

# Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

*Where the Tracker Action Is!*

www.hilbus.org



---

Volume 36

Number 8

April 2007

Whole No. 330

---

Saturday, April 28, 2007

[THANKS TO CAROLYN BOOTH FOR ARRANGING THIS DAY!]

9:30 - 10:30 AM

***St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church***

11701 Clopper Road

Gaithersburg, MD

Bedient Organ ~ 3-stop Boston Model with pull-down Pedal

**Directions:**

Take I-270 north to Exits 10 & 11. When you exit onto the local lanes, IMMEDIATELY get into the RH Lane and take Exit 10 to Clopper Road - Route 117 West. Turn right onto Clopper Road and go about 2.8 mile. If you are heading south on I-270, take exit marked Montgomery Village Avenue/Quince Orchard Road. Turn right at the light, and then right again onto Route 117, Clopper Road. The distance will be approximately 2.5 miles. The church is on your right, just after Rte. 117 narrows down to two lanes. The Bedient is in the little white chapel up on the hill past the newer church building.

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

***Messiah Lutheran Church***

13901 Clopper Road

Germantown, MD

Flentrop ~ 1990 two manuals and pedal with 30 ranks and 23 stops

[crawl information continued next page]

---

CHAIRMAN: Carl Schwartz, 12802 Ruxton Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

(301) 236-0315

VICE CHAIRMAN: Kevin Clemens, 711 Court Square Way, Edgewood, MD 21040

(410) 679-2271

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Barbara Birekner, 6606 Farmer Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744

(301) 449-4399

EDITOR: Thom Robertson, 7511 Ashby Lane, Unit A, Alexandria, VA 22315

(703) 922-0719

EDITORIAL ADVISOR: Carolyn Fix, 116 Battle Street, SW, Vienna, VA 22180

(703) 281-5046

Articles and news may be submitted to the Editor electronically: [music.director@gracealex.org](mailto:music.director@gracealex.org)

Dues due in October: \$14, mailed to Secretary-Treasurer (Checks payable to Hilbus Chapter, OHS)

**Directions:**

When you leave the parking lot at St. Rose, you will turn right back onto Clopper Road. At this point, Clopper Road is just a two-lane rural road that goes up and down hill, so drive carefully. You will go about 3 miles. You will first cross Route 119, and then Route 118. Shortly after that, you will see a church with a spire on the right, at the corner of Clopper and Kingsview Road. This is a Mormon church. Immediately after that on your right is Messiah Lutheran Church.

**12:30 - 1:30 PM**

***Lunch on your own***

**Directions:**

When you come out of the parking lot of Messiah Lutheran Church, you will turn left. There is no light and it is a bit difficult to see both directions, so be careful! Go 0.3 mile to Route 118 and turn left onto 118. Continue for 1.2 mile to Wisteria Drive. This is where you can find the restaurants and eateries that are listed on the enclosed map.

**2:00 - 3:30 PM**

***Damascus United Methodist Church***

9700 New Church Road

Damascus, MD

E. M. Skinner ~ 1931, 3 manuals

**Directions:**

Return to Route 118 north. You will cross over I-270 along the way. Drive almost 2 miles to Route 355 North [Frederick Road] and turn left. Go about 0.8 mile and get into the RH Lane to turn right onto Route 27 North. At this point, it is called Ridge Road. Continue north on Route 27 for approximately 6.5 miles. Please watch your speed - this IS a speed trap along here and we don't want anyone getting a speeding ticket! Just before the 6.5 mile point, you will see signs indicating that 27 splits to the left and arrows to the right for Route 108. You will STAY to the right and continue for about a block, in the RH Lane on Route 108. Turn Right onto Woodfield Road, which is Route 124. The church is quite large and visible at this point. At the second driveway on the left, marked New Church Road, make a left into the parking area for the church.

If you get lost along the way, Carolyn Booth's cell phone number is: 301-908-7841



**SATURDAY, MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> CRAWL – ARLINGTON AND ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**  
***Two Holtkamps and a Hook & Hastings Tracker***

Reviewed by Paul Birckner

Our first organ and church visited on this gray day in March was the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington. [4444 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, VA] The church acoustics are fantastic and the 1963 Holtkamp sounds beautifully in its unenclosed open placement in a rear balcony. The absence of a case protecting the organ works creates a problem; paper signs warning the curious not to touch pipes were abundantly placed on wind chests and rack boards wherever human contact was likely.

