

Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

www.hilbus.org



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Saturday, August 25, 2007

141ST Calvert County Jousting Tournament
and 18TH Annual Organ Recital Series

Christ Church (Episcopal)

3100 Broomes Road

Port Republic, MD 20676

410/586-0565 • www.christchurchcalvert.org

Organ Recitals on the small (3-rank) Möller instrument located in the air-conditioned Historic Church will begin at 12:30 PM and end at 5 PM. Several Chapter members (marked with *) are featured:



Christ Church, Port Republic

12:30 PM – Larry Whitbeck

1:00 PM – Benn Morgan

1:30 PM – Peter* and Linda Crisafulli (*organ & flute*)

2:00 PM – Kevin Clemens*

2:30 PM – Carolyn Booth*

3:00 PM – Carl Schwartz*

3:30 PM – Ed Godshall

4:00 PM – Mark Steiner*

4:30 PM – Susan Yoe

The church's **Bazaar** opens at 11:00 AM (books, baked goods, toys, plants, crafts, etc.) and **Jousting** begins at noon. [Please note: There is a small donation requested for admission to the grounds for the tournament and the bazaar.] Jousting is the Official State Sport of the state of Maryland: the

[crawl information continued next page]

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Articles and news may be submitted to the Editor electronically: music.director@gracealex.org

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

object is to “spear” (from horseback) 3 rings hung from 3 successive arches 30 yards apart. Including a 20-yard approach to the first arch, every rider (except novice class) must travel the course in 9 seconds or less.

Country Supper is from 2:30 PM to 6:30 PM. The menu is fried chicken, deviled crab, ham (choice of two) plus sides, beverages and desserts. Cost is \$16/adult, \$7/age 6-12; children under 6 accompanied by paying adult eat free. Boxed suppers are also available for \$16.

Directions:

From the Washington Beltway travel south on Maryland Route 4 going through Prince Frederick. Approximately 4 miles south of Prince Frederick turn right on Broomes Island Road (MD 264); there is a light at this intersection. The Church and Parish Hall are the first buildings on the left, about 0.5 mile from the intersection.



A Pipe Organ Tour of Bel Air, Maryland (June 2007)

Reviewed by Kevin M. Clemens

Perfect weather was the order of the day for the fourth Saturday in May. Members of the Hilbus Chapter and church members gathered at Christ Our King Presbyterian Church [Bel Air, MD] to hear and play the Reuter Pipe Organ. Over a period of years the church had numerous electric organs and finally in February 1999 a memorial gift from the untimely death of James Resher, Sr. realized the church’s dream of a pipe organ. In June of 1999, a committee of church members and consultants Margaret Budd, Henry Lowe, and Pierce Getz searched for an instrument that would “make the congregation’s hearts soar”. Three recommended pipe organ companies were reviewed through literature, company representatives, and listening field trips.

After much consideration the committee and consultants recommended the Reuter Organ Company of Lawrence, Kansas. The Reuter pipe organ of 2 manuals and pedal has 11 ranks and 7 digital voices. The organ is entirely housed on a steel platform erected over the entrance to the sanctuary. The wood and paint used in the installation were carefully chosen to match the décor of the sanctuary. Along with the installation of the pipe organ, the facilities committee made adjustments and improvements to the choir loft as suggested by the organ consultants.

The instrument is very versatile and fills the sanctuary very adequately. Even though this author is not fond of digital stops I must admit they were very convincing and resulted in the church having a larger specification with two reeds and 4 sixteen-foot pedal stops. So many times an organ builder in a dead room will rely on one sixteen-foot pedal stop, usually a Bourdon 16', to carry the weight of the entire organ and usually to my ears is not successful. This room definitely needed the Contrebass 16' when playing full organ. The crowning glory of the full organ was the Bombarde 16'. The congregation wanted their hearts to soar and I am sure when Henry Lowe plays his yearly recital on this instrument that happens.



