

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## A Concert of Celebration

Celebrating the completion of the  
2009-2010 Capital Improvements Project

and

Rededication of the  
1894 Johnson & Son / 2010 Muller Pipe Organ

Sunday, The Sixteenth Day of May  
Two Thousand Ten

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

*Splendor and majesty are before God;  
strength and beauty  
are in God's sanctuary.*

# A Concert of Celebration

## Michael Schreffler, Organist

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Marche Religieuse	Félix-Alexandre Guilmant (French, 1837-1911)
Chorale Prelude on 'Lobe den Herren'	Johann Sebastian Bach (German, 1685-1750)
*Hymn 139: <i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>	Setting by Frederick Swann (American, b. 1931)
Chorale Prelude on 'Nettleton'	Robert Hobby (American, b. 1962)
*Hymn 400: <i>Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>	Setting by John Burkett (American, b. 1949)
Come Celebrate - <i>choral anthem offered by the Sanctuary Choir</i>	Robert Leaf (American, 1936-2005)
Battle of Britain Suite: Introduction & March	William Walton (British, 1902-1983)

### Intermission

A Word of Dedication	Tim Wilson, Chairperson, Board of Trustees
*Hymn 90: <i>Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones</i>	Setting by Karen Keene (American, b. 1941)
Prelude & Fugue in E-flat major 'St. Anne'	J.S. Bach
Chorale Prelude on 'New Britain'	Frederick Swann
*Hymn 378: <i>Amazing Grace</i> (Stanzas 1-4 and 6)	Setting by Karen Keene
Festival Toccata	Percy Fletcher (British, 1879-1932)
*Indicates standing for those who are able.	

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## About the Artist

Michael Schreffler began his musical career with private piano study at age 9. He also received instruction in trumpet and violin. While in high school, his grandmother arranged for organ lessons and from that point on, playing the organ became his passion. Mr. Schreffler's teachers have included Rebecca Borthwick, Craig Dobbins, John Walker, and Robert Glasgow. He is a member of the American Guild of Organists and has served as organist for a number of congregations. Michael has concertized in southwestern Pennsylvania and northwestern Ohio. He currently serves as organist here at First United Methodist Church.

Console Assistant, Rob Ellis

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Steven J. Rodgers, Senior Pastor

Sue McClelland, Associate Pastor

Michael Schreffler, Organist

# 1894 JOHNSON & SON PIPE ORGAN

WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS - OPUS 814

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*2010 rebuilding and enlargement by*

Muller Pipe Organ Company ~ Croton, Ohio

## **GREAT**

Open Diapason 8'  
Melodia 8'  
Dulciana 8'  
Octave 4'  
Flute D'amour 4'  
Twelfth 2 2/3'  
Fifteenth 2'  
Tierce 1 3/5' \*  
Mixture IV †  
Trumpet 8'  
Tuba 8' (*Antiphonal*)  
Chimes †  
Zimbelstern \*  
Tremolo

## **SWELL**

Open Diapason 8'  
Stopped Diapason 8'  
Viola 8'  
Viola Celeste 8' †  
Principal 4' \*  
Harmonic Flute 4'  
Flautina 2'  
Quint 1 1/3' \*  
Bassoon-Oboe 8'  
Oboe 4' \*  
Tremolo

## **ANTIPHONAL \***

Gedeckt 8'  
Principal 4'  
Flute 4'  
Octave 2'  
Tuba 8'  
Clarion 4'  
Tremolo

## **PEDAL**

Resultant 32' \*  
Open Diapason 16'  
Bourdon 16'  
Gedeckt 16' (*Antiphonal*)  
Octave 8' \*  
Bourdon 8'  
Gedeckt 8' (*Antiphonal*)  
Choral Bass 4' \*  
Trombone 16' \*  
Trumpet 8' \*  
Chimes †

\* - 2010

† - 1988

The console provides a full complement of intra and inter divisional couplers, multiple memory levels for ease of registration, and both MIDI record and playback features.

Wind for the main organ supplied by a 3 hp. Spencer Orgoblo and a 1/2 hp. Meidinger blower for the Antiphonal division.



# Our 2009-2010 Capital Improvements Projects

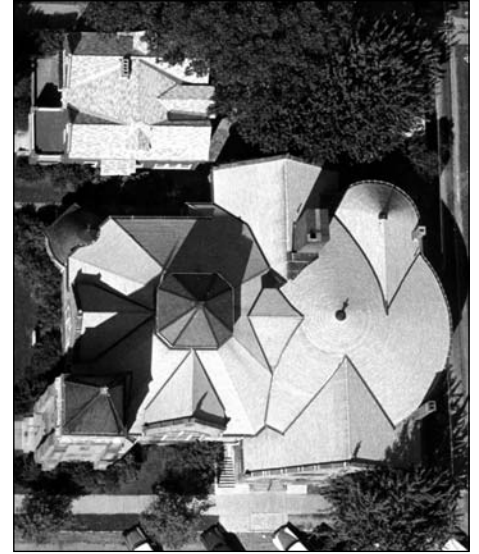
## ROOF

When First Church was constructed in 1893-1894, it was built with a slate roof. In 1957, after 63 years of service, the slate was determined to be failing; it no longer was a reliable roof. The slate was removed and replaced with asphalt shingles. In 1985, after less than 30 years of service, those shingles were replaced. After only 24 years and a severe wind storm in September, 2008, even those shingles needed to be replaced. Insurance professionals, upon recommendation of their engineer, determined that the roof was beyond repair. Complete replacement was the recommendation.

Heeding the recommendation, the First Church Board of Trustees approved the expenditure to replace the roof with copper. The reason for recommending copper is fourfold: practicality of installation, cost effectiveness, durability, and lifespan.

