

March 25, 2024

Dear Member,

We write today to share with you, information regarding the much needed repairs and restoration of our church organ and to request that you prayerfully consider helping the congregation complete this project.

As you might expect, much study and discussion has gone into this project already, and approval was given by the Church Council at their January meeting. The project is a substantial one, but it is within our ability if we give it our support and prayers.

The Beaty Memorial Organ is part of our heritage and life at First Church. It was given to the church by the Beaty family in 1927, and it has enriched our church life for 97 years. However, many decades of use have resulted in wear in the windchests and pipes. For this reason, in recent years, the organ has become increasingly undependable.

In 1970 a new Austin console was installed, actions were replaced, pipes were cleaned, and some of the reservoirs were re-leathered.

In 2000 another major project was undertaken to install the digital control systems and add the antiphonal division of the organ. At that time, windchests were cleaned, the reed pipes were re-voiced, and the entire organ was rewired.

Even though the 1970 and 2002 projects were extensive in scope, many of the original 1926 materials remain throughout the organ. Twenty-four years later we are now facing several issues that have manifested over these years.

Our pipe organ is a magnificent instrument and continues to be an important part of worship. It has served us for nearly 100 years with responsible and ongoing maintenance and service. It has once again reached a point where significant work has become necessary to ensure the longevity of this instrument.

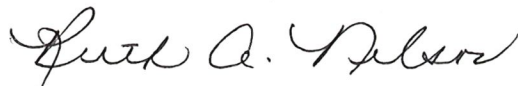
The cost for these renovations is \$286,352.00. At the present time, we anticipate work beginning after Easter this spring and being completed in September. We have scheduled an Organ Rededication Event and Concert by Organist Brian Bogey on Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Please consider making a gift towards the cost of this important project. Gifts in memory or in honor of others will be acknowledged and celebrated during our time of rededication.

Sincerely,



Rev. Dr. Mark E. Hecht, Senior Pastor



Ruth Nelson, Director of Music