Christ our King Presbyterian façade

[specification continued next page]

2000 Reuter Pipe Organ, Opus 2203 – Christ Our King Presbyterian Church

GREAT	SWELL	PEDAL
Principal 8'	Lieblich Gedeckt 16' (<i>digital</i>)	Contrebass 16' (<i>digital</i>)
Bourdon 8'	Spitz Principal 8'	Subbass 16' (<i>digital</i>)
Rohrflote 8'	Rohrflote 8'	Lieblich Gedeckt 16' (<i>digital</i>)
Viola Celeste II	Viole 8'	Principal 8'
Principal 4'	Viole Celeste 8'	Subbass 8'
Bourdon 4'	Spitz Principal 4'	Bourdon 8'
Spitz Principal 2'	Rohrflote 4'	Rohrflote 8'
Mixture III-IV	Nazard 2 ² / ₃ '	Principal 4'
Trompette 8' (<i>digital</i>)	Rohrflote 2'	Bourdon 4'
Oboe 8' (<i>digital</i>)	Basson 16' (<i>digital</i>)	Bombarde 16' (<i>digital</i>)
Chimes	Trompette 8' (<i>digital</i>)	Trompette 8' (<i>digital</i>)
MIDI	Oboe 8' (<i>digital</i>)	Oboe 4' (<i>digital</i>)
<i>Swell to Great 8'</i>	Trompette 4' (<i>digital</i>)	MIDI
<i>Swell to Great 4'</i>	MIDI	<i>Great to Pedal 8'</i>
	<i>Tremolo</i>	<i>Swell to Pedal 8'</i>
	<i>Swell to Swell 4'</i>	<i>Swell to Pedal 4'</i>



First Presbyterian, Bel Air

The First Presbyterian Church of Bel Air was our next stop where the organist and church members greeted us. The pipe organ is a 1961 Austin Pipe Organ of Hartford, Connecticut. The late Donald King who later worked for the M.P. Möller Pipe Organ Company of Hagerstown, Maryland designed Opus 2239. Donald King designed many Möller pipe organs in the Baltimore area.

The pipe organ is a typical Austin for the 1960's. Small scales, non-descript ranks, and a predictable specification. The two reeds (Fagot and Krummhorn) were the most colorful stops of the organ. The instrument does fill this very small sanctuary which seats about 100 people. From

the outside of the church I always thought that it had a large sanctuary for being the First Presbyterian Church of Bel Air; I was surprised when I entered the church for the first time. The organ is under the care of Crosson and Savage of Southeastern Pennsylvania. The church has a fund designated for future additions to the Austin and several of the Hilbus Chapter members gave their recommendations as to what stops they would add to the present specification. The console is a stop key with many generals and divisionals. Before levels of memory, the Austin consoles were always the most user-friendly of pipe organ consoles.



First Presbyterian console

[specification continued next page]

1961 Austin Organ, Opus 2239 – First Presbyterian Church of Bel Air

GREAT (*unenclosed*)

Principal 8'
 Octave 4'
 Fifteenth 2'
 Mixture III
 (*enclosed*)
 Bourdon 8'
 Flauto Dolce 8'
 Flauto Dolce Celeste 8'
 Spitzflote 4'
 Great 16'
 Great 4'
 Great Unison
 Swell 16'
 Swell 8'
 Swell 4'
 Chimes

SWELL (*enclosed*)

Rohr Gedeckt 8'
 Viola 8'
 Viola Celeste 8'
 Principal 4'
 Koppel Flute 4'
 Block Flute 2'
 Larigot 1 1/3'
 Sesquialtera II
 Fagot 8'
 Tremolo
 Swell 16'
 Swell 4'
 Swell Unison
 Great to Swell 8'

PEDAL

Contrebass 32' (*resultant – wired in 1983*)
 Contregedeckt 32' (*resultant – wired in 1983*)
 Bourdon 16'
 Gedeckt 16'
 Principal 8'
 Viola 8' (*Swell*)
 Gedeckt 8' (*Swell*)
 Choral Bass 4'
 Fagot 16'
 Krummhorn 4'
 Great to Pedal 8'
 Great to Pedal 4'
 Swell to Pedal 8'
 Swell to Pedal 4'

Hilbus Chapter members then walked a few blocks to the restaurant for lunch. Then it was a short drive to St. Ignatius RC Church of Hickory, Maryland.



