

## **OHS HISTORIC ORGAN CITATION IS PRESENTED AT EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS Spring Recital Heralds a Citation, April 10, 2005**

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Chicago-Midwest OHS Chapter members were enthusiastically greeted by members of Chicago's Epworth United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 10, 2005, as their venerable 1931 M. P. Möller opus 5881 shone brightly in the spotlight. Chicago-Midwest Chapter board member and Chair of the OHS Historic Organ Citation Committee, Stephen Schnurr presented a Citation to Pastor Joseph Johnson and church trustee Bruce Greene before delivering sterling performances of Rosseter G. Cole's *Song of Gratitude*, César Franck's *Choral No. 1 in E major*, and Alexandre Guilmant's *Organ Sonata No. 1 in D minor*.

This instrument has a distinguished and unique history for it is one of only a few instruments designed by the twentieth-century organ architect William H. Barnes to remain intact. Since Dr. Barnes served as organist at Epworth from 1910 until 1924, this instrument was meticulously designed to play a vast array of repertoire. The entire instrument is under expression in three chambers in the front of the church and contains numerous orchestral sounds that give the illusion of a much larger instrument. The placement and heroic scaling throughout this instrument create an enormous sound in the handsome stone church for only 23 ranks of pipes!

The careful selection of kaleidoscopic pieces (each from the dedicatory recital on February 22, 1931) and boisterous singing of the hymn "Thine is the Glory!" made this afternoon a memorable occasion and great milestone for Epworth United Methodist Church. The love and affection for this instrument and the generosity and support of from the congregation of Epworth ensures that we will hear more from the Barnes Memorial Organ.



*Above, left to right: Stephen Schnurr, Bruce Greene, and the Reverend Joseph Johnson pose with the OHS Historic Organ Citation at the console of the 1931 M. P. Möller organ in the Epworth United Methodist Church of Chicago.  
Photograph by Derek Nickels.*