

# HILBUS CHAPTER

## THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

WWW.HILBUS.ORG

---

Volume 34

Number 5

January 2005

Whole No. 307

---

### January 22<sup>nd</sup> Crawl to Three Organs in Montgomery County, Maryland; Potomac, Bethesda, and Rockville

10:00 AM Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, 9222 Kentsdale Dr., Potomac, Md. 20854. Three manual electro-pneumatic organ designed by Guy Therien and built by Karl Wilhelm. Project finished fall of 2004.

11:30 AM Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, 20817 Holtkamp tracker

12:45 PM Lunch

2:15 PM Trinity Lutheran, 11200 Old Georgetown Rd. Rockville 20852. Electro-pneumatic organ of 1952 built originally for Pottstown, PA. Installed and rebuilt at Trinity in 1994 by the R.A. Daffer of Baltimore. Enlarged and revoiced by Nobscot Organ Works of Framingham, Mass. Dedicated April 14, 2002. 28 rks, two manuals and pedal.

### Directions

From the Beltway (Rt. 495) proceed northwest on River Rd. (Exits 39 &40) to a right onto Bradley Blvd. and drive to Kentsdale Dr. Turn left onto Kentsdale. Our Lady of Mercy is located at the NW corner of Kentsdale and Bradley Blvd.

Continue east on Bradley Blvd. to Bradley Hills Presbyterian (approx. 2 mi. from Kentsdale Drive). The church is on your left. Lunch plans may be made at this time.

Drive further east to Old Georgetown Rd.(Rt 187). Turn left and follow Old Georgetown north over the beltway and the 270 spur. The church is about a half mile beyond the 270 spur on your left.

---

Chairman: Carolyn Booth, 9200 La Belle Lane, Gaithersburg, MD, 20879

Vice Chairman: Michael T. Britt, 3022 Westfield Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21214

Secretary-Treasurer: Barbara Birkner, 6606 Farmer Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744

Editor: Paul Birkner, 6606 Farmer Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744

Editorial Advisor: Carolyn Fix, 116 Battle Street, SW, Vienna, VA 22180

(301) 869-6271

(410) 319-9634

(301) 449-4399

(301) 449-4399

(703) 281-5046

Dues: Due in October, Send \$10.00 to Secretary-Treasurer. (NOTE: Please make out checks to Hilbus Chapter, OHS)

## November Crawl Review by Michael Britt

On Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, we had the opportunity to visit three very unique organs in Georgetown.

Our first stop was at Dumbarton United Methodist Church housing a Reiley organ of 17 stops built in 1898. Reiley's work is virtually unknown in the Baltimore area except for a small two manual instrument rebuilt and relocated to a Lutheran Church in Baltimore City by David Storey. I was looking forward to seeing an original installation by this Georgetown builder. The parish Music Director gave us a brief history of the congregation, which fell on hard times in the 1960's. The organ was used occasionally but with minimal maintenance. By the early '90s the organ was in need of major restoration, and the church, dedicated to preserving the organ, contracted with Lewis and Hitchcock to restore it.

The organ is located at the front on the original altar platform. Even though the organ contains 17 stops, the ensemble is quite gentle. The sound has no trouble filling the sanctuary due to the wonderful live acoustics. We congratulate Dumbarton Church for their dedication to preserving this gem.

### Specifications:

<u>Great</u>	<u>Swell</u>	<u>Pedal</u>
8' Open Diapason	16' Bourdon	16' Open Diapason
8' Melodia	8' Viola Diapason	16' Bourdon
8' Gemshorn	8' Stopped Diapason	
8' Dulciana	8' Salicional	Couplers:
4' Principal	4' Violine	Sw+Gt
4' Flute d'Amour	4' Flute	Sw+Ped
2' Fifteenth	2' Piccolo	Gt+ Ped
	8' Oboe	

Our next stop was at the Church of the Epiphany R.C. Church, located some blocks down the street from Dumbarton. Baltimore organ builder, David Storey, recently relocated the Hook & Hastings organ to this church. The instrument was originally located in a New England Church several times the size Epiphany but was evidently more than adequate for the space. The most striking aspect of the instrument is its colorful pipe façade. David painstakingly restenciled the façade pipes using colors taken from the sanctuary. It is truly a work of art. The organ, while fairly small (ten stops I believe) has a wonderful, bold sound in the room. It has swell to great super couplers, which is something not often found on mechanical action organs of this size. It's a joy to play and listen to. Congratulations David!

