

Trinity church possesses an historic American tracker organ of 19th century design, built by Bernard Mudler of Philadelphia PA. It stood in a church in Camden, NJ for almost a century until the N.J. congregation disbanded in 2000. The organ was dismantled and stored by Patrick Murphy , an organ builder , from whom it was purchased in 2002. The components were trucked to Port Townsend in July of that year. After much work repairing and restoring the organ and preparing a site for it in the sanctuary it was installed there and played for the first time on July 1, 2004.

In 2005 some of the pipes that were mismatched or in bad condition were replaced and the organ retuned with the replacement pipes. It was soon noted that the sound of the organ had considerably improved. In 2006, the organ was further improved by tuning it to modern standards, namely 440 hertz on the A note. This had the effect of allowing the organ and the new piano to play duets and also to provide suitable backup for other instruments such as violins and trumpets.

This organ is now in excellent condition and has a charming voice which will be recorded next year as part of a historic organ program by the American Guild of Organists. The organ does have its limits in that it does not possess reed pipes or ranks of mixtures, making it less than ideal for playing music of the high baroque era which corresponds to the lifetime of J.S. Bach, 1685-1750. The possibility of adding such pipes in the form of a supplementary unit was investigated but foundered on the problem of getting the timing right between the mechanical tracker organ and an electronically controlled bank of pipes. A more fundamental problem was that of the resulting dispersed sound and lack of blending that result. It was determined at that point that a better approach would be a separate instrument.