

# Emmanuel

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BRISTOL, VIRGINIA

July 1, 2020

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

At Emmanuel, the organ is integral to worship and a critical component of our music ministry. I know you realize and appreciate that Emmanuel is fortunate to have an excellent music program under the capable leadership of our organist/choir director Stephanie Yoder. Despite Stephanie's exceptional talent as an organist and her ability to make the organ sound amazing, we have been aware for some time that significant issues of concern and reliability exist with the present organ. Many issues with the mechanical, electronics, and design elements of the organ have been identified in a detailed report from a critical assessment of the instrument completed in 2018. Some of the concerns relate to poor placement of pipes and wind chests and unreliable electronics from the 2003 organ renovation project, and other concerns trace to the original 1954 instrument. In fact, a potentially serious fire safety concern with the 1954 blower motor was recently discovered.

The Vestry, therefore, unanimously approved at its May meeting to enter into a contract with the Colby Company of Johnson City, Tennessee for the design, building and installation of a new organ. Emmanuel has enjoyed a longstanding relationship with the Colby Company which has performed maintenance and kept the present organ in good working order for more than 10 years. They were evaluated, alongside two other organ companies, by an organ task force appointed by the Vestry and unanimously recommended as the builder of choice by members of the task force. Colby has developed an exceptional reputation as an organ builder having worked on both large and small projects. They even built the massive organ that graces Cadets Chapel at the U.S. Naval Academy! We are fortunate to have such a company nearby capable of not only building but also reliably maintaining our organ.

Design of Emmanuel's new organ, that will meet standards of the American Guild of Organists and the American Institute of Organ Builders, is already complete. The appearance of the organ will not change. Visible pipes will be retained along with other useful components of the current organ; however, some pipes, a console, electronics and wind chests will all be completely new. We anticipate that installation of the organ will be complete by summer of 2021. More information about the features and design of the organ are available on Emmanuel's website [www.emmanuelbristol.org](http://www.emmanuelbristol.org).

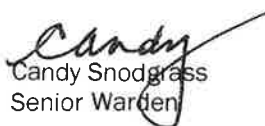
The total cost of our new Colby organ is \$312,000. We are excited to announce that we have already raised **\$161,000!** **We need your help to finish the campaign for our new Colby Organ.** Our success will depend all on gifts, no matter the size. For a suggested donation of \$500, you may sponsor a key or pedal. Perhaps in honor or memory of a loved one.

In addition to making a gift, you and your family may add to our "Pipe Dreams" by dropping currency donations (coins, etc.) into the "organ pipe" in the church hallway.

Contributions may be made as a onetime gift or as a pledge (not to exceed 12 months). We have enclosed a giving card and envelope for your convenience. No gift is too small.

We recognize that we are in uncertain times, but we believe that a new organ is a realistic, worthy and much needed undertaking for Emmanuel Episcopal Church as we approach the centennial celebration of our church building in 2021. As your Vestry, we ask, as you are able, to consider a special gift for the new organ campaign in addition to your usual financial support of Emmanuel.

On behalf of Emmanuel's Vestry,

  
Candy Snodgrass  
Senior Warden

**2020 Colby Organ Campaign**  
**"Sing to the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness"**

**Donor Recognition Levels**

**The New Console**  
\$100,000+

**Trombones & Trumpets**  
\$75,000 - \$99,999

**The Grand Cornet**  
\$50,000 - \$74,999

**The Principal Chorus**  
\$25,000 - \$49,999

**The Flutes Chorus**  
\$10,000 - \$24,999

**Pipe Strings**  
\$1,000 - \$9,999

**Key Contributors**  
\$500 - \$999 Name a key or pedal in honor/memory of someone special

**Contributors of Note**  
Up to \$500

**Pipe Dreams**

An organ "pipe" will be placed within Emmanuel to collect change. Our hope is this will be an opportunity for our children to be involved in our campaign.