### Specifications:

Great	Swell	Pedal
8' Open Diapason	8' Stopped Diapason	16' Bourdon
8' Melodia	8' Viola	
8' Dulciana	8' Unison Bass	Sw+Gt 16, 8, 4
8' Unison Bass	4' Harmonic Flute	Sw+Ped
4' Principal	8' Oboe	Gt+Ped
		Tremolo

The final stop, following lunch, was Grace Episcopal Church. I had seen this organ after its installation in the early 1980's. I was eager to have the opportunity to visit it again. The organ built by David Moore, is a two manual instrument of 24 stops located in a rear balcony. I recall that its "rustic" casework and façade as well as tonal design were very controversial when it was installed. Gradually it became an important part of the organ community of Washington and is featured quite often in recitals. Since I had to depart early for a Mass I had to play, I did not have the opportunity to try it out. However, I understand the parish Music Director gave a wonderful history and demonstration of the organ and a number of OHS members had an opportunity to play this landmark instrument.

The Organ: A. David Moore (1981) Carvings by Ann Fisk

Great C - f''

16'	Bourdon
8'	Principal
8'	Bourdon
4'	Octave
2 2/3'	Quint
II	Sesquialtera
2'	Super Octave
IV	Mixture
IV	Cymbal
8'	Trumpet

Pedal C-f

16'	Bourdon
8'	Principal
4'	Octave
8'	Trumpet
16'	Trombone

Great to Pedal

	Positiv to Pedal
	Positive to Great

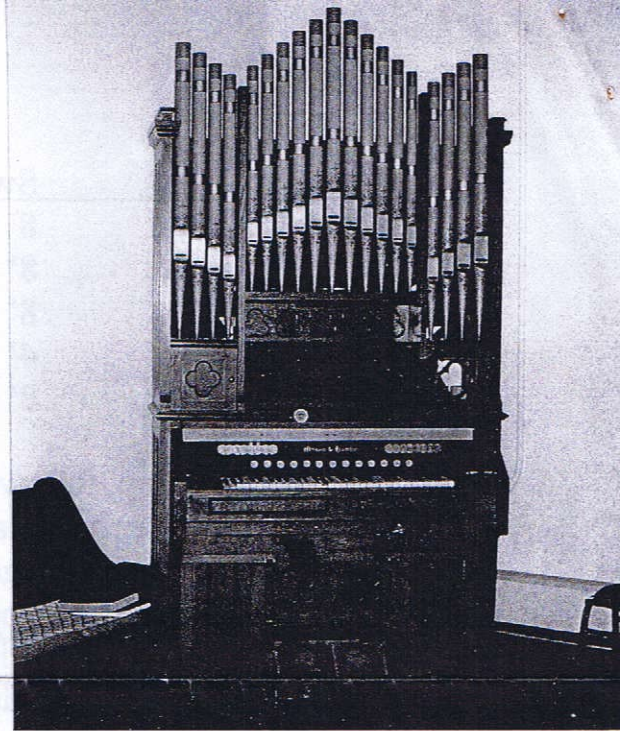
Positive C - f''

8'	Chimney Flute
4'	Spindle Flute
2'	Fifteenth
1 1/3'	Nineteenth
8'	Cromorne

Tremulant (Adjustable)  
 Combination pedals (2)  
 Tuning: Modified Meantone  
 Mechanical key and stop action



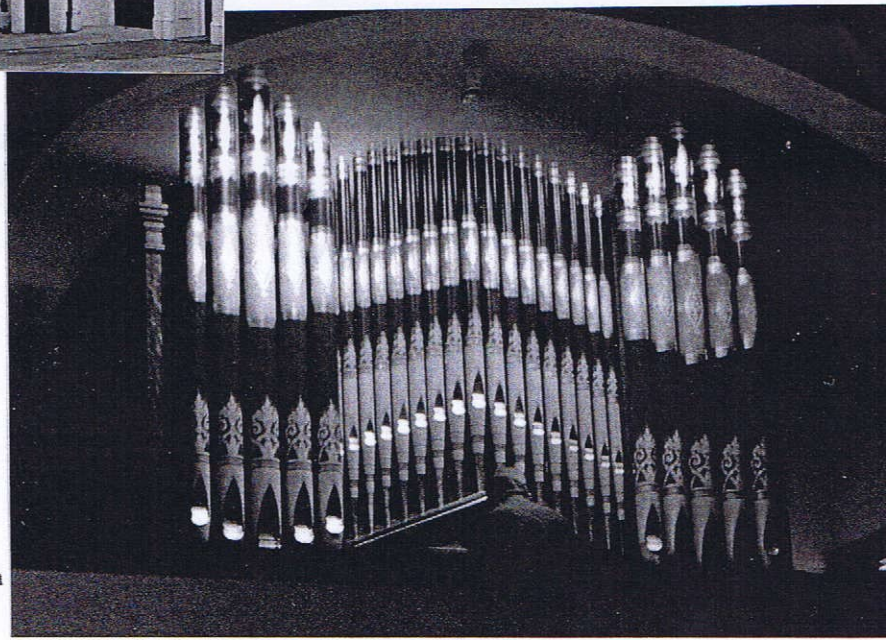
Dumbarton Methodist, Georgetown Reiley organ  
Photo: P. Birckner 11/'04



