Loop delivers clear sound to hearing-aid users; organ upgrade expands musical options



Left: The Hearing Loop symbol tells hearing-aid users they can plug directly into the church's PA system using the T-coil in their own hearing aids without having to pick up a separate listening device. **Right:** Members flocked around the organ after the December 1 worship service to hear Don DeBruin explain the new organ enhancements.



The Reach and Renew Campaign at First Congregational United Church of Christ of Madison is a five-year initiative (from 2011 through 2016) to renew our health, renew our hospitality, and renew our home. The latest improvements in the Sanctuary include a Hearing Loop and an upgrade to the organ.

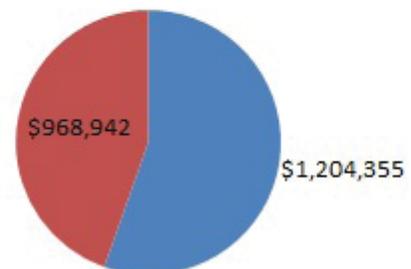
Dedicated at the October 13 worship service, the Hearing Loop allows hearing-aid users to access the church's PA system wirelessly by pushing the T-coil button on their digital hearing aid. Hearing-aid users should check with their audiologist to see if their aids can have both a T (no background noise pick-up) and an MT (blended microphone and T-coil) program for improved hearing at church.

The church's organ, installed in the 1980s, was definitely due for an overhaul. Director of Music Ministries Don DeBruin used all his skills to try to overcome deficiencies in the organ, but he was never certain what kind of sounds would result as the pistons became more and more erratic over the years. During the week of November 18, two technicians spent 3½ days in Madison upgrading the organ's combination action by installing new software and devices and adding memory.

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Pledge status as of 11-30-13 Current pledge total: \$2,173,297

■ Payments received ■ Not yet received



Preserve our past. Inspire our future.

The Reach and Renew Campaign seeks to **renew our health** by focusing on the congregation's worship, missions, and programs; to **renew our hospitality** by encouraging the use of our space by outside groups; and to **renew our home** by making upgrades in our building. The most recent project was refurbishment of the organ.



Left: Technician Vladimir works in the box behind the organ. The fiberglass “strings” next to him are the trackers that open the valves in the pipes when the keyboard is played.

Below: Surrounded by pieces of the dismantled organ, technician Dick downloads new software, **Bottom left:** The new slide-out memory board allows smooth transition between settings.



Above: The numbered black “buttons” above the organ keyboard are pistons that change the stops to a setting preset by the musician. **Below:** The toe studs above the pedal board also control the stops. The system that operates the 23 pistons and toe studs was failing and had to be replaced.



At right: Don DeBruin is happy with the refurbished organ. The new system handles the same 23 pistons and toe studs as before, but adds 32 memory levels, so the organ can now store 23 x 32 preset pistons. An extra toe stud cycles automatically to the next preset.

