



Featured – New Facade, St. John’s Memphis, TN.



Newsletter 2023

Greetings!

This past year has been a re-awakening for our client churches. Almost all have gone back to in-person services, but some have continued live-streaming their services for the members who are still hesitant to be part of large gatherings.

For people new to our area, the live-streaming has helped them select a church they would like to attend. We feel so grateful to have survived the pandemic being healthy and strong. Praise the Lord for our good fortune.

Our work slowed down in 2021, but with all the pent-up demand, 2022 was the busiest in years. Here are some of the many projects we worked on. -MOC



St. Martha Catholic – Ashland City, TN



We found a new home for the Redman/Kilgen pipe organ that we housed in our shop. The pipe organ is a tracker action, re-built by Roy Redman in 1987 opus 52. It has two manuals with 13 ranks of pipes. The original builder was George Kilgen & Son from 1907. In 1987, the organ was re-configured to make room for a new Great IV Mixture. A new 8’ Rohr Flute replaced the original Great 8’ Melodia. In the Swell, the 8’ Violin Diapason was replaced with a new 8’ Trumpet. A new 2’ Principal was installed replacing the 8’ Celeste. New casework, in the Kilgen style, was added to the sides.

All pallets were re-leathered, and all trackers were replaced with aluminum. A new ceiling for the Great division helps to project the sound of the entire organ. The organ has a .45 HP Ventus, sleeve bearing, quiet German blower. Since the organ sits in the middle of the room, we constructed a back cover to keep the organ protected. The end result is an organ that is capable of playing most types of music instead of being confined to the romantic period. The congregation is very happy with the look and sound that fills the room.

Organist and Choir Director Anna Peck recently performed a very successful Festival of Lessons and Carols with Dennis Milnar in attendance.



Milnar Organ Company current news is on our website:

www.milnarorgan.com



First United Methodist – Opelika, AL



The First United Methodist Church of Opelika Alabama has a rich and varied history, a history that parallels the city of Opelika itself. They have a beautiful 1968 Reuter played by Organist Sunny Hahn, and the Choir Director is Mary Virginia Kemp. As you can see in the photo, the entire Great and part of the Pedal are exposed. The metal pipes and the slide tuners were very tarnished. We washed all the pipes in a chemical bath and replaced the tin slide tuners with modern stainless-steel ones. The pipes really brightened up the center of the sanctuary.

We reconfigured the 1' Great Mixture to a 1 1/3 Mixture by adding several new pipes. Behind the center three pipes of the Pedal 16' Contrabass is a new 8' Trumpet. We felt the diatonic layout filled in the design, and the sound of the Chorus reed put a nice crown on the division. The Swell and Choir divisions are about six feet above the Great on opposite walls.

Tuning has always been an issue. Before our work on the instrument, air vents were installed high on the back wall of the chambers with exhaust fans at the base of the chamber doors. One exhaust fan did not work, and one of the air vents had no diffuser allowing the heat or air to blow directly on the pipes. There was also no insulation above the rooms. After the church installed two feet of insulation above the chamber ceilings and corrected the fan and diffuser, the divisions stay in pitch together.

When we design an environment for an organ, we strive for natural convection air flow. We found in some older installations, keeping the circulating fan on when the organ is tuned or played helps in the tuning stability. We went over every pipe in every stop correcting speech and volume, while keeping the original tonal levels.

We removed the Great, Swell and Choir division's bellows and note pouches for leather refurbishing. We were able to do the work in phases, so the congregation would still have an organ during the project.

The last major change was adding a new console. Our three manual console has tracker touch keyboards that feel great. We also added an ICS-4000 software-based organ control system that has all the features.

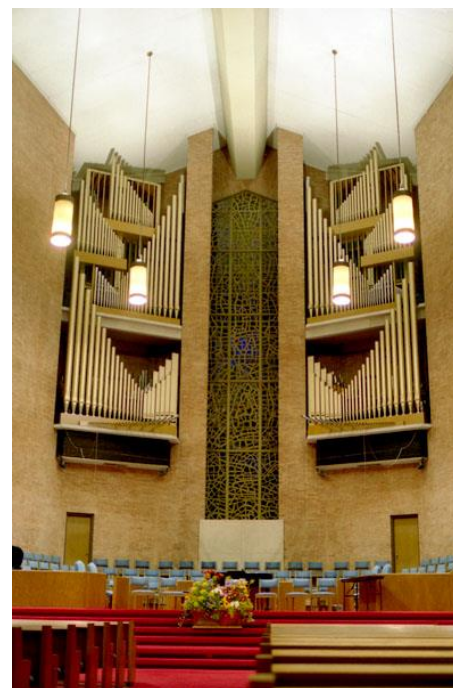
This past summer, we removed the Great pipes and covered the chests for a major refurbishment of the sanctuary. We also removed their old blower and main wind lines to make way for modern HVAC equipment. To supply the wind to the organ, we installed a new 1 H.P. German Ventus blower in the Pedal/Great division and two smaller Hungarian blowers to the Swell and Choir divisions. One positive effect that enhanced the congregational singing was removing the carpet from the sanctuary.