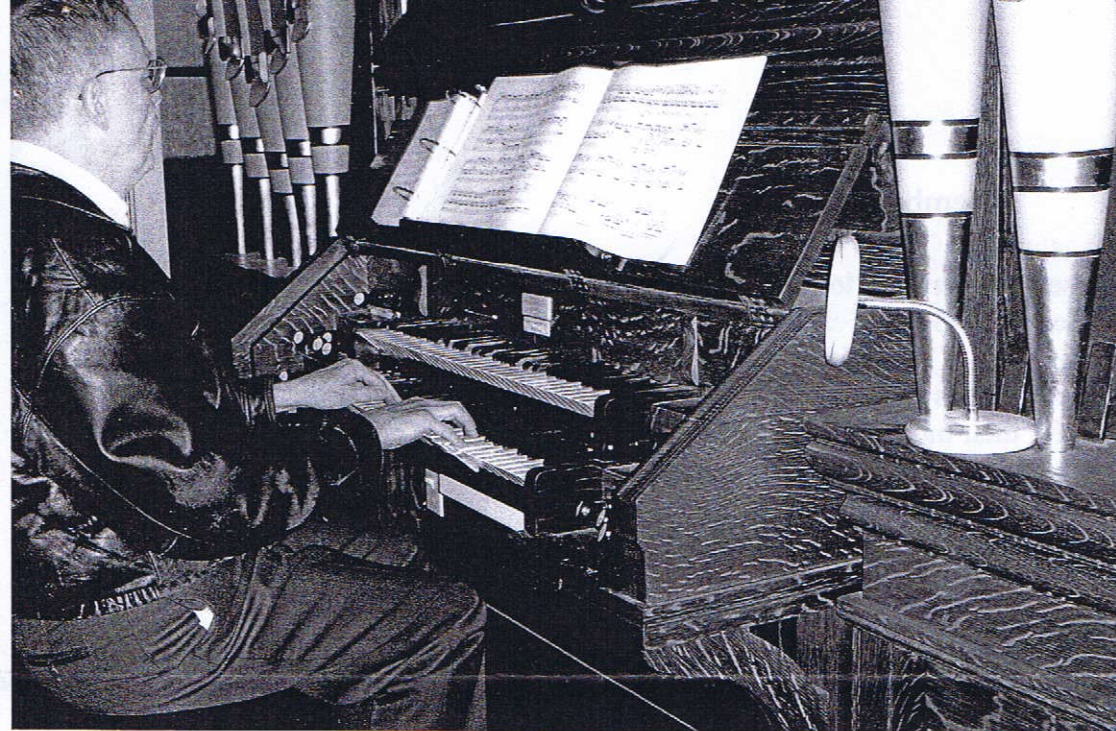
Dumbarton Methodist Estey Parlor organ  
Photo: P. Birckner 11/'04



Epiphany R.C. Church, Georgetown  
Photo: P. Birckner November 2004



Epiphany R.C. Church, Hook and Hastings organ  
Photo: P. Birckner



Keydesk of Hook and Hastings organ at Epiphany R.C. Church, Georgetown  
Photo: P. Birkner



David Moore organ at Grace Episcopal, Georgetown  
Photo: P. Birkner November 2004



David Moore (1981) Keydesk Grace Episcopal  
Photo: P. Birkner

## Membership News

We welcome these new members to our Chapter: Henry Chen, Baltimore; Robert Pierce, Whithall; Rick Schaech, Bel Air; Jeanne Kluewitz, Timonium. Come join us on a crawl.

Our membership roll stands at 91. Many thanks to Alan Hastings, Ben Givens, Don Wright and Tom Scheck for their monetary donations included in their dues checks. The extra is much appreciated. Barb Birckner Secretary/ Treasurer

## News and Information

A new 14 rank Letourneau tracker organ has been installed at Nativity Lutheran Church, 1300 Collingwood Rd., Alexandria, Va. Dr. Haig Mardirosian played the dedicatory recital November 28<sup>th</sup>. We need to include this new organ in a future crawl.

Additional ranks have been added to the Flentrop organ at St. Columba's Episcopal since we had last visited it in NW Washington DC. The work was done by Flentrop .