No mitered pipes were needed, and all ranks are arranged chromatically. Tuning of cylindrical pipes is done with sliders. Wind chests are note-channel slider chests like traditional 19<sup>th</sup> century tracker chests. The console is placed to the right of the organ works and faces the choir; keyboards are all electric switches.

[continued next page]

The sanctuary is a large cube made from reinforced concrete, steel, and glass. The roof's eaves extend far out to shield clerestory glass windows from too much direct sunlight reaching the interior. Looking out one sees trees and sky; the effect is beautiful. Hardly anything in the space would hinder the organ's sound. We seldom encounter organs with such clear, unforced sound that sings so beautifully – it truly refreshes the spirit.

This church is noted for its fine music programs; it was mentioned that the choir membership is over 60! No information was available about the organ's maintenance history or who currently maintains it. This reviewer frequently attended concerts there in the 1960s until the installation of the Rieger organ at All Souls Unitarian Church [in DC].

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Virginia  
Organ by Holtkamp, 1963**

<b>GREAT [Manual I]</b>		<b>POSITIV [Manual II]</b>		<b>PEDAL</b>	
8' Principal	61 pipes	8' Copula	61 pipes (wood)	16' Subbass	32 pipes (wood)
8' Gedackt	61 pipes (metal)	4' Prestant	61 pipes	8' Octave	32 pipes
8' Dulciane	61 pipes	4' Rohrflote	61 pipes	8' Flauto Dolce	32 pipes
4' Octave	61 pipes	2' Octave	61 pipes	4' Choral Bass	32 pipes
4' Spillflote	61 pipes	1 1/3' Quint	61 pipes	2' Mixture III	96 pipes
2' Hohlflote	61 pipes	1/2' Fourniture IV	244 pipes	16' Posaune	32 pipes
1 1/3' Mixture IV	244 pipes	8' Cromhorne	61 pipes	<i>Great to Pedal</i>	
<i>Positiv to Great</i>				<i>Positiv to Pedal</i>	

**PISTONS**

Under Positiv: General 1-3, Positiv 1-4  
Under Great: General 4-6, Great 1-4, 0 [General Cancel]

**TOE MOVEMENTS**

Left: General 1-4  
Center: Crescendo Pedal  
Right: Hitch-down SFZ; Pedal 1-4



**Arlington Unitarian Universalist Holtkamp**

Our second organ was Hook & Hastings Opus #1502 (1891) at All Saints' (Sharon Chapel) Episcopal Church in Alexandria. [3421 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA] The organ was built originally for Wesley Chapel Methodist Church in Washington, DC; it was acquired by All Saints' when the Washington church was demolished in 1962. Hilbus member Cleveland Fisher finished the installation in 1964 and maintained the instrument for many years. In the 1970s the maintenance was taken over by Daniel Meyer who was also the church's organist. During that period and the following decade the instrument was refurbished, and it was decided to remove the paint on the zinc façade pipes.

The organ is very well located behind the altar and facing directly out into the length of the building. Its sound commands the attention of the congregation and leads their singing with authority. There is no great reverberation, but there is a kind of warmth that mixes and blends well with the brown wooden surfaces of the building's interior. The instrument appears to be built so well as to last forever. Of its 15 ranks ten are of 8' pitch, two of 4', one 3', one 2', and two 16'. We have visited this instrument at least three times in the past; there are no electric switches between the player and the sound, so the organist is free to develop a more intimate playing of his music.



