



Featured – Fisk University Memorial Chapel

1960 Holtkamp Opus 1723



Newsletter 2022

Greetings!

This past year has been a reopening for many of our client churches. People are showing up again for service and congregational singing. Many churches are adding services to make up for the in-person demand. Now with the many ways to treat Covid-19, we hope that it will soon be a thing of the past.

Here are a few projects that we would like to mention. -MOC



First United Methodist – Corinth, MS



Installing windchest in the new organ room (Kevin, Jeff, Derek and Justin)

FUMC in Corinth just finished moving into their new church facility. They have been our client for nine years. In 2014, we updated the organ control system to an ICS-4000. They had many issues with their facility

and finally made the decision to look for or build another building. They found an appropriate building that had been a Baptist church. It was on historic Shilow Road and has a large lot with plenty of parking. They renovated the entire building and moved in with their 1974 three manual Shantz pipe organ. It is now centered in the room and speaks down the main axis. We added a 4' Principal, that we got from a Schantz organ we removed, with a new Milnar windchest.

There was a small organ chamber that housed electronic organ speakers when it was a Baptist church. We had them remove the old thick grill material and replace it with new PVC material that allows air-flow into the organ chamber. This material really helps with tuning stability. All the carpet was removed from the choir loft and stage for a better acoustical environment. The organ sounds great in the new sanctuary.

During the organ re-location at the Methodist in Corinth, we also did a small project at the Baptist church in town. We removed the stoppers of both the pedal 16' Flutes and re-leathered them. When the pipes are in good shape, with no splits, we don't have to remove the large pipes. This makes the project easier for us and less costly for our clients.



Milnar Organ Company current news is on our website:
www.milnarorgan.com



First Baptist – Trenton, TN



The Baptist Church in Trenton is a new client for us. Justin Little, our friend and colleague, was brought up with this organ. He is a self-taught organist and plays well. He was playing at the Methodist in Martin, TN when we did major additions to the organ in 2020. He recently purchased a used Schantz organ and is installing it in his shop. Justin referred us to his family Baptist church for upgrading the instrument.

First Baptist Trenton has a beautiful 1968, 3 manual Moller, Opus 10382 pipe organ. This past summer, we were contracted to refurbish the console with a new Peterson multi-level combination action and an electronic coupler relay. All the air-driven mechanism was removed. There is still a Moller air-driven relay in the organ chamber and it is working fine.



Search For: Milnar Organ Company LLC.



Fisk University – Nashville, TN



Fisk is the home of the world-famous Jubilee singers. The Black Acapella Ensemble traveled to Europe in 1871 to raise money for the university. They received critical acclaim from the Queen of England and Heads of State across Europe. No

one in that part of the world had ever heard negro-spirituals and they were thrilled! They raised a great deal of funds for the university.

The organ in Fisk Memorial Chapel was built by the founder of the Holtkamp Organ Company, Mr. Walter Holtkamp. The organ professor, Mr. Arthur Croley was the consultant. The organ is a III manual with forty ranks. The organ has been under our care since 1968. In 1976, we rebuilt and restored the organ including re-leathering all the pneumatic actions.

In 2015, we started a major rebuilding project. The work was stopped due to lack of funds. We, along with the Music Department, were told that the university wasn't able to raise the funds to complete the rebuild of the organ and to find a donor for the project.

In 2021, philanthropist Mr. Cal Turner Jr. heard the famous organ at Fisk University was in need of restoration and funded the entire project. The Music Department and the university are very grateful for Mr. Turner's generosity and very proud to have the organ in new condition to support the many musical programs, the planned recitals, and to support the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

This summer, we upgraded the console and rewired the entire organ. The console is a streamlined design that is not as bulky as other consoles of the time. The small size presented a challenge for us with the new solid-state system. In order for the components to fit properly, we had to remove them from the main panel and install them individually.

When the original combination action was in use, the organist had to leave the bench and go into the basement to change their registration. It gave time for someone in the audience to visit the washroom. We also spent a week going over the voicing and regulation. Even with a well-voiced organ, every organ needs voicing every 50 years or so. We would like to thank Mr. Cal Turner Jr. for his most generous gift for the upgrades.



Fisk Memorial Chapel's original organ, 1897 Hook & Hastings, opus 1755. The organ built for the Tennessee Centennial Exhibition then installed at Fisk University



First Presbyterian – Pulaski, TN



We recently removed and re-leathered the Great and façade bellows. The Pilcher organ was built in 1895 with tubular pneumatic action. Because of the great distance from the air-driven console and the chests, the action was slow. Lead tubes were installed from the key action to each primary, stop action and pedal notes.