1. Practicality of installation: using copper did not require replacement of the existing underlayment
2. Cost: copper is the most cost-effective roofing material for a historically significant building
3. Durability: copper seams are soldered, making the roof totally water-tight
4. Lifespan: a copper roof will last well over 100 years

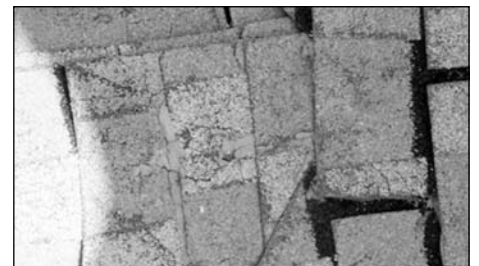
The insurance company's engineer also recommended to the Board of Trustees that the roof's structural support be repaired. Long-term leakage from the previous failing roofs had caused significant damage to the roof's support system. It was recommended that securing these structural elements would be a vital element in long-term success of a completely new roof.



*Roof as installed by  
VanHorn Construction (1957).*



*Damage (2008).*



*Shingle crazing (2008).*



*New Copper Roof (2009-2010).*



*Structural support repair.*



*Failed flashing (2008).*

# REPOINTING

The 2009-2010 Capital Improvement Project included the repointing of all stonework at First Church. This is the first time the entire building has been completely repointed since it was constructed. Repointing is a process of renewing mortar joints in masonry construction. The purpose of mortar is to join stone or brick together and absorb the natural flexing caused by freeze/thaw cycles. Over time, weathering and decay cause voids in the mortar joints, allowing the undesirable ingress of water. Water entering through these voids causes significant damage, especially during freeze/thaw cycles, which in turn leads to damage to the interior walls of a building. It is essential that the mortar used for repointing has the appropriate performance characteristics for the masonry it is pointing: it must not be harder than the masonry itself. Soft, lime-based mortar is best suited to sandstone and limestone. The much harder, yet more readily available, Portland cement mortar is too hard for sandstone and limestone. It won't flex with the masonry during freeze/thaw cycles, causing the stone to crack away instead of the mortar itself. The mortar is much more easily (and cheaply) replaced than the masonry. An earlier repointing job at First Church (1985) used a hard mortar, which caused this kind of damage. Many faces of the stones on our building have been ruined due to an incorrect repointing process, so the Board of Trustees decided to address this problem by having the entire building completely repointed with the proper mortar.



*Areas missing mortar on church.*



*Workers repoint the tower.*

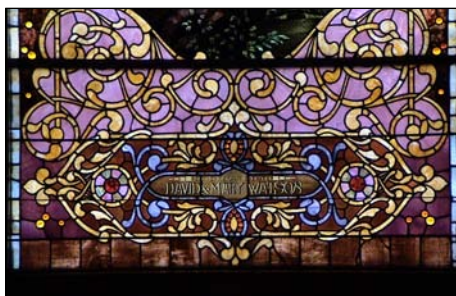
## STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

After 117 years of providing constant inspiration and beauty to the congregation of First Church, most of the church's stained glass windows were in need of significant caretaking. The three largest windows in the sanctuary needed the most attention. While some panels needed little to no care, others were in desperate need of complete rehabilitation. The Board of Trustees selected Conrad Schmidt Studios (Milwaukee, WI) to tackle the project.



*Angel of Advent Window.*

Since the installation of storm windows over the stained glass in 1960, knowledge of storm windows has improved. What once was thought to protect the glass from being broken by debris (a noble intention, indeed) actually has caused another kind of damage: the greenhouse effect. Over time, heat and moisture became our stained glass windows' worst enemy. The wooden frames and the lead holding the glass together experienced significant damage. With the greenhouse effect in mind, the Board of Trustees decided to heed the recommendation of Conrad Schmidt Studios and replace the storm windows with others that will not cause damage from heat and moisture but still provide protection from other kinds of harm.



*Bowed t-bars and panels.*

In addition to the three sanctuary windows, two of the church's smaller windows were in need of care. They, too, have been restored and fitted with protective glass.