All Saints' Hook & Hastings

**All Saints' (Sharon Chapel) Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia  
Hook & Hastings Opus #1502, 1891**

<b>GREAT</b>	<b>SWELL</b>	<b>PEDAL 27 notes</b>
16' Bourdon (Bass)	8' Open Diapason	16' Bourdon
16' Bourdon (Treble)	8' Stopped Diapason	8' Open Diapason
8' Open Diapason	8' Viola	
8' Dulciane	4' Harmonic Flute	
8' Melodia	2' Principal	
4' Octave	8' Bassoon (Bass)	
3' Twelfth	8' Oboe (Treble)	
2' Fifteenth		
8' Trumpet		

After a very fine lunch at The Atlantis Restaurant in the Bradlee Shopping Center we visited Trinity United Methodist Church of Alexandria. [2911 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria, VA] This church was moved, brick by brick, to its current location from Old Town. It is a handsome Gothic Revival building [c. 1950s] featuring a 1998 Holtkamp. This new instrument was in every way as beautiful as the organ at the Unitarian Church. It is



protected by a case divided on both sides of the altar; the architectural arrangement employs two towers and three flats of gold painted pipes on either side of the altar. All flats contain five pipes; the central one the tallest. The towers have more pipes; I'm uncertain if they are functional or just shield the works from view. I imagine they are functional in order to save space and money. All wood framing looks to be stained a cherry color and is carved to echo the Gothic Revival features of the church.

The organ's sound was in every way as beautiful and clear as the first Holtkamp visited; actually it was more focused. The sound comes at you rather than from all around you. The listener faces the organ which is only slightly elevated above him. Again that wonderful clarity of voicing leaves one with refreshed feelings. We are always searching for new and novel ways to experience organ sound; there are times when the spirit desires the dark mixing of sound that are the features of the so-called Romantic-style organ, but it tires quickly because of the lack of clarity and a certain sameness of the various divisions.

All three organs in the excursion had wonderful sound and their acoustic environments were good. We thank Ted Gustin for arranging this crawl.

**Trinity United Methodist Church, Alexandria, Virginia  
Holtkamp, 1998**

Key Action: Electric Stop Action: Electro-pneumatic

**GREAT**

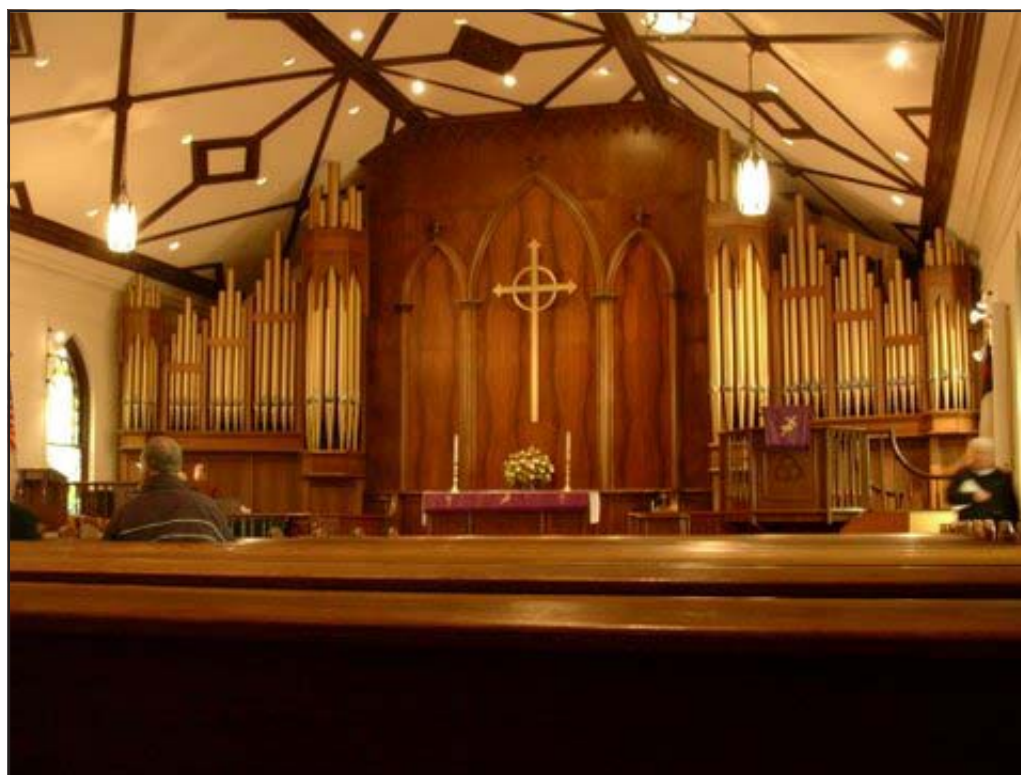
16' Bourdon  
8' Principal  
8' Rohrgedackt  
4' Octave  
4' Openflute  
Cornet II  
2' Doublette  
Mixture V  
8' Trumpet

