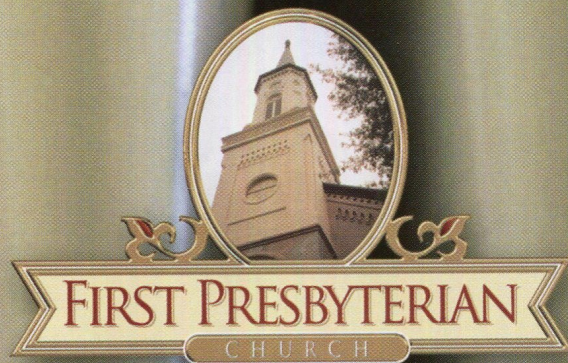
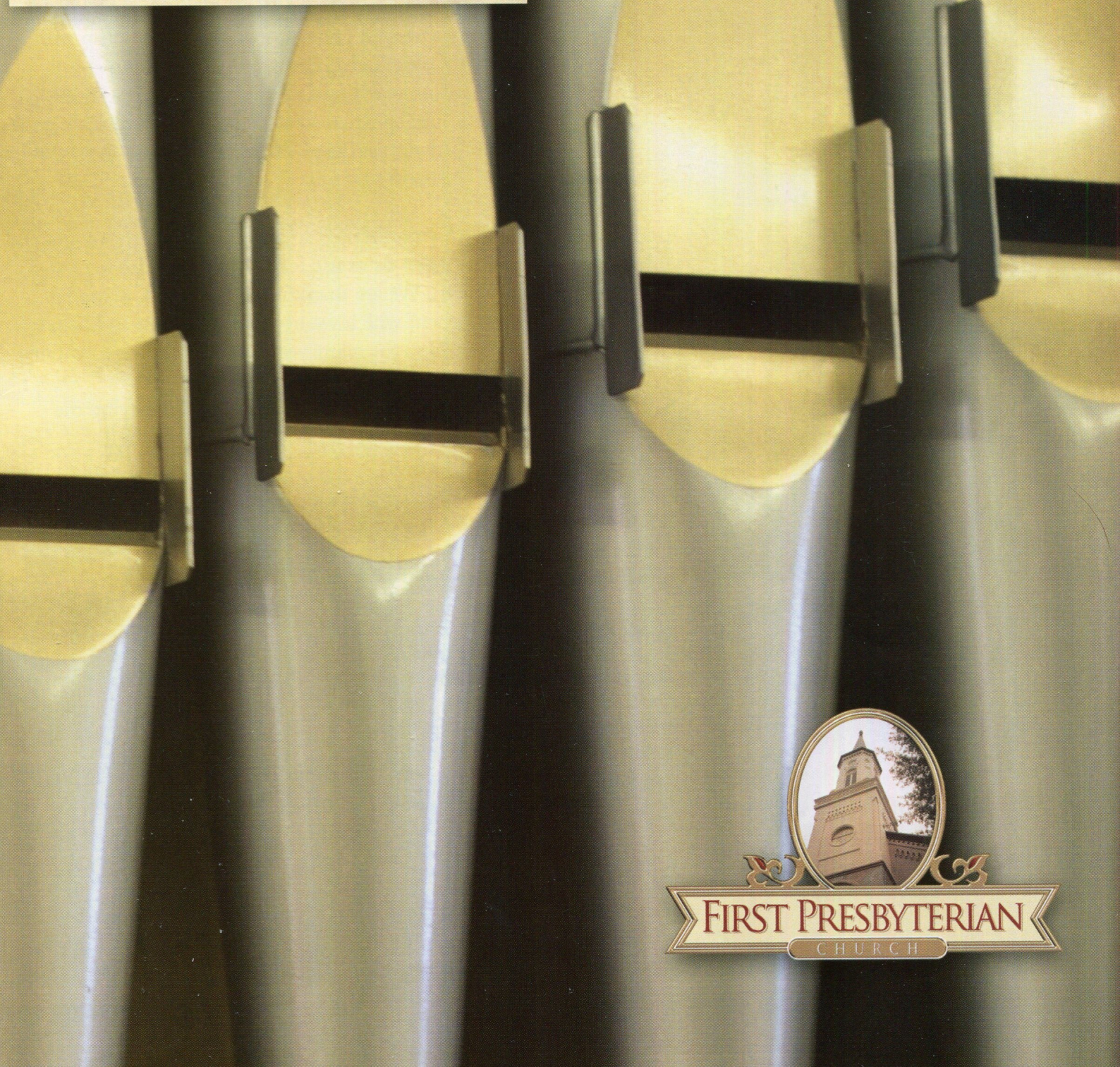


A great  
heritage...  
a great  
future!





# Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Chip Miller  
SENIOR PASTOR

God has given us the awesome privilege of worshiping Him. Worship is the highest human endeavor. We were created by the Lord to worship. In fact, Jesus taught that the Father seeks true worshipers who worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Worship will be one of the activities of heaven. Even when so much of human activity we are so accustomed to in this life has ended, the worship of God will continue through eternity.