*Eroded painting detail.*





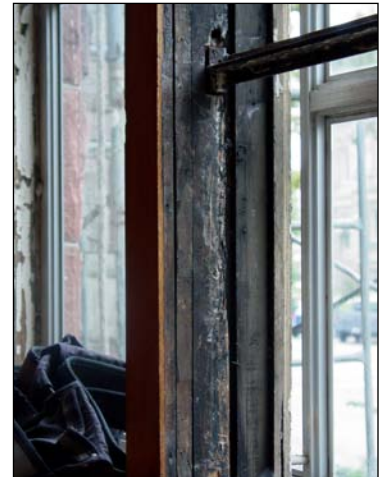
# STAINED GLASS REMOVAL DAY



*Angel of Advent panes.*



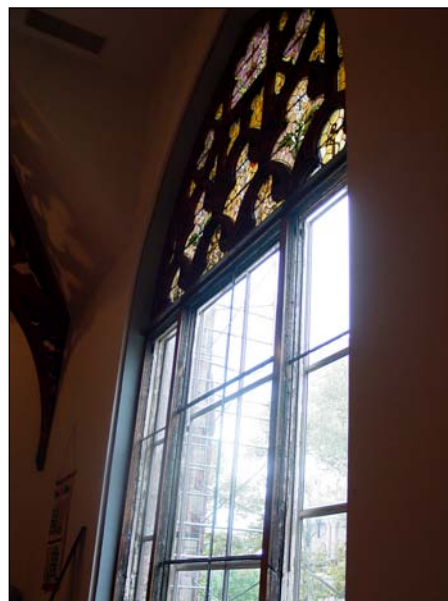
*Old storm windows before replacement.*



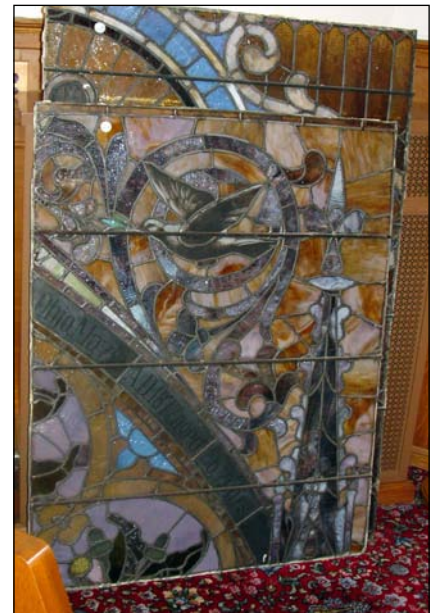
*Frames and bar system in need of restoration.*



*A worker makes a rubbing of the Angel shown above.*



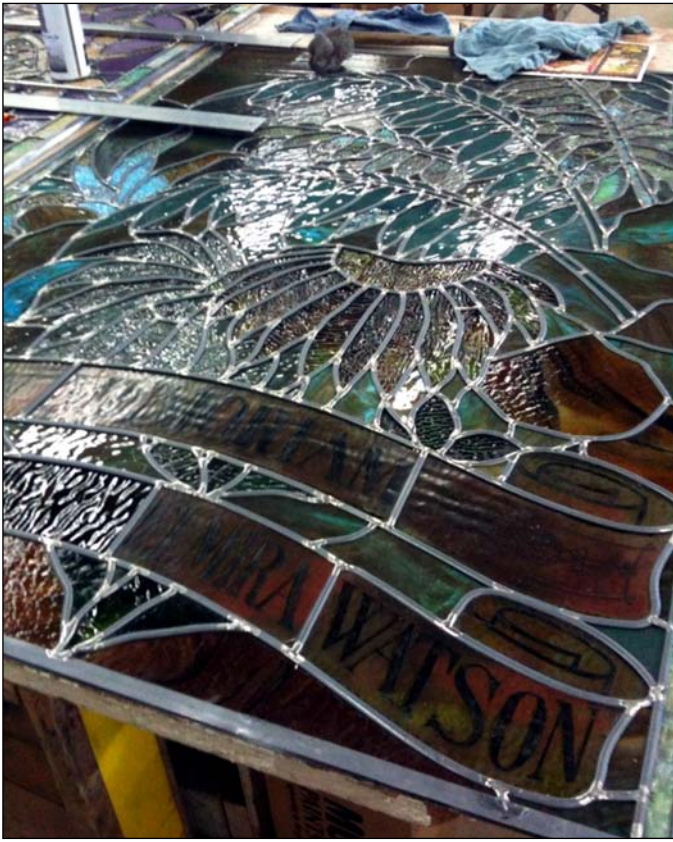
*North Main Street Window.*



*North Main Street Window panels.*



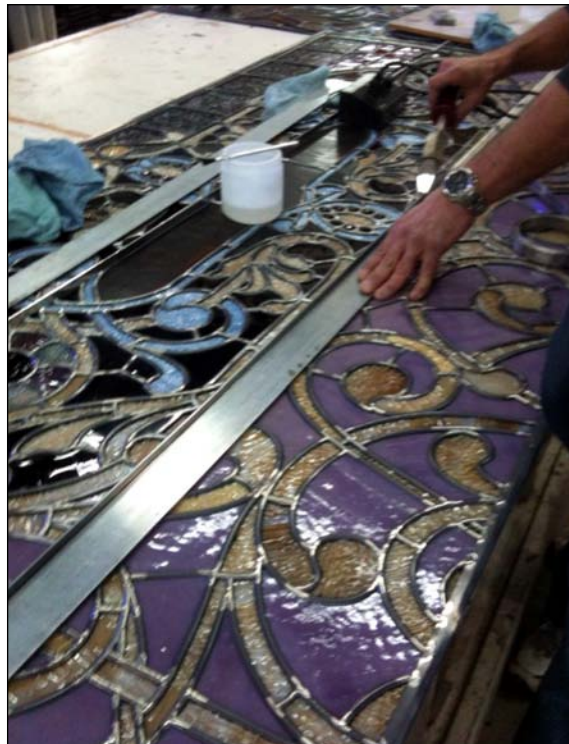
# THE RESTORATION PROCESS AT CONRAD SCHMIDT STUDIOS



*The Fourth Street window (Watson Window) showing new leading, solder, and painting.*



*The Angel of Advent Window - note the intricate painting, leading, and craftsmanship.*



*The North Main Street - the bow in the glass is gone!*



# THE RESTORED WINDOWS

The stained glass windows at First United Methodist always have been one of the hallmarks of our building. All the windows, except for the Angel of Advent Window, were made by the Artistic Glass and Painting Company of Cincinnati when the building was constructed in 1893-1894.

