

Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

www.hilbus.org



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Autumn in Cumberland, Maryland

Prepared by Mark Steiner

Saturday, October 24, 2015

10:00 a.m.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

**16 Washington Street
Cumberland, Maryland**

Mark Steiner, Organist-Choirmaster

*1952 M.P. Möller, Opus 8263
Two manuals, three division, 21 ranks
Rebuilt in 1984*

DIRECTIONS: From DC/Baltimore take I-70 West to I-68 West toward Cumberland via Exit 1A on left at Hancock, Maryland. Drive 37 miles to Cumberland. Take Exit 43C Downtown Maryland, 0.18 miles. Left onto West Harrison Street, 0.06 miles; Right onto S. Mechanic Street, 0.11 miles; 1st left onto Baltimore Street at traffic light, 0.08 miles; Baltimore Street becomes Washington Street. Church on left on a hill. (Stone Church).

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*Articles and news may be submitted to the Editor electronically: kevinclemens@mac.com
Dues are due in October. \$14.00 mailed to Secretary-Treasurer. (Checks payable to: HILBUS CHAPTER, OHS)*

11:30 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church
11 Washington Street
Cumberland, Maryland

Judith Brown, Director of Music

1930 M.P. Moller, Opus 5609
3 manuals and pedal, 31 ranks
Rebuilt in 2001 by Lewis and Hitchcock

DIRECTIONS: Walk across Washington Street. Church is across the street.

12:30 p.m.
Patrick's Pub
7 Willison Place
Cumberland, Maryland

DIRECTIONS: Head East (downhill) on Washington Street toward Greene Street. Washington Street becomes Baltimore Street, 0.10 miles. Turn right at the traffic light onto S. Mechanic Street, 0.17 miles; S. Mechanic Street becomes MD-51 - Industrial Blvd. 0.63 miles. Left onto Lamont Street, 0.17 miles; Left onto Maryland Avenue, 0.19 miles; First left onto Willison Place, 0.04 miles. Restaurant on right.

2:30 p.m.
St. Patrick RC Church
15706 Mount St. Patrick Road, NW
Mount Salvage, Maryland

1856 Henry Erben
1 manual, mechanic action, 6 ranks

DIRECTIONS: Drive Northwest on Willison Place 0.02 miles; First right to stay on Willison Place, 0.35 miles; Left onto Spring Street, 0.03 mile. First right onto Park Street, 0.39 miles; Right onto Baltimore Avenue/US Route 40 alt. West, 0.03 miles; First left onto Henderson Avenue/US Route 40 alt. West. Follow for 2.25 miles. Slight right onto Mount Savage Road, NW - MD 36, 8 miles. Right onto St. Patrick Church Road. Church ahead on the right.

HILBUS CHAPTER OHS ORGAN CRAWL - SEPTEMBER 26, 2015

"A Trip Down Franconia Road" prepared by Gerald Piercey

A Report by Peter Crisafulli

Several Hilbus chapter members turned out for the September 26 crawl on Franconia Road in Alexandria, VA. Unfortunately, Gerald Piercey, Hilbus Chapter's Vice Chairman, was hospitalized a day or two before the crawl and was unable to attend and enjoy the fruits of his planning for what turned out to be a very enjoyable day of organ exploration. The good news is that he is doing well. We wish Gerald and his family the very best and look forward to his presence at future crawls.

Our first destination was **All Saints Sharon Chapel, 3421 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 2310**. The organ is by **Hook and Hastings**, their **Opus 1502 built in 1891 and rebuilt in 1993 by Dan Meyers**. It is situated at the front behind the altar and consists of two manuals and pedal with 16 ranks of pipes. Both key and stop action are mechanical.

I am indebted to Carolyn Booth who provided me with a photocopied excerpt from the Organ Historical Society's 9th Annual Convention program book (1964) which described this organ at that time. What follows is based on information contained in that document as well as my own personal observations on the day of the crawl.

Sharon Chapel was established in 1849 by students of the Virginia Theological Seminary, and Phillips Brooks preached his first sermon there while a seminarian. The present A-frame building was erected in 1963.

