LIBERTY HILL PRESBYTERIAN, Liberty Hill SC
James Jackson, 1820

Oldest Pipe Organ in SC

MANUAL (no pedalboard)
8 Open Diapason 54
8 Dulciana 54
8 Stop Diapason treble 54
8 Stop Diapason bass
4 Octave 54
4 Flute 54
2 Fifteenth 54

Combination Foot Pedal
Hand-pumped bellows (restored)
Electric blower (1956)

The Sanctuary organ, a single manual instrument with six stops, was built in 1820 under the name of James Jackson, New York. Originally, Mr. John Chestnut gave it to Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Camden, SC soon after that church was built in 1820. The wood is solid mahogany and was pumped by hand; the brass plate on its front has the inscription “James Jackson, New York”. Years later when Bethesda bought another pipe organ, the late Governor John G. Richards heard that the organ was to be sold and it was due to his efforts and interest that Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church purchased the organ from Bethesda in 1907 for $200 and it was installed in the Liberty Hill church sanctuary. This organ was pumped with a lever by hand until electric power was available to have an electric motor installed. The late Mrs. John G. Richards played the organ for Bethesda Presbyterian Church. After the organ was installed at Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church Mrs. Richards was the organist for 45 years there until her death in 1957.

It was full restored by J. Allen Farmer, Inc., organ builders in Winston-Salem, NC and rededicated on March 17, 1996. There is only one other known remaining James Jackson organ, built in 1834 it is also is a single manual instrument but only has three stops. That organ is located in St. John’s Episcopal Church in Ellicottville, NY.