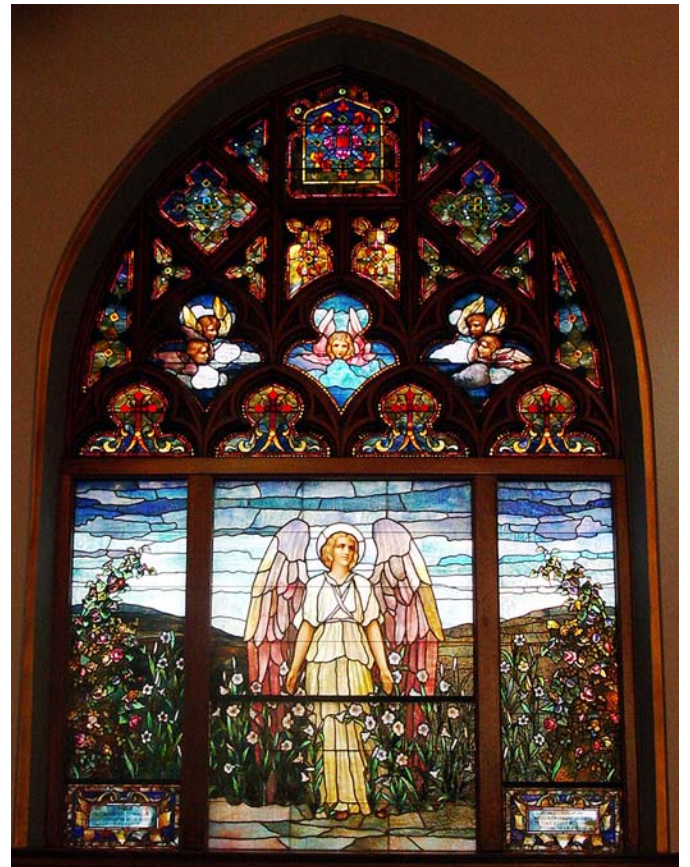
On the following pages are photographs of the windows before and after restoration. Each window's description is taken from the 1894 *London Times* newspaper article, which was printed after the church building was dedicated.

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## The North Window



*Before*



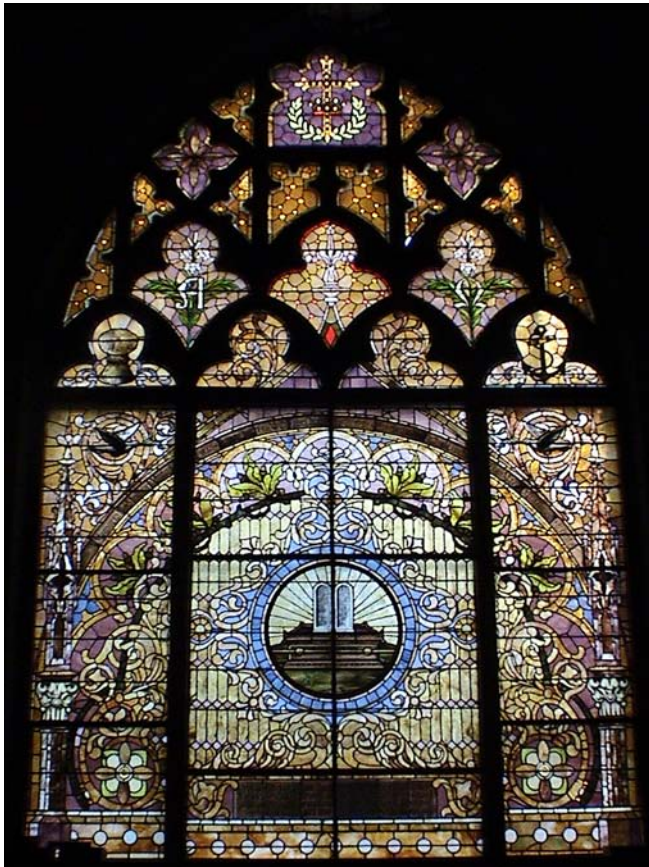
*After*

There are three large memorial windows in the auditorium. The one on the north was placed there by Judge and Mrs. Harrison of Columbus. The design of the lower part is very lovely, being the "Angel of the Advent" in a garden of flowers with wings outspread as if bringing a message of light and peace. The upper part of the window contains various emblems in rich color. The window was made and placed in position by C.E. Lamb of New York.

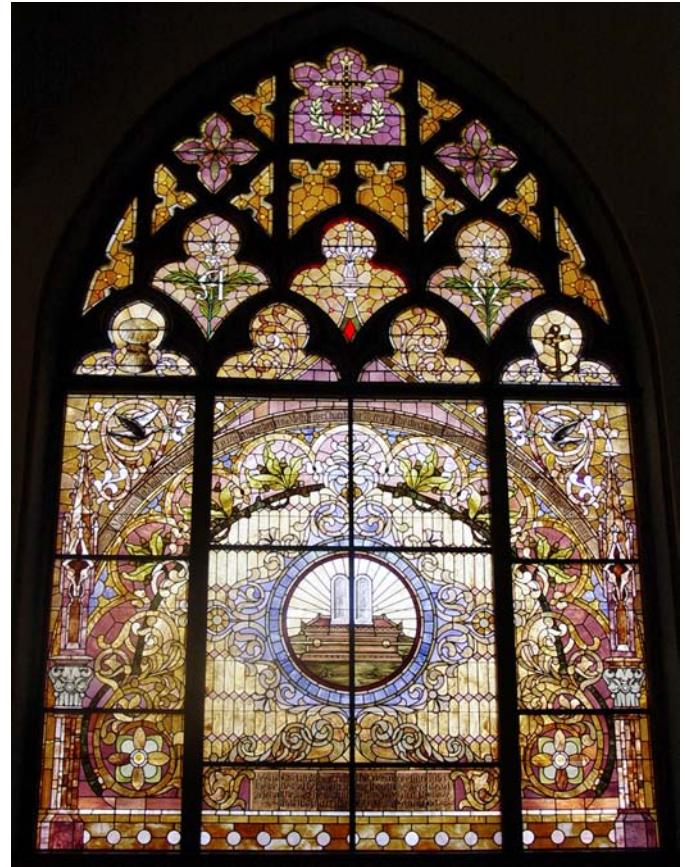
*excerpt from the London Times, 1894*



## The West Window



*Before*



*After*

The west window was donated by Judge Lewis, of Portland, Oregon, in memory for his mother, Mrs. Abigail Lewis, who for seventy years was a devoted member of the M.E. church. The central design is the ark of the Covenant on which are resting the tables of stone. Above all an anchor and other handsome figures are shown in great detail.