Meanwhile, The H & H organ was originally built for Wesley Methodist Chapel in Washington which eventually gave way to the Capital Memorial Seventh-Day Adventist Church in 1924. The building was sold and razed in 1962. At that time, the organ was put in storage by Cleveland Fisher and later re-erected in Sharon Chapel in 1964.

Here follows the stop-list:

GREAT (unenclosed)

- 16' Bourdon (TC)
- 16' Bourdon Bass (1-12)
- 8' Open Diapason (1-19 in facade)
- 8' Dulciana (full-length throughout; 1-6 in facade)
- 8' Melodia (1-12 stopped)
- 4' Octave
- 3' Twelfth
- 2' Fifteenth
- 8' Trumpet

SWELL (enclosed)

- 8' Open Diapason (a few stopped basses)
- 8' Viola (full-length throughout; 7 lowest basses offset outside swell box)
- 8' Stop'd Diapason
- 4' Harmonic Flute
- 2' Principal (originally a 4' Violina)
- 8' Oboe (TC)



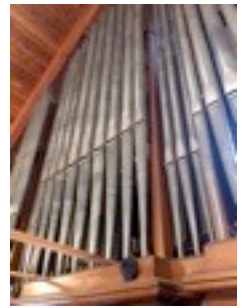
PEDAL

16' Bourdon (inside case left side)

8' Open Diapason (open wood pipes inside case right side)

3 standard unison couplers (SG, GP, SP).

Manuals 58 notes, Pedal 27 notes.



A few changes were made to the original fabric of the instrument during rebuilding, noticeably the replacement of some action parts with aluminum components, an electric motor for controlling the swell shades, and new toe levers for the couplers replacing the original draw knobs. There are 3 holes visible at the bottom of the left stop jamb where the original coupler controls once resided.

Tonally, the instrument appears to be largely unaltered except for the replacement of the Swell 4' Violina with a 2' Principal.

Overall, the sound is rich, full and satisfying. The Great Open Diapason fills the nave with a warm, gracious, unforced sound. The Octave, Twelfth, and Fifteenth each add varying degrees of brilliance as they are added to the unison. The Trumpet has "fire," yet blends in a grand way, putting the exclamation point on the Great chorus. It provides a distinguished solo voice as well. Ubiquitous to 19th century American organs are the Melodia and Dulciana. Here, the Melodia is cheerful, and the Dulciana a true echo diapason. Having the luxury of a full-compass 16' double on the Great adds a touch of grandeur to the whole.

The Swell is based on an 8' Open Diapason, this one subservient to the Great OD, but with a rich geigen-like quality which is especially effective under expression. The Stop'd Diapason is colorful, contrasting nicely with the Great Melodia, while the Viola is reserved much like the Great Dulciana, but with a decidedly "stringy" edge. The 4' Harmonic Flute is charming as a solo stop and blends effectively with the other Swell stops. All of this is topped-off with a fine Oboe and Bassoon which wears two hats: a minor chorus reed, and a colorful solo stop.

Turning to the Pedal, in addition to the expected 16' Bourdon, we have the added luxury of an 8' Open Diapason which is a large-scale open wood that effectively adds definition to the Pedal and fills in for the "missing" 16' Open, an effective solution in situations lacking adequate space for a true 16' open stop.

This organ is a real treasure for Sharon Chapel, but while everything is playable, in truth, this instrument does need a bit of TLC. Church members are considering the possibility of a recital next spring to raise funds for this purpose.



Following lunch at the Lone Star Steakhouse we made our way to **Bush Hill Presbyterian Church, 4916 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310**, the home of **Letourneau's Opus 44 (1995)**. We were hosted by the church's Music Director and Organist, Rick Mumford, who welcomed us warmly and demonstrated the organ. This was the first Letourneau to be installed in the Washington Metro area. Haig Mardirosian played the dedicatory recital in 1995 and returned in 2005 to play a 10th anniversary recital.

The following is taken verbatim from printed information that Rick distributed during our visit.

"A glorious instrument featuring two manuals, 19 stops, 23 ranks, and 1,256 pipes, the Letourneau Organ at Bush Hill is a modern expression of traditional artistry. With electric slider wind chests and an 8-channel solid state combination action, the instrument captures the very latest in technology and reliability, while the careful voicing that marks a Letourneau instrument brings a unique, but traditional, sound to the Bush Hill Sanctuary.

