

2 Steps for Organists to Have a Well Maintained Pipe Organ

(Continued from page 12)

the pedal was released. A good note might read, "When 16' Open Wood is on, low A# plays, but does not release."

Perhaps the organ makes a funny noise. Do your best to describe it, and under what conditions it occurs. If any individual note or pipe makes an awful noise, or none at all, mark it down.

It is good to discuss the organ face to face with the technician. While this is not necessary for all visits, it does much to build a relationship between the church and the technician. Now, you may feel that you are not interested in all that technical stuff. After all, you are the organist. He is the technician. Not my job. But when we bring our car in for service, we have a detailed face to face discussion with the service rep. Sometimes, the actual mechanic is brought into these discussions. Imagine the poor mechanic attempting to repair your car from an impersonal note on the dashboard that says, "Makes a noise when starting."

All of this sounds like a lot, but it is not. A simple logging of an issue, and an occasional chat with the tuner/technician is all that is needed. The latter can even be done over the phone if necessary. It all boils down to communication.

Next issue - what about big problems?



Echo Division at Bedford United Church

Unruly Congregation?

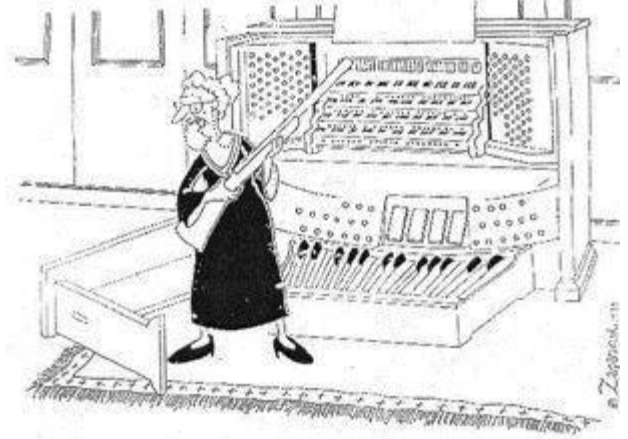
Turn the clock back 200 years

from Jack Larkin's *The Shaping of Everyday Life, 1790-1840
*((HarperPerennial, 1988):

"American houses of worship were only occasionally places of comfort or of what later came to seem churchly decorum.

Many churches had broken windows 'stuffed with hats' and old rags,' travelers observed, and unrepentant spitters kept sections of their floors covered with tobacco juice. Members of congregations would bring 'nuts and fruits' to sustain them

during services, and 'strew the refuse about the premises,' complained Connecticut's Reverend Fosdick Harrison in a sermon around 1820. Many Northern congregations still endured bitter winter cold in their unheated structures, sometimes seeing the wine freeze in their communion cups.



Brenda quiets the crowd for her Prelude

"Worshippers came to church with their family dogs, who followed them into their pews or darted in and out, 'chasing one another round and round the church,' as Artemas Williams of Massachusetts remembered. Sketching the interior of a Lutheran church in Pennsylvania, Lewis Miller portrayed an angry sexton in hot pursuit of canine intruders. In warm weather, chickens and turkeys walked in through the open doors; sometimes one would 'by degrees fly to the pulpit' and perch on the open Bible. . . ." (p. 276)

"In 1823, a just-installed young minister in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, stunned his congregation by ordering the dogs banned from the meetinghouse after they had run free there from time immemorial. Thousands of other early nineteenth-century churches saw the same changes, as dogs, turkeys and geese were banished from worship, and more exacting standards both physical and social, of churchly decorum were enforced. Congregations voted to repair broken windows, cushion pews and install stoves to make winter services more bearable. Chewing tobacco, and noisy eating and spitting during services gradually came to a halt." (p. 300)

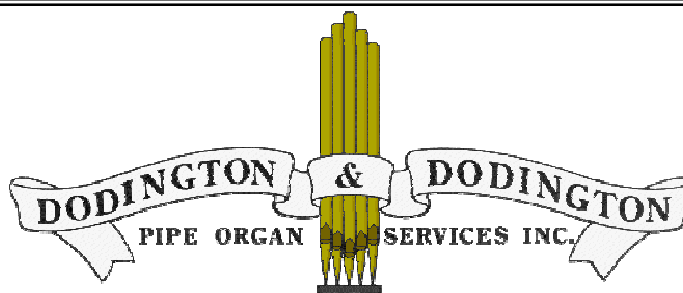


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The Windsor Centre RCCO provides a list of supply organists available to cover vacations and emergencies but there is currently none available to cover Sunday services. If you are a member or know of a member who would be willing to provide this service, please let us know and we will include their information on our supply list.



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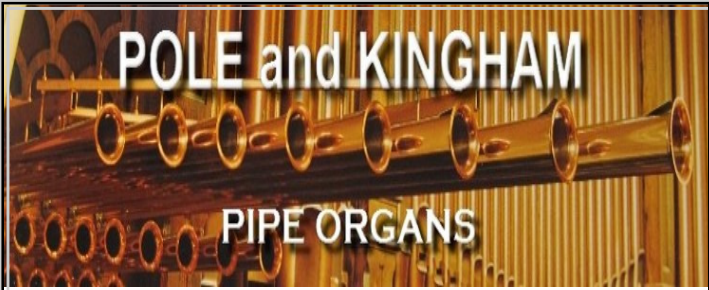
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