*excerpt from the London Times, 1894*

## Slutz Memorial Window



On the right hand side of the front entrance hall is a window given by the ladies of the church and congregation in memory of the departed wife and daughters of the pastor, Rev. W.L. Slutz, who has been so sorely bereaved within the past few months. The window although not as large as some of the others, is certainly one of the prettiest in the church. The name of Mabel, enclosed in a wreath of pink Marischal Neil roses appears on the left, and on the right is the name of little Helen wreathed in pansies, her choice flowers. At the bottom is the name of Mrs. Julia M.C. Slutz above which is a beautiful crown, fully jeweled.

*excerpt from the London Times, 1894*

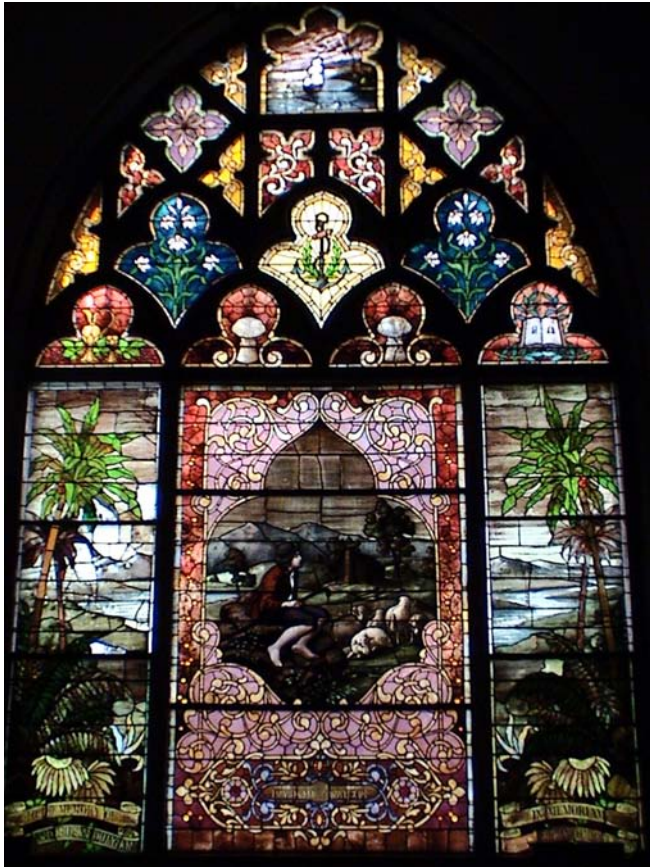
*Before*



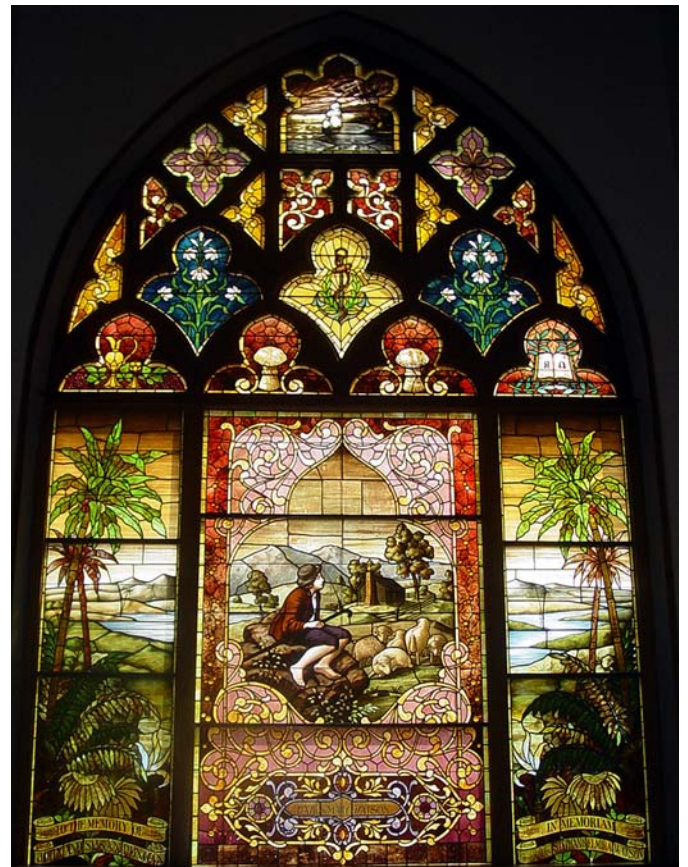
*After*



## The South Window



*Before*



*After*

The south window was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Watson in memory of their parents. The beautiful window was appropriately designed by Mrs. Watson. In the center is a log cabin representing the early pioneer homes of the father of Mrs. Watson. Here we find a beautiful figure of David, the Shepherd Boy with crook in hand guarding the sheep near by. The natural scenery depicted here attracts the attention of every beholder. The mountain in the distances and pure waters of the Jordan are grand. In the top of the window is the sea of Galilee over the surface of whose water is a perfect representation of a sailing vessel. The window presents a charming appearance.