**SWELL**

8' Gamba  
8' Voix Celeste  
8' Hohlflute  
4' Octave  
4' Harmonic Flute  
2' Principal  
Fourniture IV  
16' Clarinet  
8' Oboe  
*Tremolo*

**PEDAL**

16' Subbass  
16' Bourdon  
8' Octave  
8' Flute  
4' Choralbass  
16' Posaune



**Trinity Methodist Holtkamp**

**NEWS OF NOTE**

***ORGAN CONCERT – Sunday, April 29, 2007 at 5:00 PM.***

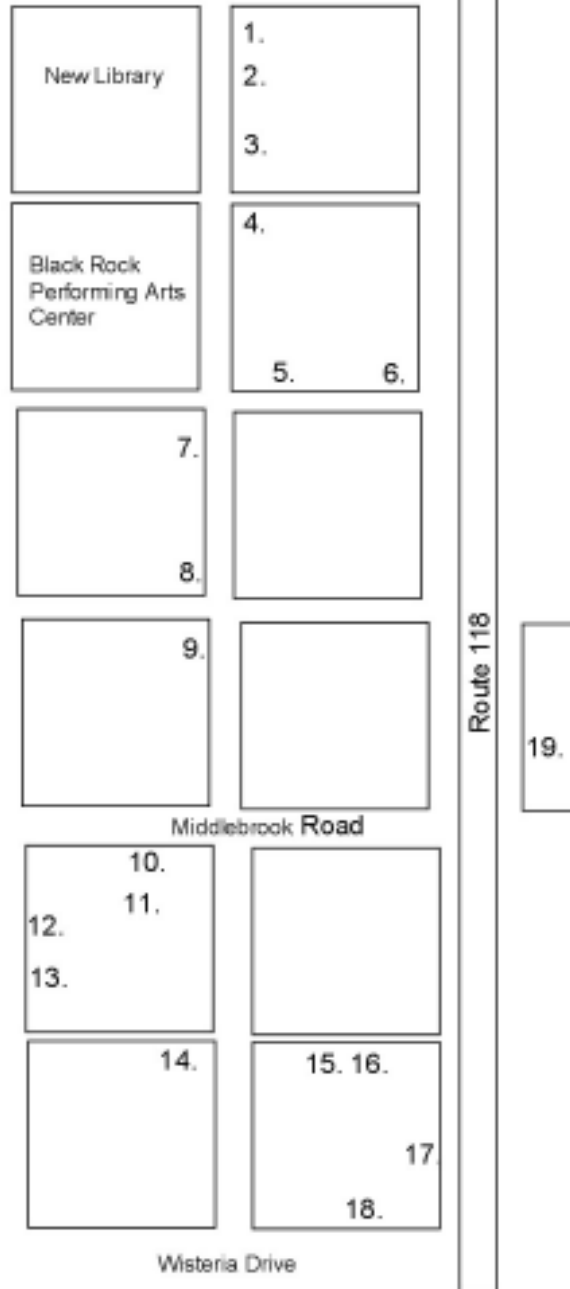
Monte Maxwell, Chapel Organist and Chair of the Music Department at the U. S. Naval Academy, will present a concert at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 825 S. Taylor Street, Arlington, VA 22204.

***Free Admission. For further information, phone Ted Gustin at (703) 566-8854***



Restaurants in Germantown:

1. California Tortilla
2. French Quarter Café
3. Cold Stone Creamery
4. EN -Asian Bistro
5. Safeway
6. Starbucks Coffee
7. Panera
8. Baja Fresh
9. Ruby Tuesday
10. Wendy's
11. McDonalds
12. Woodside Deli
13. Quiznos Sub
14. 7-Eleven
15. Chicken Basket
16. Subway
17. Dunkin' Donuts
18. Roy Rogers
19. Royal Bagel Bakery & Deli



**Dates to remember:**  
*April Crawl - Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>*  
*May Crawl - Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>*  
**PLEASE NOTE THIS IS THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SATURDAY!**  
**Deadline for May Newsletter**  
 Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>