

Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

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TWO ORGANS IN OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

Prepared by Glen Frank

Saturday, August 22, 2015

10:00 a.m.

Old Presbyterian Meeting House

321 South Fairfax Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Samuel Baker, Director of Music and Organist

*1997 Lively-Fulcher Organ Builders - Opus 4
Two manuals, three divisions, 31 stops, 35 ranks,
mechanical key action and electric stop action.*

1849 Henry Erben

One manual, 10 stops, 8 ranks, and 373 pipes

DIRECTIONS: From the Capital Beltway drive north on Route 1 to Duke Street. Turn right and drive to Fairfax Street or Royal Street. You will pass St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Old Presbyterian Meeting House can be accessed through the courtyard entrance on Royal Street (next to St. Mary's RC Church) or the front door on Fairfax Street. Park in Old Presbyterian Meeting House parking lot and avoid parking in St. Mary's parking lot.

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Dues are due in October. \$14.00 mailed to Secretary-Treasurer. (Checks payable to: HILBUS CHAPTER, OHS)

11:30 a.m.

LUNCH

Chadwick's Restaurant

203 Strand Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Directions: From the Old Presbyterian Meeting House walk north on Fairfax Street two blocks. Turn right and walk two and a half blocks to Strand Street and turn right.

1:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

228 South Pitt Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Grant Hellmers, Organist-Choirmaster

1968 Casavant Frères Ltée. - Opus 2972

*Two manuals. three divisions, 32 stops. 32 registers,
41 ranks and electro-pneumatic action.*

DIRECTIONS: From Chadwick's Restaurant it is a five to seven minute walk to St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Turn left out of Chadwick's Restaurant to Prince Street and turn left. Walk four blocks to Pitt Street and turn left. Church is mid-block on the left.



1966 M. P. Möller - St. James School



Hilbus Chapter of July 25, 2015 Organ Crawl - Hagerstown Gems Reviewed by Kevin M. Clemens

A dozen members of the Hilbus Chapter drove to Hagerstown, Maryland on a beautiful summer day to see two instruments the chapter has never visited. The first venue was the St. James Episcopal School located on College Road. The school is on the outskirts of Hagerstown located in a beautiful rural area with farmland and large stately homes. The **2006 Randall Dyer & Associates - 2 manuals and 17 ranks** replaces a 1966 M.P. Möller Organ, Opus 10279. The Möller pipe organ was never satisfactorily since the great and pedal were placed in the middle of the gallery and the enclosed swell was placed under the eaves of the roof to the right of the great and pedal chests. The black and white picture even shows visually the organ was “unattractive”. The divisions were never in tune with each other was one complaint from the school organist/music director. The Möller organ was offered for sale but the only interested party backed out. Columbia Organ Works bought the pipe organ for not more than a couple thousand dollars. It would have taken a special space to relocate the pipe organ. The great chest was 13 feet long and the swell had no “real” box because of its location. It was approximately 17 ranks. The Randall Dyer & Associates instrument was paid for by the Rich Family. Their children attended St. James School in years past. The Rich Family lived in Florida and were very familiar with a Randall Dyer & Associates Pipe Organ in the area and specified that this company would be the builder of the Rich Family Memorial Organ. The new pipe organ is in a self-contained case in the center of the gallery, the smaller footprint of the new organ has freed up considerable space for additional seating and other instruments.

Seated at the draw knob console I discovered the majority of the stops were under expression. The only stop not in the box was the Principal 16' in the pedal which was located in the façade. The lowest notes of the pedal Principal 16' are laid horizontally at the back of the case, since they were too tall for the façade. Some of the stops were located both on the swell and great divisions. In particular the 8' Flute Harmonique occupies its traditional place on the Great, but is also added to the Swell to broaden that division for choral accompaniment. The 8' Grand Trumpet is a short-compass stop on 6" wind pressure. With English shallots, it is quite useful for trumpet tunes, but it also broadens the whole organ in a manner that described its name. The organ played Bach organ works well and equally French Romantic organ works were very comfortable. With the majority of the organ under expression one could build the organ from a whisper to a roaring “Anglican” sound to accompany the anthems of early 20th century British composers. Many thanks to Rick Morrison for providing information on the Möller organ and the photograph of the 1966 Möller.