*excerpt from the London Times, 1894*

*Of note, the Watson and Dungan families are interred at Oak Hill Cemetery;  
their graves are marked by a monunent of a large lion atop.*

# OUR JOHNSON & SON PIPE ORGAN

## A History of the Johnson & Son Organ Company

The William A. Johnson Organ Company (Westfield, MA), which later became Johnson & Son Organ Company, was a highly respected builder of pipe organs that was in operation from 1844 through 1898. It built 860 instruments throughout the United States, Canada, and Bermuda. All Johnson organs were completely mechanical (tracker action) organs, with Barker lever tracker-pneumatic actions utilized in larger organs after 1871.

In 1843, William Allen Johnson was operating a contracting business in Westfield. While he was completing the construction of a new church building for his own church, an organ builder of the firm E. and G.G. Hook & Hastings arrived with wagon loads of parts, pipes and materials which were to be installed in the new church. When asked about the availability of a worker to help set up the organ, Mr. Johnson readily applied for the job.



*The original layout of our Johnson & Son Pipe Organ. Note the large arch to the left of the façade was enclosed for the 1959 rebuilding of the instrument.*

During the construction of the Hook organ, Johnson became interested in the art of organ building. The following winter he decided to try his hand, building a small parlor organ of just one rank. He continued his new craft, building seven more parlor organs in the next five years. In 1848, he built two small one-manual church organs of five or six ranks.

Continuing with church organ construction, Johnson built organs of increasing size. His first two-manual organ was Opus 13, 1849, at the Congregational Church in Westfield, Massachusetts. This organ contained about 15 ranks. Further expanding his territory and size, Opus 40, a 34-stop three-manual organ, was built in 1855 for the Park Presbyterian Church in Troy, New York. Another 1855 organ is believed to be the oldest Johnson organ which still exists in its original form. It is Johnson's Opus 43, built at the First Ward Presbyterian Church (now the Westminster Presbyterian Church) in Syracuse, New York. In 1871, Opus 345, a typical William Johnson tracker pipe organ of about 18 ranks, was installed in the First Baptist Church of Penn Yan, New York. Most of its pipe work is now in use in the Church's present organ. This was one of the last organs to leave the original Johnson factory before it burned.

In 1871, a devastating fire destroyed the Johnson factory, along with the tools and materials. Opus 348, 349, and 350 were also destroyed in the fire. Subsequently, an old church building was utilized for a factory. It was about that time that William A. Johnson's son, William H. Johnson, became an official member of the firm, although he had worked in the shop since he was 16. With a new name, "Johnson and Son", the company was back in operation soon enough to produce 52 new organs in Chicago, Illinois, after the 1871 Great Chicago Fire.



A new factory was built in 1873, and another in the mid-1880s. Johnson and Son continued the work of the William A. Johnson Organ Company, building an additional 500 organs. Their largest organs were of around 55 ranks.

Throughout the years, Johnson organs were well known for their “excellent balance, splendid dignity, and beautiful voicing”. Highest quality materials and workmanship were used, and Johnson’s organ pipes were always of the finest quality.

Tracker organs eventually became less popular, and, not wishing to switch to tubular-pneumatic or electro-pneumatic-action organs, the company ceased operations in 1898. Their last organ was a large 3-manual organ, Opus 860, at St. Paul’s Church in Chicago.

In 1894, First Church was blessed when the building committee selected the Johnson & Son firm to build the pipe organ for our sanctuary.

The organ originally was of completely mechanical action with 17 ranks of pipes. It faithfully served the church for 65 years until 1959. That year, the church was faced with a decision to either replace or rebuild the organ. An electronic substitute was considered, but the decision was made to rebuild the existing instrument, using all of the original Johnson & Son pipe work.

New wind chests, reservoirs, electro-pneumatic action, and a new console were part of the instrument’s rebuilding. Henry J. Durthaler of Columbus performed the work. At that time, the original pipe façade was removed. In its place, a brown grille screen with a large fluorescent back-lit cross was installed.



*This picture is from the collection of the late Bill Holton. It shows the organ being removed in 1959 for rebuilding to the present layout. The console can be seen behind the present altar table.*



*The 1959 rebuilding of the organ featured brown grille screens with a large cross.*



*The 1959 two-manual, stop tab console.*



*The 1976 redecoration of the sanctuary featured floor to ceiling drapes that replaced the brown grille screens which covered the organ chambers.*

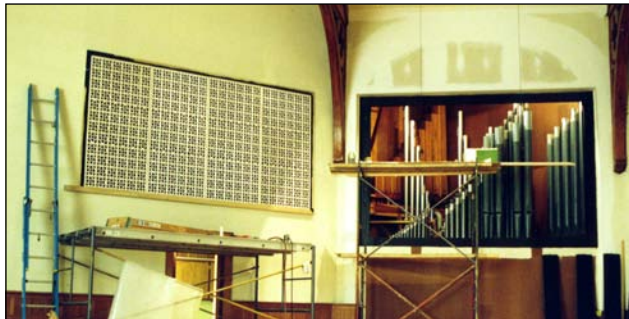
# MULLER PIPE ORGAN COMPANY

The Muller family traces its organ building lineage back five generations, to turn of the 20th century Boston. Joseph Muller was a cabinet maker who worked with Ernest Skinner from his company's earliest days. Joseph's son Henry followed in his father's footsteps with Skinner, and rose to the position of Principal Installation Foreman. Henry Muller worked on several notable installations, including the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and St. Thomas Church in New York City.

In 1919, Henry Muller established his own firm in Toledo, Ohio, primarily performing service and maintenance. During the tenure of Henry's sons, Robert and William, Muller Pipe Organ Company expanded into restorations and rebuilding of existing organs and became a charter member of the American Institute of Organbuilders.



