

*From the Organ Restorer. Mr. John Farmer*

It has only been fairly recently that going "green" has gained widespread acceptance in this country. Our founding fathers, however, practiced this concept in their time without a second thought-- recycling kitchen scraps to feed the chickens or adding to the compost pile, reusing wooden beams from an old barn to build another new one, repairing a small hole in that perfectly good pair of socks rather than buying new. Being frugal and mindful of how their resources were used did save them money. But work done under this philosophy also tended to be done well, which is why we have chairs and tables and houses and pipe organs built many years ago still in use today.

So let no one think this 34 year old organ is any less than that of a brand new pipe organ. Newness alone does not guarantee quality (see auto lemon laws) nor does age (see outhouse). Indeed, in the organ world an instrument under 100 years old is just getting its second wind. Mr. van Daalen was a first rate craftsman and built this organ with every expectation that it would last for generations. With regular maintenance, it will outlast us all, giving musical expression in times of joy or sorrow to enhance the worship of the faithful.

Lest you have the impression John Farmer undertook this project single-handedly, I must gently correct you. By the very nature of their size, building or rebuilding pipe organs is a team effort with each person giving to the work their particular skill, be it woodworking, metalworking, painting, mechanical/electrical, gilding, pipe voicing or tuning. So let me thank my staff at J. Allen Farmer, Inc.: Chuck Daubert (foreman), Karon Daubert, Kristin Farmer and Andrew Ridgell for their dedicated and fine work on this project.

Lastly, let me also thank in particular, Elaine Kallestad, for her persistence of vision throughout this journey, Lawrence Byerly for his considerable administrative skills and the amazing Dennis Lehmann whose drawings turned a Danish modern organ case into an instrument that "looks like its always been there".