GREAT:

16'	Gemshorn	
8'	Principal	54 pipes
8'	Rhorflöte	
8'	Flute Harmonique	49 pipes
8'	Gemshorn	
4'	Octave	
4'	Flöte	
2 2/3'	Quinte	
2'	Gemshorn	
1 3/5'	Tierce	42 pipes
III-IV	Mixture	212 pipes
8'	Trompette	
8'	Oboe	
8'	Grand Trumpet	42 pipes
	Cymbelstern	



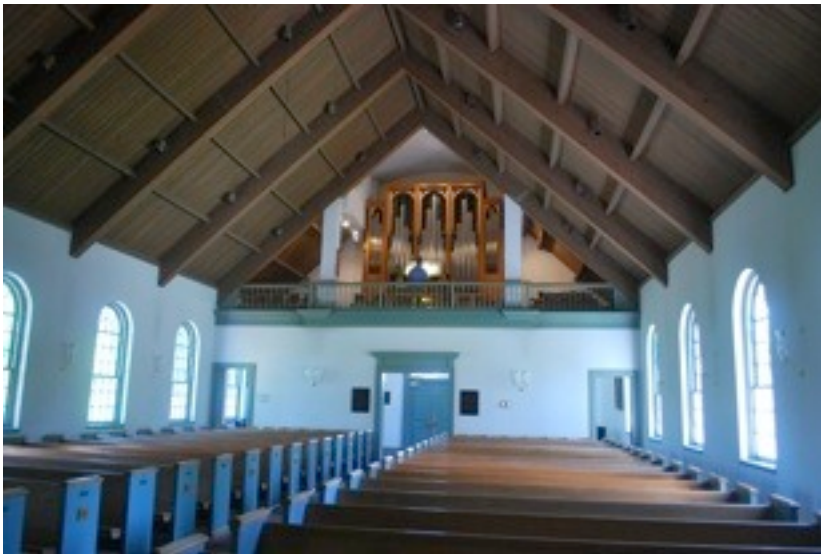
SWELL:

8'	Flute Harmonique	
8'	Bourdon	49 pipes
8'	Gemshorn	61 pipes
8'	Gemshorn Celeste	42 pipes
4'	Gemshorn	12 pipes
4'	Rhorflöte	49 pipes
2'	Octave	12 pipes
1 1/3'	Quinte	49 pipes
16'	Oboe	
8'	Trompette	61 pipes
8'	Oboe	49 pipes
4'	Trompette	
	Tremulant	
8'	Grand Trumpet	



PEDAL:

32'	Resultant	
16'	Principal (façade)	32 pipes
16'	Bourdon	24 pipes
8'	Principal	
8'	Bourdon	
8'	Gemshorn	
4'	Principal	
32'	Reed Cornet	
16'	Trompette	12 pipes
8'	Trompette	
4'	Oboe	



The following history of The First Christian Church M. P. Möller Pipe Organ was written by deceased church member, Leon Cross, in May of 2005. Mr. Cross passed away a few years ago. Leon worked for the M.P. Möller Company for 42 years until his retirement. As a master organ builder and technician, he worked on many of the premier pipe organs in this country. This particular instrument was his "pride and joy" and he spent countless hours adding and rebuilding this organ over many years. Since he had to listen to the instrument played each Sunday the voicing was outstanding. The instrument was one that when you sat down to play, you wanted to play it all day. A testament to Leon Cross's skill as a voicer.

The pipe organ of First Christian Church has a unique history for several reasons. First, it was originally built by the M.P. Möller Company of Hagerstown for Temple Adath Israel located in the Bronx, New York in 1935. The cost in 1935 was \$4,000.00. For some unknown reason however, the Möller Company had to take back the organ. The organ was then re-engineered for the former church building on South Potomac Street shortly thereafter. When the current church was built in 1960, the pipe organ was moved to its present location. The total cost for the move in addition to tonal revisions and re-engineering was \$18,650.00.