The church was not happy with the slow action and Pilcher installed pneumatic primaries and key contacts in 1938. At that time, the Great division had only one rank, an 8' Open Diapason. In 1986, we installed an electronic combination action and a new Great chest with a total of six ranks and new façade pipework.

In 2002, we re-leathered the large air-driven slider motors in the Swell and added a new 8' Trumpet which was the organ's first reed. In 2008, we removed the air-driven switching in the console. In 2014, a squirrel ate the corners of the Swell main bellows and in 2018 we also re-leathered the Swell shade action.

The various leather in an organ has different thicknesses and can be under several different wind pressures and locations. Like the Pilcher in Pulaski, the leather in most pipe organs will fail at different times.

At the Methodist Church in Pulaski, in the late 1960's/70's they added many new ranks and a new console. Dennis was still representing Delaware Organ Company, Buffalo, NY when doing larger projects. During that early 1970's project, the primaries were re-leathered with a yellow synthetic material called polylon. It was developed for the space industry, and it was supposed to outlast leather. It did for 50 years but became stiff and Todd Milnar spent a week on his back, re-leathering the Great primary.

**Celebrating
54 Years of Service**



First United Methodist – Montgomery, AL



This past summer, First United Methodist received a new pipe organ! We removed the three manual 1968 Schantz last year to make way for the new Schoenstein organ. It was installed recently and has a glorious sound. The organist, Dr. Joshua Coble, is very happy with the new instrument. The two cases covering the two organ chambers are exquisite. Read more about this wonderful organ in the March issue of the American Organist magazine. Check out our website if you are interested in the Schantz pipework.



Helpful Tips!

- For the best tuning possible, remind the custodian the day before we come. The temperature should be as it is during your Sunday worship service. Always have the HVAC fan set on circulate.
- Make notes of problems as they occur and leave the list in your blue notebook.
- If you need a service call, book a call before the next Sunday service.
- Have your piano tuned to the organ. The organ is not tuned to the piano. Remember that the piano technician also needs the correct temperature and humidity.

Welcome to Our New Clients!



- St. Henry Catholic – Nashville, TN
- First Christian – Paris, TN
- Episcopal Church of The Resurrection – Loudon, TN
- Lord of Life Lutheran – Memphis, TN
- Sardis United Methodist – Sardis, MS
- First Presbyterian – Paris, TN
- Tunica Presbyterian – Tunica, MS



First Baptist – Mayfield, KY



As a tornado passed over this Kentucky town of about 10,000 on the night of December 10th, the Rev. Wes Fowler huddled with his wife and three children — ages 12, 8 and 6 — in the basement of the First Baptist Church Mayfield. “Ceiling tiles were moving up and down and dust filled the room. I basically got my family against a wall in the basement. I laid on top of them. Honestly, we didn’t know if we were going to make it for a few minutes there,” Fowler, 45, said, as he stood in the ruins of the church. “... In the moment, all I could think about was covering up my wife and my kids.”

Our company visited the church a month before the tornado to remove and protect the façade pipes, for their sanctuary remodeling. The work on the sanctuary was almost complete when the tornado hit. Our hearts and prayers are with the people of Mayfield.



Dear AIO Colleagues,

We have recently removed several pipe organs to make way for new organs. We have a total of 288 ranks of pipes for sale from top builders and suppliers in North America. We charge 1/4 to 1/3 of the wholesale cost of new pipes. – Derek Milnar



Stored in bubble wrapped trays in a temperature control facility.

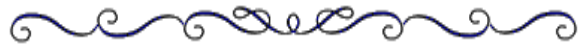


St. John’s Episcopal – Knoxville, TN

The new Goulding & Wood organ at St. John’s Episcopal Cathedral was dedicated by Scott Dettra. It’s a beautiful instrument. We have their fine Schantz in Storage. It’s a handsome organ recently rebuilt by Schantz and is for sale.

Current Project

We just removed the old Pilcher organ from Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville. Plans are being finalized for their new Goulding & Wood pipe organ.



In Loving Remembrance

Constance Joan Milnar

1942 - 2022



A personal note from Dennis Milnar:

My darling wife, Constance passed away on March 19th peacefully in her sleep. She was a very strong and loving mother of five children and co-founder of Milnar Organ Company. Connie took care of all the business while I was in the organs. We shared seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. We were married for 61 very wonderful years. -Dennis

