

Pipe Organ Testimonial

Dave Couch: Parishioner

My name is Dave Couch. My wife, Sue, and I have been members of Our Lady of the Lake parish since 1988. To begin with, I am a big fan of music of all types. I have always enjoyed organ music, and I grew up in a school and a church with very talented organists.

When we joined Our Lady of the Lake, Steve Jenkins was the music director. Steve was an incredibly talented musician and did an excellent job leading the music department at our Lady of the Lake. In the late 1990s, the church was renovated and expanded. At that time, Steve led the purchase of the grand piano that is used in worship today. He also had the building remodel designed to accommodate a Tracker-style organ to sit where the large window (now a stained-glass window) is, to the left of the altar. Later, Steve moved to other churches in the area.

We went through a few other Music Directors until Audrey joined the parish. Audrey is an incredibly talented music director and organist. In my opinion, she is the first director who comes close to Steve's caliber.

While the old Allen electronic was fine, I was hoping that, at some point, Our Lady of the Lake would get a real pipe organ. The whole process — from the first notification to the recital last year at Grace Episcopal Church to the assembly and operation of the organ — has been very exciting. The design by Pels & Van Leeuwen, while different from Steve's vision, fits well in the sanctuary.

As a traditionalist for music as part of worship, I am thrilled by the addition of a true pipe organ. I think it makes the music so much more meaningful. Personally, I have been curious about the design and capabilities of our model (Opus 934), so I did some research into the function and capabilities of our model.