

Information on the organ and piano at South Norfolk Baptist Church

South Norfolk Baptist
1101 Chesapeake Ave
Chesapeake, Virginia 23324

- Building/Room: Auditorium
- Henry Pilcher's Sons (1925, Opus 1262).
- An organ's *state* is an aspect of its existence as an historical artifact, while its *condition* is an aspect of its existence as a useful musical instrument.
 - Current state: unaltered (this installation).
 - Condition: not known or not reported.
 - Last update 2008-01-04.
- 2 manuals. 15 stops.
- EP chests. Wind supplied by Spencer turbine, located in basement.
- The organ is at the front of the room, and some pipes (Open Diapason) are exposed.
- Traditional style console with roll top. Movable console. Tilting/rocking tablets above top manual. Balanced swell shoes/pedals, standard AGO placement. Combination Action: 'Hold and Set' pneumatic/mechanical system. AGO Standard (concave radiating) pedal board. Crescendo Pedal. Combination action thumb pistons. Combination action toe studs.
- Additional notes.
 - Identified through information in Vol. VI p. 192 of the Pilcher factory ledger and a list of organs typed by William E. Pilcher of Louisville. For more information see the document referenced below. Original price: \$5650 (Elizabeth Schmitt. 2005-04-07)
 - South Norfolk was an incorporated city from 1919 until the 1940s, when it became a section of Norfolk County. In 1963, South Norfolk formed the new City of Chesapeake. (Elizabeth Schmitt. 2005-04-07)
 - Updated through on-line information from Joseph T. Hughes. -- Organ is playable, but wind chests need re-leathering, some console repair; currently not used; organist available but church uses piano. (Database Manager. 2008-01-04)
- Documents related to this organ.
 - **PILCHER ORGANS**. Unpublished monograph (The document is a PDF file and will open in a new window or tab.) Summary of Pilcher Sources by Soosie Schmitt Document Date: 2005-04-05.
- H. Pilcher & Sons is the name on the index to the first ledger for the firm in KY in
- 1874, Henry Pilcher Jr., Henry W. Pilcher, and William E. Pilcher (beginning with
- op. 138).
- The firm became Henry Pilcher's Sons after Henry Jr's death in 1891.



Console. All Photographs by Joe Hughes, member of the Organ Historical Society. 2007-12-01.



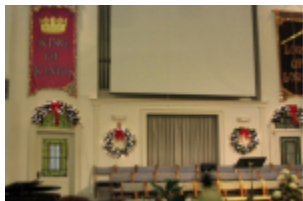
Console.



Pulpit platform, choir loft, organ facade. Archival photograph.



Builder's nameplate.



Choir loft, organ facade (movie screen in "down" position).



Choir loft, organ facade (screen in down position).



Deagan chimes keyboard.





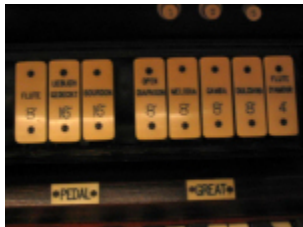
Swell stops: Oboe 8', Flute Harmonic 4', Vox Celeste 8', Aeoline 8', Salicional 8', English Diapason 8', Stopped Diapason 8'.



Toe stud, Swell, and Crescendo pedals.



Coupler tabs (Black tab = swell unison off): Great to Pedal 8', Swell to Pedal 8', Swell to Swell 16', Swell to Swell 4', Swell to Great 8', Swell to Great 16', Great to Great 16', Great to Great 4', Tremolo.



Pedal: Flute 8', Lieblich Gedeckt 16', Bourdon 16', and Great stops: Open Diapason 8', Melodia 8', Gambia 8', Dulciana 8', Flute D'Amour 4'.

The piano is a Baldwin “baby” grand, and is still in use. In 2012, the organ console was recently moved to the right side classroom; the Pastor and Worship Leader did not see fit to continue the use of hymns on a regular basis, or obtain a volunteer or paid organist. I was informed that, although a gift of \$50,000 had been made a few years earlier, to completely restore the organ, this offer was turned down. The current view by the church leadership is that the organ console was “in the way, and we wanted the space for more praise-band instruments.” This is most unfortunate, in that so many young adults and teenagers will not learn, and sing the great hymns of the faith with their scriptural basis, nor hear them played on this historic pipe organ, but, rather, continue the use of singing the so-called contemporary “7-11 hymns” (seven words, sung repetitiously, eleven times) projected on a screen, to the accompaniment of drums, guitars, and electric keyboard.

Current location of Organ console:



Console moved into side classroom in 2012