Music Director / Organist Report
Submitted by: William Lowden

WHO AM I?

While I've been among you for 4+ years as organist only, this past Spring I became the Music Director as well. My professional church music life has been active since I was 12 years old. (Yes, there were organs way back then!) Through the years I have worked in many fields (churches, theaters, schools, and even piano bars) and many places (mainly NJ, PA, and NY). But that's enough about me...on to the important stuff!

WHAT IS OUR MINISTRY? Present and Future

The Old First Choir (and its talented members) has been the backbone of music here for many years and will continue to be. Moving rehearsals to mostly the hour before worship (with an occasional one after church) has made choir more convenient for members. If you have an interest in singing with us, *please* contact me (lowden76@gmail.com) or just show up on a Sunday morning at 10.

Another part of our music ministry is instruments (and the players). In the short time since I've been directing, we've heard brass, flute, violin, piano, percussion, and (of course) organ. If you are an instrumentalist (or know of one...or more who would like to share their talent with us), *please* let me know.

Of course, we are hoping to expand our programming to include more age-groups and activities. Hopefully, as our young children mature, we can give them a chance to sing (or play) of their new faith for their Old First family.

An additional needed project in music is the updating and repair of our organ. In the 54 years since its installation, very little maintenance beyond tuning has been done. There are problems that must be taken care of as soon as possible -- repair or replacement of the pedalboard, updating of the control system, re-leathering of the pipe pouches and air supply, cleaning of the pipes and pipe chambers, and moving of the console to the main floor (closer to the choir). These things are *necessary*...and they will be costly.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Join the choir.
Share your enthusiasm both inside and outside Old First.
Give (however you can) to help us grow and improve our ministry.