

VESTRY REQUEST REGARDING STATUS OF ST. JAMES' ORGAN

KOA STEINWAY BABY GRAND PIANO -

We are delighted to announce St. James' acceptance of a beautiful Koa Steinway Baby Grand piano (only 12 in existence), from parishioner Steve Kittell. Mahalo nui loa Steve for your extremely generous donation and your commitment to cover the expense to move the piano from your home to the church.

Everett Knowles, our Director of Music, has researched where it will be placed and we believe it will fit perfectly. What an incredible addition to our church music program! The possibilities of its use not only include our own Sunday morning worship, but opportunities for use in concerts for the wider community (i.e., Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival) as well

ST. JAMES' CHURCH ORGAN -

As you may know we have not used our pipe organ for some time. The console is old and currently quite unplayable. We could do a "band-aid" repair in the tune of approx. \$2,500.00, with good probability of this being a recurring annual expense.

A **brand-new** console would cost about \$60,000, plus shipping and installation.

That being said, our Music Director Everett Knowles, has unearthed a unique opportunity to purchase a newly **renovated** console for the installed price of \$17,500 (plus contingency). Although a great price, it's not an item in this year's budget, and Everett would be unlikely to play it often. He is a terrific musician but self-professed "not an organist." He does say, "Of course a future Music Director may well be."

The consensus in Vestry is to not purchase this new console. The Vestry is inclined to support the use of piano and music from other instruments at our services rather than the traditional church pipe organ. However, we are just eight people and mindful that there may be folk in the congregation that feel strongly about sustaining organ music at St. James' and may wish to donate towards the cause or support in some way.

Before we take a full Vestry vote, would you help us? Please take a moment to let us know what you think about organ music at St. James'. Should we invest now to ensure the possibility of the organ being used more in the future? Should we remove the console and create more space for the choir and piano? If so, should we, at some point in time, have existing pipes for organ (located in loft) removed to create an open ceiling in the church?

Many things to consider – please share your mana'o. Let us know if you feel strongly one way or another by contacting the parish office, or David our rector, or our Wardens.

With God's love,

The Vestry

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