In 1970, a new console was purchased with additional stop controls so that pipes could be added. The new console cost \$12,470.00. Over the past 30 years, many additional ranks of pipes have been added to the pipe organ. All of these pipe ranks came from other churches, making the pipe organ of First Christian Church of Hagerstown a truly ecumenical instrument. The following is a list of the churches that have provided stops to the organ:

1. The Harp came from the Suter-Rouzer Funeral Home.
2. The 8' Principal came from Trinity Lutheran Church of Camp Hill, PA.
3. The 8' Bourdon came from First Presbyterian Church of Summit, NJ.
4. The 8' Trumpet is from St. Paul's United Methodist Church of Westminster, MD.
5. The 16' Contra Fagott is from Peachtree United Methodist Church of Atlanta, GA.
6. The 8' Harmonic Flute came from the chapel of Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ.
7. The Zimbelstern was salvaged from a Presbyterian Church of Cincinnati, OH that was burned by an arsonist. Other than being "slightly toasted" it works just fine.

All of these ranks of pipes came from churches which had decided for a variety of reasons to purchase new pipes. These replacements were done to add different or new sounds. Once installed on this pipe organ, they were re-voiced (adjusting the sound quality and volume) so that they would blend appropriately with the original ranks of pipes.

In April 1996, the transept great chest, two ranks of pipes (the Quinteflute and the Gemshorn) and case work were purchased from Trinity Lutheran Church Of Hagerstown. Trinity has just signed a contract for a new Schantz Pipe Organ. The Principal and Mixture ranks were made by Eastern Organ Pipes of Hagerstown. An electronic 16' Gedeckt pedal stop was purchased from Walker Technical at this time. These have been installed as the Antiphonal Organ on the rear gallery wall. Work began on the installation of the Antiphonal Organ in August of 1996 and was completed by the end of October of 1996. At the same time the console was sent out to Hagerstown Organ Company and converted to solid state, with eight levels of memory. Also an electronic 32' Bourdon stop was added at this time.

In the fall of 1996, the Rev. Steven Fleming and his wife, Brenda, donated the Trompette en Chamade (horizontal trumpet) in memory and honor of their parents, Leon & Doris Cross and Marie Barnhart and the late Karl Barnhart. It is less than 9 1/2" of wind pressure and lies atop the Great/Choir expression box.

In January of 1999, Greg and Kathy Martin purchased and donated the 32' Contra Fagott stop in honor of their son, Kyle Martin. Previously, Mr. and Mrs. Martin had the transposer installed on the console after its conversion to solid state technology in 1996. In 2000 Mr. and Mrs. Martin's generosity permitted the installation of the 8' Flute Celeste rank and a solid state control to increase the combination memories from 8 - 32.

In 2002, all pneumatics relays were replaced with solid state circuitry. The entire organ is now controlled with solid state technology. Also, in 2002, three reservoirs were recovered, 32 expression pneumatics were recovered and the great chest unit action was recovered. This project was paid for by the Trustees, much of the work on the chests was done by Gary Watson, Don Richardson, Al Prytherch, Rod Reed, and Leon Catlett. My wife, Nancy Cross, helped with re-leathering the reservoirs, and with tuning.

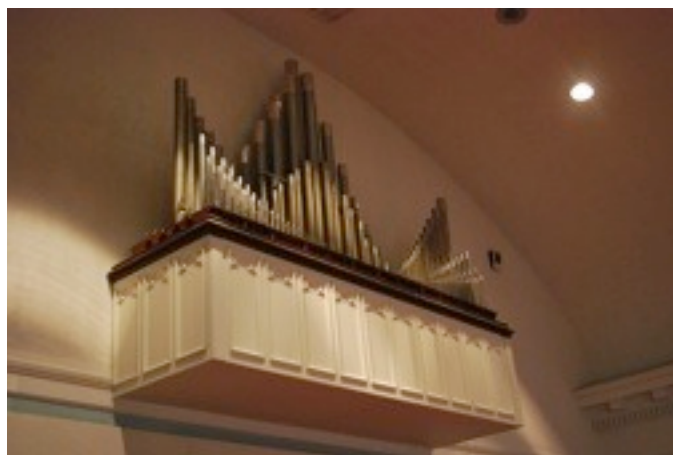
In 2003, an electronic 16' Violone stop was installed on the pedal organ. This was given in memory of Dennis Taylor. During February 2005, I removed the present chimes and harp from the organ. Both of these units needed to be totally rebuilt to keep them in working order. Because of health problems, this was more than I could do.