Search For: Milnar Organ Company LLC.



First Baptist – Nashville, TN



First Baptist Church downtown Nashville, TN. is undergoing a major renovation to their sanctuary. The organ was due for a re-leathering of all the note pouches throughout the organ. What a wonderful opportunity to re-leather while the work is being done to the room. Before the main construction started, we were able to remove all of the note pouch boards without any disturbance. We have finished the work on the boards and are ready to install them as soon as the dust-creating work has been finished in the sanctuary.

Celebrating 55 Years of Service!



St. John's United Methodist – Memphis, TN



1921 Austin Facade



1950's Facade



New Facade

St. John's United Methodist Church was planning a major renovation of their sanctuary. We were doing some rebuilding and renovations to the organ when Organist and Director of Music Matthew Bogart and Pastor Judi Hoffman asked us about the possibility of a new pipe facade to replace their 1950's facade. This would be their third facade for the 1921 Austin Organ Opus 1036.

We sought the advice of organ architect Frank Friemel of Canyon Texas. Together we designed a facade that would enhance the renovated sanctuary. The new facade increased airflow into the organ for tuning stability and enhanced the egress of sound from the chamber. The casework is quarter-sawn oak. The zinc pipes are painted gold, and the pipe mouths are polished tin. The mouths are an English Bay design.

How times have changed from the original Austin design of 100 pipes painted a plain gray. In the 1950's, the new modern look was nice, but no pipes were used. We believe the new facade looks stately and bright. During the facade project, we also removed several wooden pipe ranks and refurbished the stoppers. The project was very well received by the congregation.



Helpful Tips!

- For the best tuning possible, remind the custodian the day before we come. The temperature should be as it is during your Sunday worship service. Always have the HVAC fan set on circulate when organ is tuned and when played.
- Make notes of problems as they occur and leave the list in your blue notebook.
- If you need a service call, book a call before the next Sunday service.
- Have your piano tuned to the organ. The organ is not tuned to the piano. Remember that the piano technician also needs the correct temperature and humidity.



Germantown Methodist – Memphis, TN



Germantown United Methodist Church in Memphis has a beautiful 39 rank, Shantz (Opus 2098) pipe organ. The church wanted to replace the grill material in the back of the exposed chests as you see in the picture. We removed the pipes from the flower box chests and the front 16' Principal so they could have access to the

grill material. At this time, since the organ would be down, it was a perfect time to re-leather the organ. We re-leathered all the divisions and re-installed the pipes after the new grill work was installed.

The new grill material does not restrict the air flow into the organ. The airflow enhances the tuning stability.

It was good working with our old friend and Choir Director, Todd Wilson. Mr. Wilson worked with us for many years at Bartlett United Methodist Church.

Welcome to Our New Clients!



- Grace Lutheran – Clarksville, TN
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Germantown, TN
- Petrie Memorial United Methodist – Elkton, KY
- Mr. Gary Gill – Birmingham, AL
- St. Andrew Episcopal – Maryville, TN
- Historic First United Methodist – Franklin, TN



Dear AIO Colleagues,

We have recently removed several pipe organs to make way for new organs. We have a total of 288 ranks of pipes for sale from top builders and suppliers in North America. We charge 1/3 of the wholesale cost of new pipes. – Derek Milnar



Pipe sets are stored in bubble-wrapped trays in a climate-controlled facility.



First United Methodist – Florence, AL



First United Methodist Church’s pipe organ has been under our care since 1988. They have an 1982 two-manual, 20 rank, Reuter pipe organ. On our planned tuning, we inspected the organ and found that the Swell machine needs to be refurbished. At the same time, we had a request from the organist to install a new 128-level combination action. We were able to install the new combination action in place, so the organist did not miss a single Sunday performance.

Current Project:



Derek removing pipes from the Nave division at University of the South’s Chapel in Sewanee, TN.

The University’s “All Saints Chapel” is the focal point of its European-styled campus. They built most of the buildings using locally quarried sandstone. It is attractive but porous. During and after a rain, moisture permeates through the stone blocks and pushes the paint off of the back wall.

To make the paint repairs, we removed the pipework, laid down plastic and nailed down plywood so the workers have a place to stand. We will return when they are finished with the wall repairs.