SAINT ANDREW PIPE ORGAN

AUSTIN ORGAN COMPANY OPUS 2771

The organ project here at Saint Andrews was coordinated by Rev. Thomas Buffer former assistant pastor. An accomplished musician himself he had been employed in organ construction and maintainence before entering the priesthood. Relying on his extensive knowledge of 20th century pipe organ fabrication, several leading manufacturers were interviewed. The final contract was given to the Austin Organ Company of Hartford Connecticut. Actual construction by Austin took nearly a year to complete the basic instrument. Our organ bears the number 2771 throughout the instrument which means this was the 2,771th organ built by the company which has been in business for nearly a century. Twelvw ranks or sets of pipes constructed of wood or metal produce our organs wonderful sound. It has a total of 2,873 pipes. Each pipe is hand-made and takes many hours to complete. They range in size from 18 feet to 4 inches in length. This organ uses an electro-pneumatic mechanism to produce its sounds. Although basically all new in its construction the larger wooden pipes have been recycled from an old dismantled instrument. The unique chimes were taken from the previous St. Andrew's organ.

The cherrywood facade and pipe arrangement was designed by architect Craig Vander Veen who also designed and oversaw construction of much of the new church. The facade was con-structed by Charles A. Caranna using over 50 sheets of cherry veneer plywood and 1400 board feet of solid cherry lumber. Each of the 15 support brackets was hand carved and each tower cornice treatment consists of 18 different molding profiles. Over 400 hours were spent in its construction.

The 40 sections of the facade were transported and laboriously erected by Father Buffer and several skilled parishioners of St. Andrews who graciously volunteered their time and talents. The main portion of the organ, pipes, and console were erected on location by the Peebles-Herzog Organ Company of Columbus Ohio who continues to monitor its per-formance.