

**THE ALBERT O. WILSON  
MEMORIAL ORGAN**

of

**Park Street Church**

*"Praise ye the Lord . . . Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the psaltery and harp; praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs; praise Him upon the loud cymbals; praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."*

Built by

The Aeolian-Skinner Organ Co.

To Be installed between

JULY 1 and OCTOBER 30, 1960

## THE NEED

The old organ of Park Street Church failed on numerous occasions beginning about twenty years ago. Intermittently siphons occurred during services. In 1946 it was rebuilt at the cost of some thousands of dollars. In a short time the same difficulties reappeared. For ten years parts of it could not be played. The organ service men warned the church that they could do no more for it.

The final blow came when Mr. Virgil Fox presented his concert early in 1957. He discovered that he could not play many pieces because sections of the organ did not play. Mr. Douglas Rafter has exhibited great patience and ability in keeping the organ functioning at least partially for these years. A great church without an adequate organ is an anomaly.

## THE PROVISION

In June 1957, a gift of \$12,000 was made by Mrs. Lauriston Ward and Mrs. Harry Lee Jones to Park Street Church to encourage the trustees to buy a new organ. On the strength of this an order was placed with the Aeolian-Skinner Co. for a \$68,000 organ. In recognition of the faithful services of Mr. Albert O. Wilson as trustee, treasurer, and member of Park Street Church it was voted to name this instrument The Albert O. Wilson Memorial Organ. The costs of labor and materials have increased since the order was placed, so that the finished organ will cost \$72,000, exclusive of chamber renovations necessary to its installation. In addition to the original gift of \$12,000, Park Street Church has received a pledge of \$30,000 from the family of the late Albert O. Wilson and about \$3,000 from members of the church. This leaves \$27,000 to be raised before we can dedicate the organ debt free. The church urges its members and friends to participate in meeting this deficit of \$27,000 by making gifts and pledges for this cause.

## THE DESCRIPTION

It is not easy for the average listener to comprehend the scope of the operation of a modern pipe-organ. Thousands of separate pipes are caused to speak by air blown into huge reservoirs by electric rotary fan blowers. Each individual stop at the console operates a rank of pipes giving a certain tone-color, or "timbre," and numbering up to sixty-eight pipes each (or even more, in the case of certain stops). A touch of one of the combination pistons, which are located beneath each of the three manuals, and are adjustable by the organist at the console, will combine any desired ranks of pipes, as the music demands, thus giving unlimited scope to the tonal color of the music. Additional pistons and pedals which are operated by the feet control the volume of sound.

The new organ for Park Street Church is being built and installed by the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company of Boston, builders of such famous and outstanding instruments as those of the Salt Lake City Tabernacle, New York's Riverside Church, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and Columbia University, and locally, the organs of Symphony Hall, Harvard University, Methuen Memorial Music Hall, and many of the outstanding church instruments of Greater Boston.

The completed instrument will have five playing divisions: the Great, Swell, Choir and Pedal Organs will be located in the north and south chambers at the front of the sanctuary, and the Antiphonal Organ and the Antiphonal Pedal will be located above the rear gallery. The Antiphonal Organ will function as a "floating division," which means that it will be playable from any or all three of the manuals at will, by the flick of a stop-knob control. This will allow the Antiphonal Organ to be played either independently or with the main organ in any desired combination, which was impossible with the old Echo Organ.

The new console, which will have three manuals and pedals, will possess seventy-five draw-knobs, forty-eight adjustable combination pistons and pedals, twenty-nine unison and octave couplers, and eight reversibles. These controls will operate sixty speaking stops and the tonal resources of well over three thousand pipes.

In our case, the organ committee had a much more difficult task than merely recommending that the church acquire a new organ. In view of the constantly enlarging and expanding ministry of Park Street Church, it was necessary not only that the organ be able to meet all musical demands in a distinctly superior manner, but that the instrument be planned and designed most carefully to function most efficiently in four musical areas. It was felt that the new instrument not only should meet our present musical needs, but that it should be adequate for years to come with regard to these four

areas into which the music of this instrument should enter. These areas are (1) the church worship service. This is the first task of a church organ, and one that it must fulfill from week to week. It must adequately support the singing of a great congregation, and furnish suitable accompaniment for vocal and instrumental combinations, and to furnish solo organ music in the form of preludes and inspirational organ music for special services, such as the Sacraments. (2) It was desired to have an organ that would interpret faithfully the music of all periods in concert work, in which the music would be an end in itself, instead of a means to an end, as it is in the worship service. (3) Another area of importance in the ministry of Park Street Church is that of radio. The new instrument will meet all demands made upon it in broadcasting in a superb manner. (4) Closely allied with radio is the field of recording. Through the medium of tape and disc recording, the beauties of sacred music and the Christian message are made available to those far and near who otherwise would be unable to hear it "live," or at first hand. Finally, this magnificent great organ, the result of prayerful and careful planning, and containing the best of the builder's skill and art, will for many decades prove an inspiration to all who listen to its beauty in sound, and constitute a fitting and worthy medium of our offering of praise to Almighty God.

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**PARK STREET CHURCH, Boston 8, Mass.**

God helping me, I will give to the Organ Fund of Park Street Church before December 31, 1960 the following amount: \$.....

Signed .....

Address .....

Town .....