

JANE ROTCH MEMORIAL CHAMBER ORGAN
at ST PAULS MEMORIAL CHURCH



Jane W. Rotch

1931 - 2018

Jane Whitehill Rotch joined St. Paul's in 1959. For the rest of her life, her varied contributions to the vitality of the parish were immeasurable. She served on vestries and committees, as Senior Warden, and as chair of adult formation. As she and her husband Bill raised children and eventually retired, her ministry evolved, but her commitment to our choir remained constant. Jane's alto enriched Sunday worship at St. Paul's for almost sixty years, until just a few weeks before her death. Her example of faithful devotion continues to inspire the parish.

For many decades, the Rotches spent vacations in Massachusetts at Jane's family summer home on Buzzards Bay. While enjoying such a vacation with children and grandchildren in the summer of 2018, Jane fell ill, was hospitalized in Boston, and died on September 18.

A funeral service with full choir took place at St. Paul's. Jane, a descendant of Thomas Jefferson, was buried next to Bill and their daughter Joy at Monticello. Jane's son Will Rotch and daughter Sarah Oldstone asked that gifts to St. Paul's in Jane's memory be applied to the music program.



Flentrop Chamber Organ

- Chamber organs, also known as portatives or continuos, were popular between the 10th and 18th centuries. They have just one keyboard, no pedals, and are mobile. Fitted to a custom-made base with locking wheels, the instrument is portable and could be moved into the nave for special services or concerts.
- Like our 1926 E.M. Skinner organ, this is a pipe organ; air passes through meticulously crafted wooden and metal pipes to generate the sound. The current Chapel organ is electronic; it has no pipes.



- This is a “mechanical-action” organ. Pressing the keys physically engages internal mechanisms that allow air to pass through the intended pipes. The organ requires electricity to power the blower, but not to play the notes.
- The Flentrop is ideal for supporting congregational singing in the Chapel on Wednesdays and Sundays at 5:30 pm, and for funerals and weddings. Because it does not have a pedalboard, it can be played by non-organists, including pianists and harpsichordists.
- The instrument is powerful enough for use in a larger setting, such as a temporary worship space during renovation of the nave, or in the nave itself during restoration or temporary failure of our Skinner organ.
- The Jane Rotch Organ will be unique in our area, supporting St. Paul’s emerging role as a regional center for traditional Anglican music. Its distinct Baroque style complements the Romantic style of the Skinner, expanding our potential repertoire of liturgical music.

Dear parishioners and friends,

When Jane Rotch died, her family requested that memorial gifts be designated for music. In March 2019, the Vestry decided to use funds thus received, and to solicit additional gifts, to purchase a small pipe organ to be dedicated as the Jane Rotch Memorial Chamber Organ.



Music Director Deke Polifka has identified an instrument of exquisite quality and craftsmanship, restored to mint condition, and ideally suited to our needs. It was manufactured in the 1980s by Flentrop, a Dutch firm that is widely regarded as one of the world's leading makers of mechanical-action organs.

Our new instrument will replace the utilitarian electronic organ in our Chapel, which has outlived its expected life and is now failing. A new electronic organ would be less distinguished, less versatile, and more expensive than the Flentrop, and would eventually wear out. With proper care, the Jane Rotch Organ can be maintained in perpetuity, serving St. Paul's even longer than Jane did.

Please use the enclosed card to make a donation or a commitment to donate at a later date. Giving joyful thanks for Jane's life and faith, I look forward to announcing a celebratory dedication concert with Jane's children in attendance later in 2019.

Will

The Rev. William Peyton, Rector