"The solid oak case frame and console features exquisite joinery and finish, and the case conceals internal wind chests of yellow poplar that are finely crafted. The natural notes on the keyboards are covered with ebony and the sharps are of maple, while the Pedal features natural notes of maple and sharps of rosewood. The organ is complemented by fine oak casework in the choir area designed by Fred Kuntz of Bush Hill Church."

The Stop List:

GREAT (unenclosed)

8' Principal
8' Gedeckt
4' Octave
4' Koppel Flute
2' Super Octave
II Sesquialtera (TC)
IV Mixture
8' Trumpet

SWELL (enclosed)

8' Rohrflute
8' Viola da Gamba
8' Viola Celeste (TC)
4' Spitzflute
2' Blockflute
1 1/3' Larigot
8' Oboe
Tremulant

PEDAL (unenclosed)

16' Subbass
8' Principal
4' Choralbass
16' Bassoon

3 standard unison couplers: I/P, II/P, II/I.
Manuals 61 notes; Pedal 32 notes.
Draw knob console.



The case of this elegant instrument is mounted on the back wall of the sanctuary above an area set apart for the choir. The console is placed a short distance away allowing the organist to conduct from the console.

It is simply impossible to find an unpleasant sound in this instrument! The voicing is polished throughout: no screech from the Mixture; no snarl from the reeds. There is a delightful variety of flute tone, and the Swell boasts a pair of lovely strings and a versatile Oboe. Even though there is no secondary principal chorus on the Swell, the vertical flute ensemble makes a convincing foil to the Great plenum. Individual stops have warmth and color, and the sum of the parts adds up to a satisfying full and cohesive whole.

Seeing, hearing, and playing this seemingly modest-sized instrument once again gives this writer an opportunity to get on one of his favorite soap-boxes: espousing the cause for beautifully crafted small to modest sized pipe organs. With a "mere" 23 ranks, no extensions, unit stops, duplexing, or digital enhancements, this organ seems nearly limitless in its musical possibilities.

As if to put a final exclamation point on this, we ended our visit by heartily singing "Cwm Rhondda" with a creative and brilliant organ introduction and accompaniment played by Rick Mumford.

We thank Gerald Piercey for arranging this crawl, and Glen Frank for enhancing this report with his excellent photos.



Immaculate Conception Church

8TH & N STREETS, NORTHWEST – WASHINGTON, DC
Observing the close of the 150th Parish Anniversary Year

Celebration of the Complete Restoration of the
1879 STEER & TURNER TRACKER ORGAN



“Pulling Out All the Stops”

SATURDAY – OCTOBER 17, 2015

CONCERT AT 7:00 PM

Music of Rheinberger, Bach, Franck & Reger
Bruce Stevens, *organist*

*The concert is given in loving memory of Dr. John C. Warman,
faithful organist at the Sunday evening Mass, from 1964 to 2015*

AND

SUNDAY – OCTOBER 18, 2015

CONCERT MASS AT 6:00 PM

Music of Vierne, Howells, Kodaly and Gounod
Timothy Edward Smith, *organist*
John Henderson, *conductor*
Capital Sixteen, *vocal ensemble*

*The Mass is offered for the repose of the soul of
Reverend Joseph A. Wysocki, former parish music director*



The concerts are open to the public and free. Good-will offerings welcome.



Hilbus Chapter members who attended the HOST Northern Netherlands tour.

**HILBUS CHAPTER RENEWAL FORM
2016**

Name: _____

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Telephone(s): _____

Email Address: _____

**CONTRIBUTION TO E. POWER BIGGS FELLOWSHIP
2016**

Honoring an notable advocate for examining and understanding the pipe organ, the E. Power Biggs Fellows will attend the OHS 61st Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 26 - July 1, 2016. Hear and experience a wide variety of pipe organs in the company of organ builders, professional musicians and enthusiasts. The Fellowship includes a two-year membership in the OHS and covers these convention costs: Travel, Hotel, Meals and Registration.

Hilbus Chapter Dues: \$14.00

Contribution to E. Power Biggs Fellowship: _____

TOTAL: _____

Write check payable to: Hilbus Chapter, OHS

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