



Northside
Drive
Baptist Church

August 3, 2011

Dear Friend of Northside Drive,

Worship has always been at the center of everything done at Northside Drive Baptist Church, and music has always been a major element in our worship. As you look at the front of our sanctuary, the cross is the focus, but the pipes of our wonderful organ provide a strong framework for the cross. While many outstanding musicians have contributed to our music ministry as organists, directors and vocalists, our organ has been a constant and central part in our worship since 1974. Our organ, which has served us so well for almost 40 years, now needs our help. Jeff Harbin succinctly describes the issues with our organ in the enclosed document. Rest assured that this project is to repair our organ, not an effort to expand and improve this wonderful instrument.

The Worship and Music Committee brought these needs to the Church Council, the Trustees, and the Finance Committee. With two restoration estimates of approximately \$200,000 each, the Church Council approved a plan recommended by these three groups whereby the funds would be raised by a special campaign. The Church-in-conference approved this proposal in its May meeting.

A committee comprised of Hartwell Dew, Jeff Harbin, Letty Konenkamp, Karen Massey, Sheila Nicol, and Dick Underwood was appointed by the Moderator to oversee the restoration and the fund raising.

The funding needs of the project are:

Total Needed	\$200,000
Funds from Humphries Endowment	\$37,000
Funds from Memorial Gifts	<u>\$13,000</u>
Amount to be raised from Congregation	\$150,000
Lead Gift from member	<u>\$25,000</u>
Remaining amount needed to be raised	\$125,000

It has been agreed that the pledging period will end on September 18 so as not to run into the annual Stewardship Campaign for 2012. Members will be asked to make pledges that will be fulfilled by the end of 2012, giving everyone about 17 months to pay their pledge. Once enough pledges are received to meet our goal, the restoration will begin. The Trustees Fund will advance the money needed once pledges have been received. While the project will take several months to complete, the organ will remain functional throughout the project. Everyone is asked to give generously, recognizing this is an over and above gift that should not affect any pledges to the 2011 or 2012 church operating budgets.

Glenn, Bedford, Louise and the other charter members started us off with our beautiful chapel. They were joined by several other of our current members who gave sacrificially to build our elegant sanctuary. Several more of us gave in support of the elevator as part of our Accessibility Project. When you look at the marvelous buildings and grounds we have, many of us drink from a well that we did not dig. A lovely pipe organ has been entrusted to us, and we need to step up to take care of it so we can pass it along to those who follow.

A pledge card is enclosed. As stated earlier, we'd like to conclude the pledging by September 18. You can pledge by completing this card and returning it to the church office, calling the church business manager or on line at www.northsidedrive.org. If you have any questions about any aspects of this project, please contact any member of the committee. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

The Organ Restoration Committee

An Overview of the Organ Restoration Project

Our magnificent Schantz Pipe Organ was installed in 1974. Over the past few years, there has been an increasing number of intermittent “dead notes” found throughout the organ. The “dead notes” are especially prevalent in the Swell division, the set of pipes used most often to accompany the choir and/or soloists. The large variety of stops in the Swell division are also frequently used for playing soft prelude music and communion meditations.

The “dead notes” stem from two different problems:

The first problem is failing electro-pneumatic relays that connect the organ console to the pipes and related equipment in the organ chambers. These systems are usually replaced during any console renovations or upgrades. This was not done when our organ console was updated in 1999.

The second problem is the deterioration of a neoprene gasket material used by Schantz in the mid’ 1970’s to seal the bottom boards and pneumatic passages of the wind chests underneath the pipes. Neoprene is a petroleum-based product which usually has a life span of 20 to 30 years, dependent upon environmental conditions. Once neoprene begins to fail, it either crystallizes or turns to a tar-like substance. The only remedy is to strip and replace the neoprene with packing leather, which is the traditional material used for this purpose. The life span of packing leather far surpasses that of neoprene.

Pipe organs with electro-pneumatic actions contain a significant amount of leather. For instance, under every pipe in our organ is a small, circular leather pouch. (FYI – our organ has 3,262 pipes!) The average life expectancy of organ leather is approximately 40 years. We have determined that it is most cost effective for us to go ahead and re-leather the entire organ while we have the instrument disassembled rather than go through the same difficult process again in another 5-10 years.

Jeff Harbin
NDBC Organist