*In 1995, the drapes were removed, revealing Swell shutters which control the volume of the organ. The Great division is behind cross and the Swell division is to the left.*



*A plaster grille was installed in front of the Swell division. The Great division can be seen awaiting the installation of the case.*

Under the direction of Robert Muller's sons Mark and John, the company is crafting instruments with knowledge accumulated and applied for over four generations. With the additions of fifth-generation cabinetmaker Jack Muller, organists Scott Hayes and Stan Osborn the company remains committed to high quality construction and has developed a comprehensive approach to mechanical and tonal design. This heritage and experience allows Muller to build instruments that stand among the finest in American organ building today.



*1995 new case is installed awaiting pipes.*

Muller Pipe Organ Company was contracted as our organ technicians here at First Church and have served in that capacity ever since. Muller was engaged to re-create the pipe façade in place of the drapes from 1976 for the main organ in 1995.

The main organ case was completely handcrafted and constructed of solid oak wood, matching the original panels on the lower portion. The pipes were manufactured by A.R. Schopp & Sons (Alliance, OH), and were made of polished zinc with Romanesque style mouths and bay leaves. Two on-lays grace the lower portion of the case and hand carved oak pipe shades are located at the top of each of the five pipe towers.



*The completed project, 1996.*

The Swell division of the organ is covered by an ornate plaster grille. This grille features the clover pattern that can be found in the upper beams of the sanctuary. The grille is constructed in four 3' x 5' sections and was manufactured by the Fischer & Jirouch Company (Cleveland, OH). From 1996 through 2001, the organ received general maintenance and tuning. In 2001, the Board of Trustees approved re-leathering all leather components of the organ.



# The 2010 Project

Several key components of the organ were in need of repair or replacement, so rebuilding and additions to the Johnson & Son pipe organ were included in the 2009-2010 Capital Improvements Project. The organ console's mechanical components began to fail to the point where the organist had to use braces under the stops to keep them functioning. The cloth insulation, dating to 1959, caused the wiring in the organ chamber to deteriorate, preventing many pipes from producing sound. The instrument also was experiencing other electrical problems. Wind lines from the 1980's, made of inferior flexible material, were beginning to fail.

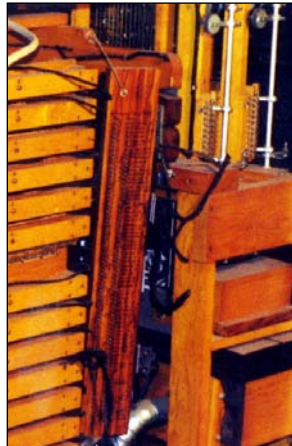
With faithful stewardship in mind, the Board of Trustees, working closely with Muller Pipe Organ Company, developed a plan to repair and upgrade the instrument.

This plan included:

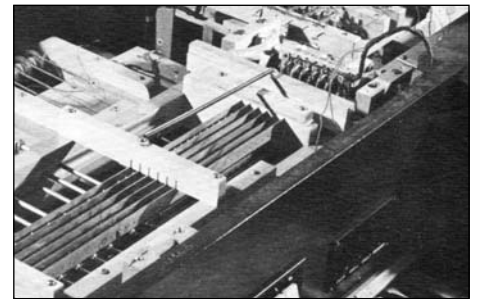
- Replacing the 1988 two-manual Schantz mechanical console with a rehabilitated three-manual console
- Rewiring the entire organ
- Installing a computer controlled, solid state switching system
- Replacing all flexible wind lines with rigid, metal line
- Expanding the organ's versatility by adding an Antiphonal division at the rear wall of the sanctuary
- Locating as many vintage ranks of pipes as possible to match the quality and speech of the original Johnson & Son Pipes



*The mechanical Schantz console of 1988.  
This console featured the traditional  
drawknobs for the stops.*



*An example of the mechanical  
parts inside an organ console.*



*Another example of a  
mechanical console.*



*Pre-owned, solid mahogany console.*

The three-manual console was purchased from a church in New Orleans through another organ company. It is solid mahogany and the wood carvings match the existing altar furnishings in our church. The console was completely disassembled and all old mechanisms removed and replaced with the new solid state, computer controlled systems.

Jack Muller stripped and refinished the cabinet. Several all new, custom made wooden parts were needed. The console's original keyboards and pedals were retained.

The following pictures show the progress of rebuilding.



*Console shell ready for finish.*



*Finished console with new stopjams.*



*Refinished cabinet.*



*Inside of console showing computer control system.*



*Photograph of completed console at the Muller shop.*

## **1894 RECITAL AND CONCERT.**

On last Thursday evening the doors of the new church were for the first time opened for a public entertainment. The occasion was a pipe organ recital by Mr. Clarence Eddy, of Chicago, and concert in which the following persons, all of whom are well known in London, took part: Mrs. G.W. Spahr, Columbus; Miss Fannie Cartzdainer, Miss Ollie Bridgman and Mr. G.A. Dodds of this city; W.S. Putnam, Springfield; and Mr. George Brown, of Yellow Springs. A splendid audience, representative of London, assembled to greet this exceptionally fine array of talent. The novelty and beauty of the interior of the building, with the wonderful strains of harmony and melody, combined to render the place one of complete enchantment. Mr. Eddy is a pipe organ player of national reputation and deservedly so. He rendered six numbers according to the program announced last week. Mr. Eddy pronounced the instrument which is run by a water motor to be a very fine one and all that could be desired for the requirement of the church. His playing was a rare musical treat.

*excerpt from the London Times, 1894*



# The 2010 Expansion - The Antiphonal Division

The Antiphonal division includes five ranks of vintage pipe work that matches the original Johnson & Son pipes perfectly. This division utilizes the space of a small balcony that was closed off from the sanctuary in the 1950's. Most recently the space housed sound equipment.