I had heard some Walker electronic installations that were excellent in duplicating real chimes and harp. After talking with Greg Martin, we decided to purchase a chime, harp and celesta unit. I purchased the chimes and harp because I have given the original chimes in honor of my parents, Hoye and Goldie Cross. I had also purchased the harp in honor of my daughter, Brenda.

Greg and Kathy Martin purchased the celesta in memory of Don Ruth, who served as our church organist for many years. The original chimes had 21 notes, the new one 32; the original harp had 49 notes, the new one 61 notes; and the celesta has 61 notes.

At present, the pipe organ of First Christian Church in Hagerstown has a total of 38 ranks which adds up to a total of 2,213 individual pipes. The present replacement cost of the organ is \$500,000. However the demise of the M. P. Möller Pipe Organ Company, once the world's largest builder of pipe organs, the organ at First Christian Church could not truly be replaced at any cost.

This probably will be the last work I will be able to do other than tuning. Because of arthritis and myasthenia gravis, it is getting increasingly difficult for me to work on the pipe organ. I want to thank the Trustees, board members, and the congregation for allowing me to do what, I felt would make our pipe organ one of the best in the area. It has been a labor of love and I am sorry I can't do it anymore. Many thanks to Gordon Biscomb for the outstanding photography.



GREAT ORGAN - Manual II Enclosed

(9 Ranks - 549 pipes)

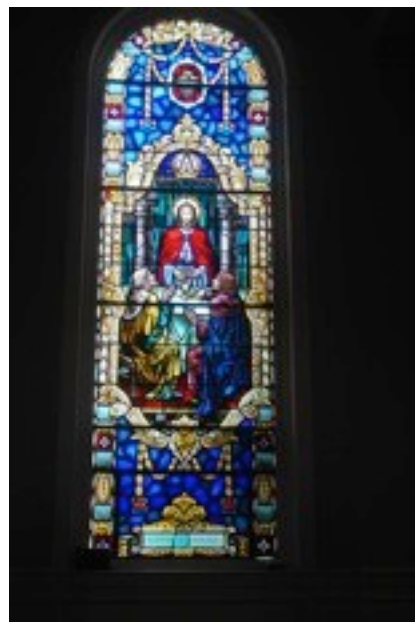
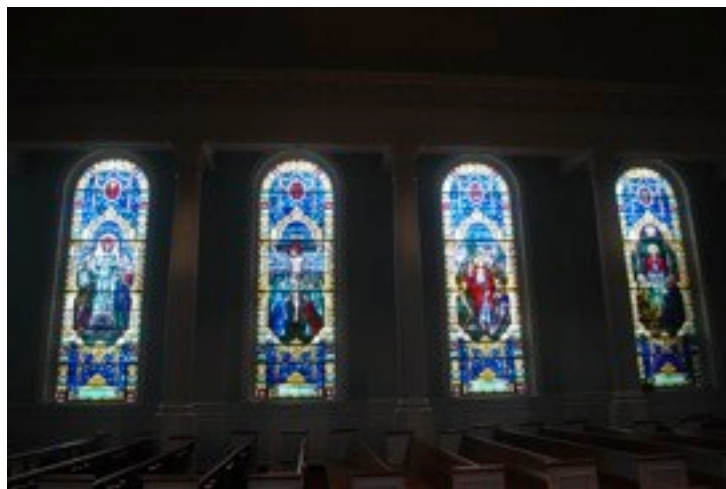
8'	Principal	61 pipes	
8'	Bourdon	73 pipes	
8'	Harmonic Flute	49 pipes	
4'	Octave	61 pipes	
4'	Hohlflute	61 notes	
2'	Super Octave	61 notes	
2'	Blockflute	61 pipes	
III	Mixture	183 pipes	
8'	Trumpet	61 pipes	
	Chimes	32 notes	(Walker Digital)
	Great 16		
	Great Unison Off		
	Great 4		



CHOIR ORGAN - Manual I Enclosed

(7 ranks - 415 pipes)