God's people have always obeyed His command to praise Him with joyful singing. Col. 3:16 says, "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God." Congregational singing has always been and will continue to be an integral part of corporate worship.

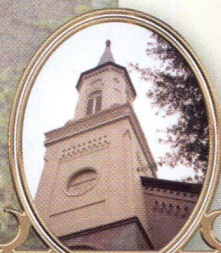
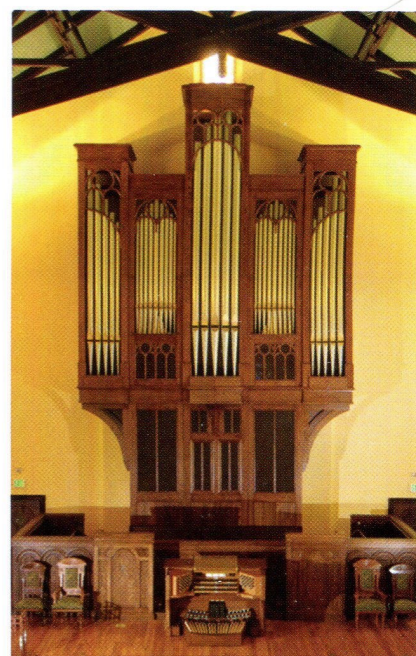
God's presence is certainly not limited to a building. But we are grateful for the facilities He has given us to use for worshiping Him here at First Presbyterian Church. We are thankful for the new Casavant organ. It is a fine instrument which we hope will enhance and help to facilitate our worship of God for many years and for many generations.

So I invite you to join me and the church universal in obeying the exhortation of Psalm 95: "O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms."

For the King,

*Chip Miller*

Chip Miller  
Senior Pastor



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



# A great heritage... a great future!

The first major architectural changes made to the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church since 1924 were completed in August 2004. These changes were necessitated by the decision to replace the Moeller organ, which was given to the church in 1948 by Mrs. W.D. Lamar. The organ, enjoyed by the members over these many years, had required many repairs and overhauls while the console and mechanical parts continued to deteriorate.

In 1998, under the leadership of Robert Woodham, Director of Music, requests for proposals to restore the organ were sent to several organ companies. In 1999, after careful study, the worship committee recommended that the organ be replaced.

After this decision was made, and approved by the session, the committee requested firm quotations from two companies. In November 2001, a contract was signed with Casavant Freres, Quebec, Canada, to manufacture and install a new organ for approximately \$688,000. The organ was to arrive in May 2004. The old Moller organ, opus 7507, was sold to Guzowski and Steppe Organ Builders of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, who used the parts of the instrument in organs in Miami and Lakeland, Louisiana.

In January 2002, the Organ and Sanctuary Renovation Committee was formed to oversee and coordinate the work related to the installation of the new organ with Sam P. Jones, Chairman. The committee decided in early 2002 to engage James A. Berg, AIA Emeritus, to provide architectural services to prepare the sanctuary to receive the new organ, including the redesign of the chancel and choir areas and the general interior design and restoration of the sanctuary.





This committee had many serious concerns about the condition of the present sanctuary building. It was decided to address these problems at the same time, so Chris R. Sheridan Company was secured to perform a comprehensive survey and evaluation of the condition of the building and its systems and to provide recommendations concerning remedial work necessary to repair and restore this historic structure. Construction work had to be completed by May 2004.

The study was completed in August 2002. A contract with Chris R. Sheridan Company was signed in April 2003 to perform the work necessary to prepare the sanctuary to receive the new organ. The contract included the multitude of deferred repairs and maintenance items that were long overdue.

A separate contract with Monte Brothers Sound Systems, Inc. of New York was entered into to provide a comprehensive state-of-the-art sound system in the sanctuary which would accommodate audio and video feeds to the chapel, fellowship hall, nursery, and other areas of the church complex.

During this time, many meetings of the committee were held with Mr. Berg to review his renderings of the new chancel area. On June 29, 2003, the congregation approved borrowing the money to complete the sanctuary and organ renovation project. Dr. John Grauley and his wife Marge were invited to attend and speak at a Family Dinner Meeting on July 16. At this meeting, Sam Jones presented to the congregation information regarding the sanctuary renovation and restoration. Sam reminded the members of the great heritage we share with our First Presbyterian ancestors. Thus this endeavor was named, "A Great Heritage... A Great Future." Paul and Susan Cable were named co-leaders of the campaign.

## A Great Heritage - A Great Future

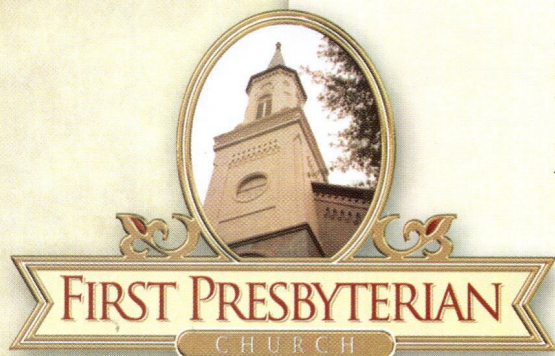


### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Commitment Card

*The people of God, "celebrated the  
dedication of the house of God with joy."  
2 Chronicles 7*

**Our Excellence for His Glory**

The total for the 2003 Capital Campaign was \$1,315,000. This amount included retiring the existing debt on the "Continuing the Vision" campaign. Pledge cards were made available.