St. Ignatius RC façade



Carolyn Booth at the St. Ignatius console

St. Ignatius Historic Church was built in 1792. The parish has always been a strong Catholic presence in Harford County. Six area parishes were begun as missions of St. Ignatius. The historic church was dedicated September 27, 1792 by Archbishop John Carroll.

The Hook and Hastings was purchased in 1884 for \$1,400.00 The pipe organ is a 2-manual and pedal instrument of 9 ranks. It is the oldest continuously used pipe organ in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The windchests are slider with mechanical key action and mechanical stop action. The instrument is complete with a balanced swell pedal and with fixed combination toe studs. The Open Diapason 8' and Octave 4' of the Great division fill the small historic church and accompanied well the hymn that members of the Hilbus Chapter sang. The organ is under the care of Ray Brunner.

In December of 2001 the parishioners of St. Ignatius, in order to accommodate the growing number of parishioners, built a new church. The large cruciform church seats over 900 people but unfortunately is served by an aging electric organ; there are plans to purchase a pipe organ. I can remember my former pastor at the dedication of the church scolding the present pastor of St. Ignatius for not including a pipe organ in the plans for the new church.

[review continued next page]

The historic church which houses the Hook and Hastings is used for daily Mass, small weddings and small funeral Masses. The pipe organ continues to be used throughout the year.

1884 Hook & Hastings, St. Ignatius RC Church

GREAT (*unenclosed*)

Open Diapason 8' (*58 pipes*)
Stopped Diapason Bass 8' (*12 pipes*)
Melodia 8' (*46 pipes*)
Dulciana 8' (*46 pipes*)
Octave 4' (*58 pipes*)

SWELL (*enclosed*)

Unison Bass 8' (*12 pipes*)
Viola 8' (*46 pipes*)
Stopped Diapason 8' (*46 pipes*)
Flute 4' (*58 pipes*)
Oboe 8' (*46 pipes*)

PEDAL

Subass 16' (*27 pipes*)

COUPLERS

Swell to Great
Swell to Great at 8^{va}
Swell to Pedal
Great to Pedal

[photos courtesy of Wyatt Colclasure]



As usual, the Hilbus Chapter was well-represented at the recent national convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Below is a photo of the group, taken by Paul Birckner.



CONVENTION 2011 UPDATE: As some of you may already know, the Hilbus Chapter made a bid to host the 2011 national convention of the OHS. This bid was accepted, and now a steering committee is being formed to see this project through to completion. Everyone in the Hilbus Chapter will have a chance to participate, so watch future newsletters for more information. It may seem that 2011 is in the distant future, but rest assured that plans must be started now!

FUTURE CRAWLS:

Our September crawl is being planned by Wayne Selleck and David Dasch.

Our October crawl will again head out to western Maryland; Paul Roeder is planning this.

Our November crawl will feature organs on DC's Capitol Hill, planned by Tom Parker.

Welcome New Members!

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Leon Griesbach
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Leon was one of the Biggs Fellowship winners at the 2007 convention; he is going to be a senior at Catholic University of America in Organ Performance this year and studies with Ed Moore.

**A Hilbus Chapter Membership Roster will be produced in October.
Please make sure that you have renewed your membership and that all information is correct!**

Dates to remember:

August Crawl - Saturday, August 25th

September - Saturday, September 22nd

Deadline for September Newsletter

Monday, September 10th