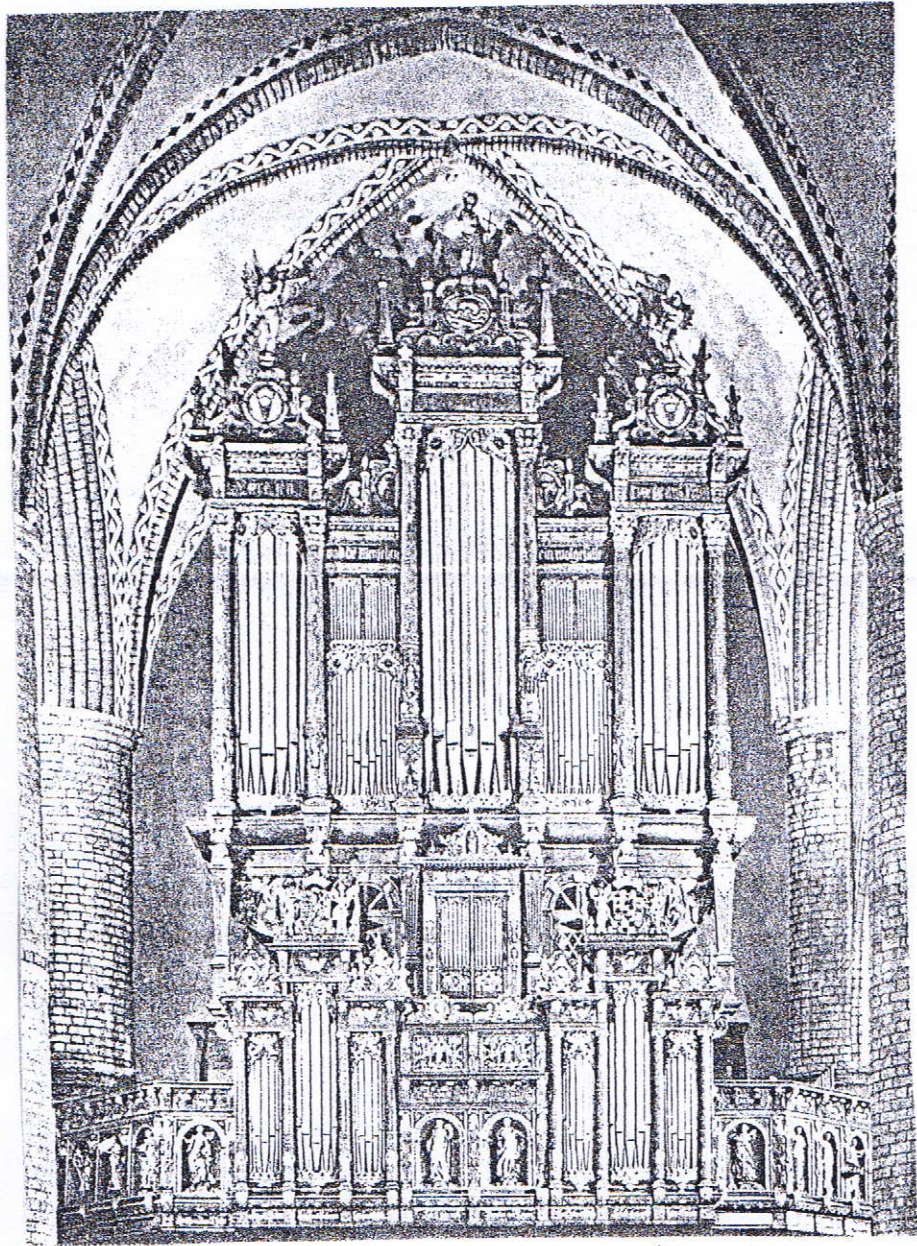
Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4 PM our vice Chairman, Michael Britt, will transform the Rieger organ at Chevy Chase Presbyterian into a theater organ. His program includes a short lecture and slide program about old movie theaters and their organs, some selections played in theater organ style, a couple of silent films accompanied live on the organ, and an old fashioned sing-along.

The annual Bach Marathon at Chevy Chase Presbyterian will be Sunday, March 6, 2-7PM. Nine area organists will play music of Bach and the Church choir under the direction of Ken Lowenberg will sing Motet III "Jesu Meine Freude".

A fascinating new project is underway behind the renaissance façade of St. Nikolai's church organ in Flensburg, northwest Germany. It is a project that combines two types of organs. One part is a baroque three manual organ in the style of Schnitger. The console is located behind the 8' Ruckpositiv. A second modern four manual console with tracker action (except for the Fernwerk) is located on the lower gallery under the Ruckpositiv. This console plays the symphonic part of the instrument, including a large Swell and a stopped Bourdon 32' in the pedal.

Some large stops, e.g. the Principal 16' of the Great, are used for both organ types. Because of the different temperaments, these ranks have 18 pipes per octave. The baroque tuning is a modified meantone temperament, the symphonic, a modified Neidhart.

The reporter of this news says he was skeptical before; but since I heard and saw the instrument(s), I am fascinated." The work is by Gerald Woehl from Marburg, Germany. Mr. Woehl says the Schnitger scales fit very well with the symphonic scales. He is glad to have the opportunity for this unique project. It is now about half finished. From Christoph Saure of Kiel, Germany



*Flensburg, St. Nikolai*

*Photo: T. Thomson  
c. 1950*