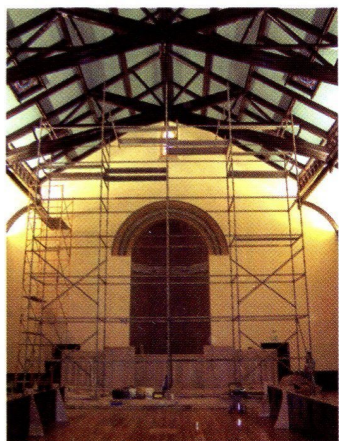
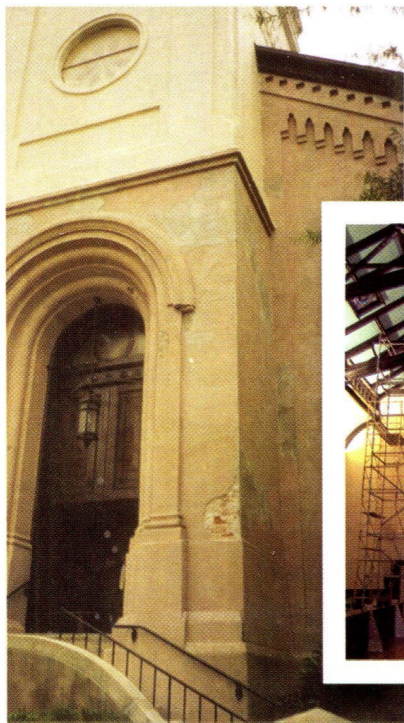
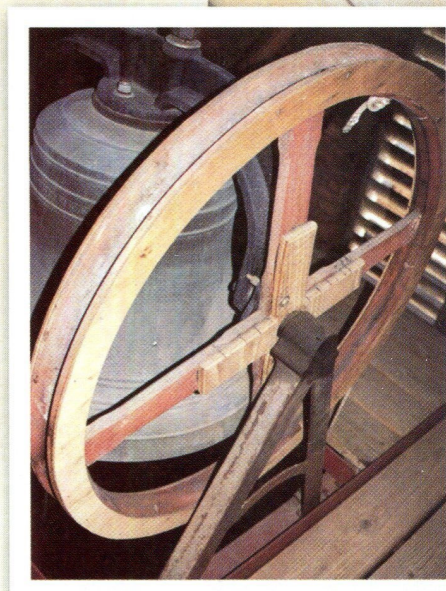


# Progress begins...

## Outside and ground floor repairs

**O**n May 31, 2003 the huge crane from the Sheridan Company, which members had become acquainted with during previous construction, arrived on First Street. It remained there for the next six months. Scaffolding covered the roof and sides of the sanctuary for work to begin.

- Repairs to the water leak in the roof were the first order of business. It is hoped this mysterious leak has finally been fixed.
- Foundation and roof waterproofing took place.
- The entire stucco skin of the building was renewed and repaired to protect against water infiltration and painted a light cream to blend with the other buildings in the complex.
- The steeple, chapel, and fence were repaired, restuccoed, and painted a light cream to blend with the other buildings. The dormers on the roof were reglazed and painted.
- The stained glass windows were thoroughly inspected, repaired, and cleaned, and new Lexan protective panels were installed on the exterior.
- Work was done to prevent the possibility of further movement of the east wall of the sanctuary, and a system to monitor any changes in the wall deflection in the future was installed.



- The ringing mechanism of the bell in the steeple was reinforced.
- All windows on the ground floor level were replaced due to rot and water damage.

This work was finished in December 2003.





# A great heritage: retaining the old



On January 4, 2004, the last worship service was held in the sanctuary before work would start to prepare for the arrival of the new organ. The interior design subcommittee, headed by Mrs. Charles Heard, worked with Mr. Berg to highlight and restore, to the extent possible and practical, the original materials used in the construction of the sanctuary in 1858.

- The beautiful old, original pine flooring which had been covered by tile and carpet for 150 years, was refinished.
- The original gas light sconces were discovered in an attic. Each one was restored to display one bulb and globe, and reinstalled along the walls.
- The original pews were removed and stored during the renovation.
- By removing the floor covering in the narthex, the original cast stone tiles were uncovered. These tiles were cleaned and restored to give the area the feel of the 1800s.
- The oval top of the screen covering the old pipes was saved and plans are to display it with other artifacts.
- A marble baptism font given to the church in 1922 in memory of Mary Walker Shinholser was selected to be used for baptisms.
- In the balcony, a passageway under the steeple was constructed at the top of the stairs to connect both sides of the balcony.
- No changes were made to the heating and air conditioning systems.

