



About Our Piano

The Tabernacle's grand piano has a lengthy history in Battle Creek. The piano was hand-constructed in 1914 by the A.B. Chase Company for the family of cereal pioneer, C.W. Post. The beautiful mahogany veneer and solids and its post-Victorian styling were built to the family's personal specifications.

The A.B. Chase piano factory was established in 1875. All of their pianos manufactured from 1875 to 1930 were completely hand-made from the finest materials available during that era. Each piano took as long as

two years to complete. Mr. Chase and his associates developed the tri-bridge scale and incorporated it into their design, making this piano one of the greatest toned pianos of its time.



After the deaths of her parents and stepmother, Marjorie Merriweather Post, the only child of C.W. and Ella Post,

sold the piano in an estate sale to the Tabernacle. In 1986, it was restored by Reeder Pianos, Inc. of Lansing, Michigan. The restoration included a new soundboard, pin block, and strings, leaving much of the original mechanical parts intact but reworking them with new felts, replacing the hammers and placing new ivory key tops imported from Germany. The piano is considered one of the finest in the area.

About Our Organ

In 1881, Dr. J.H. Kellogg invited 21-year-old Edwin Barnes to come to Battle Creek from England to be

the organist of the Tabernacle. By 1885, he was also overseeing the music department of Battle Creek College.

On June 30, 1892, Edwin made his first appearance as organist of First Congregational Church in Battle Creek and eventually joined them in membership. In 1908, he played their new Austin pipe organ, made by Lyon and Healey, in recital. Many years later, this organ was purchased for the Tabernacle for \$3000. It was renovated and dedicated on February 17, 1962.

In 2002, it was decided to replace the console with a

Rodgers Electronic Organ of the highest quality. Since that time, the original pipes have been restored and have been



incorporated into the function of the new console. The tones you now hear as the organ plays are a mix of both the electronic and the original pipes. This major undertaking was completed in 2015.

A HISTORY OF THE PIANO AND ORGAN AT THE BATTLE CREEK SDA TABERNACLE