*Antiphonal case before finishing.*



*Jack Muller finishing case.*



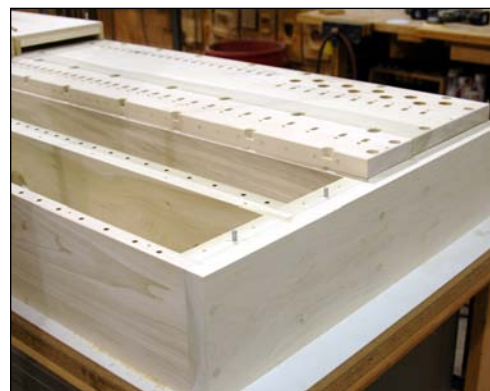
*Completed case at the Muller shop.*



*Vintage, wooden pipes before restoration.*



*Vintage wooden pipes after restoration.*



*Antiphonal wind chest.*



*Antiphonal blower and reservoirs.*



*Hoisting the wind chest.*



*The wind chest is in place.*



*Antiphonal façade in place before pipes and grille.*



*Antiphonal division façade with matching grille. Speaking pipes are behind the façade.*

*“This organ is very special to me and it’s one of my favorites, because the church has always taken such great care of it.”*

John Muller, President  
Muller Pipe Organ Company

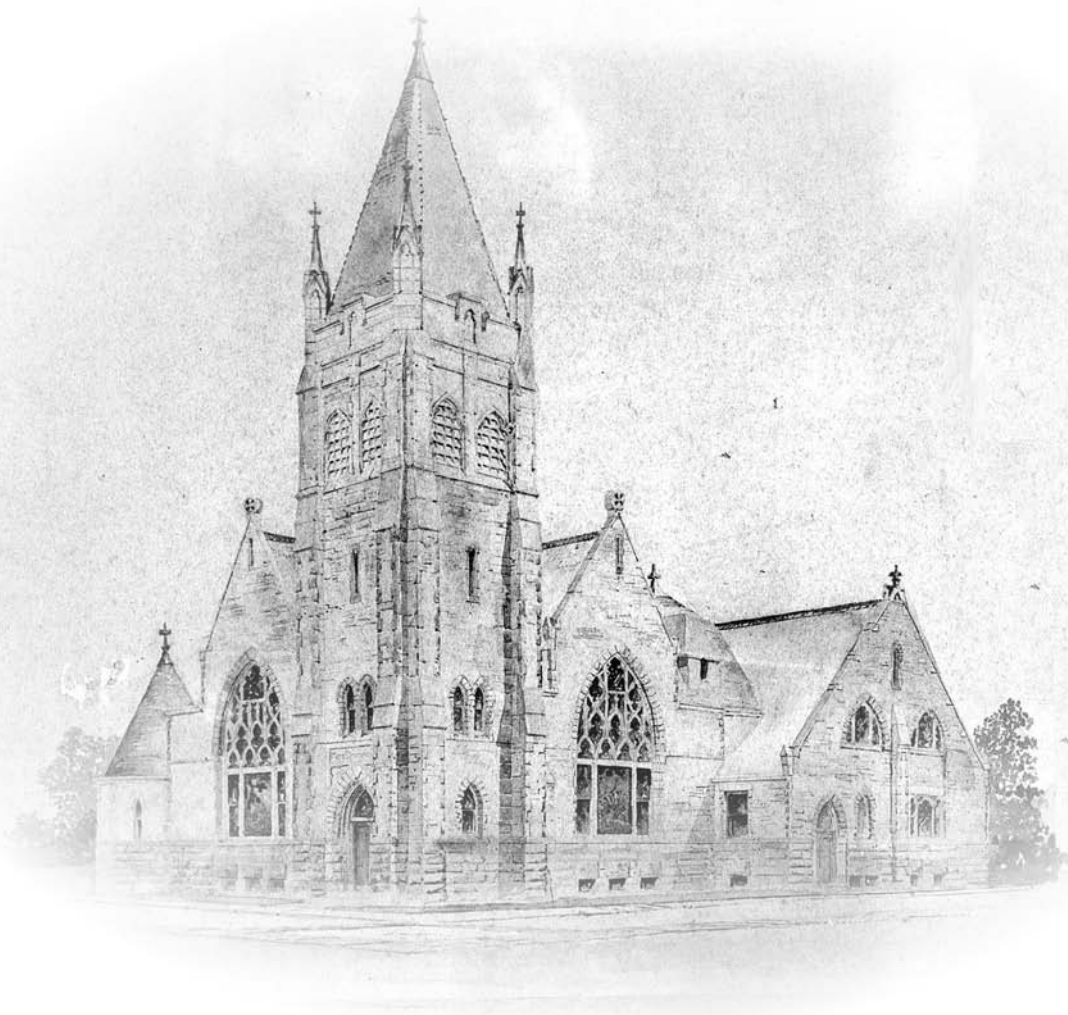
God blesses each of us with friends, and John Muller truly is a friend of First United Methodist Church. Over many years, the working relationship with Muller Pipe Organ Company has been superb. John and his staff take great pride in their work, and our organ is in the best hands possible to maintain its ability to serve our needs both now and in the future.

*Thanks John, Jane, Jack, Stan, Scott, and Kirk. It has been a pleasure and the end result is exquisite!*



*Praise be to the Lord,  
the God of our fathers,  
who has put it into our hearts  
to bring beauty  
to the house of the Lord.*

Ezra 7:27



# The First United Methodist Church

52 North Main Street ~ London, Ohio

Telephone: 740.852.0462

*Daring to Dream God's Dream*

~~Listed on the National Register of Historic Places~~