

July 19, 2001

Mr. Phil Minnick
Mr. Bob Bunn

Bunn=Minnick Company
875 Michigan Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1108

Dear Phil and Bob,

I had to take the time to write you and tell you of my thoughts of our recent organ restoration project. As the chairman of the Brats and Crafts Festival and the "father of the bride", both events are less than three weeks away, I have not had much time to say thanks to you and your fine group of people.

I have been in the position of dealing with contractors on many levels from personal to business and I have to say that our recent organ restoration was far an above the most pleasurable experience that I have had!

From our first meeting I knew that you folks would take care of our organ, an instrument near and dear to the hearts and ears of our congregation and certainly as close to me as an inanimate object can be. I have been playing that instrument for over 37 years and the decision to have it rebuilt was not an easy one. There were questions as to whether it would sound the same, would it look the same, are they going to take any of the beautiful tones away? As I closed the cover on Easter Sunday after all had been arranged for its departure the next morning I have to admit I wondered some of the same thoughts. You were so good to keep us informed of the progress of the work as our people took steps to make improvements to the church building.

One of the thrills of my lifetime was the first time I saw the organ set up at your shop from the windows in the room above. I can honestly say that I had a tear in my eye thinking of the history of that instrument and seeing how absolutely beautiful it looked! As we toured the instrument and you showed us all the improvements that were made and how you preserved the integrity of the instrument I was as excited as a little kid on Christmas morning! Then I played it-enough said-I was thrilled!

I appreciate the team letting me help and watch as it came back together in the church balcony. Their care and concern for the instrument and my needs as its organist were again impressive.

Well it has been back in place and on the job for about a month now. There has not been a Sunday when someone from the congregation has not come up to the balcony and admired the instrument. I can tell you that it is a joy to play and I have never heard the congregation sing better!

Thank you for helping us preserve an instrument that was given to us by our ancestors so that we can pass it on to our heirs as well. I am sure they will say that we took good care of it while we were here!

And also remember the Brats and Crafts Festival is August 3,4, & 5th I am buying the drinks for the Bunn=Minnick Crew!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Dodson
Senior Organist
St. James Lutheran Church