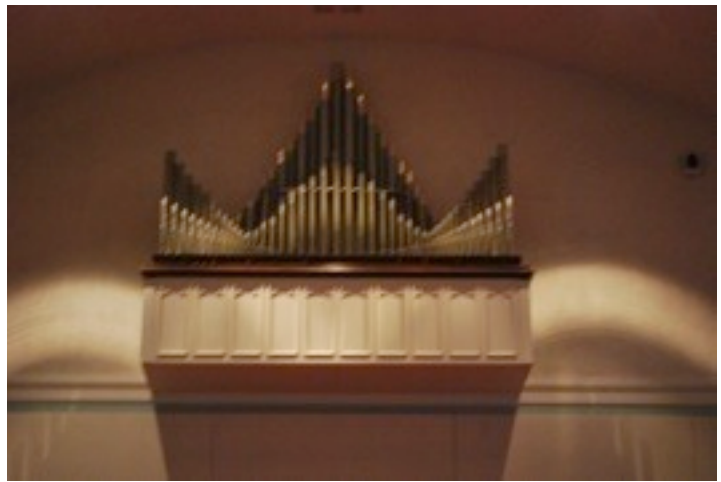
8'	Hohlflute	73 pipes	
8'	Flute Celeste	49 pipes	
8'	Dulciana	61 pipes	
8'	Unda Maris	49 pipes	
4'	Bourdon	61 notes	
2'	Blockflute	61 notes	
1 1/3'	Larigot	61 pipes	
1'	Sifflute	61 notes	
8'	Clarinet	61 pipes	
8'	Trumpet	61 notes	
	Harp	61 notes	(Walker Digital)
	Celesta	61 notes	(Walker Digital)
	Tremolo		
	Choir 16		
	Choir Unison Off		
	Choir 4		
8'	Trompette en Chamade	61 pipes	(unenclosed)



SWELL ORGAN - Manual III Enclosed

(12 ranks - 841 pipes)

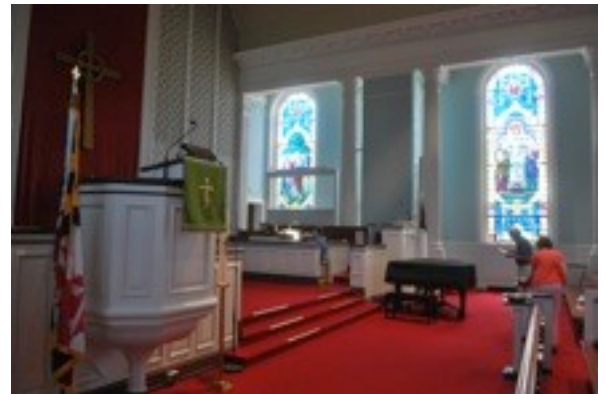
16'	Bourdon	85	pipes
8'	Rohrflute	61	notes
8'	Salicional	61	pipes
8'	Vox Celeste	49	pipes
4'	Principal	73	pipes
4'	Rohrlute	61	notes
2 2/3'	Rohrnasat	61	pipes
2'	Principal	61	notes
2'	Flute	61	notes
1 3/5'	Tierce	61	pipes
III	Scharf	183	pipes
16'	Contre Fagott	85	pipes
8'	Trompette	61	pipes
8'	Oboe	61	notes
8'	Vox Humana	61	pipes
4'	Fagott	61	notes
	Tremolo		
	Swell 16		
	Swell Unison Off		
	Swell 4		



ANTIPHONAL ORGAN - Floating Unenclosed

(6 ranks - 378 pipes)

8'	Principal	73	pipes
8'	Quintflute	61	pipes
4'	Octave	61	notes
2'	Gemshorn	61	pipes
III	Mixture	183	pipes
16'	Pedal Gedeckt	32	notes (1-32 Walker Digital)



PEDAL ORGAN - Enclosed

(2 ranks - 112 pipes)

32'	Contre Bourdon	32	notes (1-12 Walker Digital)
16'	Principal	68	pipes
16'	Bourdon	44	pipes
16'	Violone	32	notes (Walker Digital)
16'	Lieblich Gedeckt	32	notes
10 2/3'	Quint	32	notes
8'	Octave	32	notes
8'	Flute	32	notes
4'	Super Octave	32	notes
2'	Blockflute	32	notes
32'	Contra Fagott	32	notes (1-12 Walker Digital)
16'	Contre Fagott	32	notes
4'	Fagott	32	notes

