

# Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

*Where the Tracker Action Is!*

www.hilbus.org



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Volume 46

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Whole Number 416

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## Upper Montgomery County Maryland

Prepared by Carl Schwartz

**Saturday, November 21, 2015**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Damascus United Methodist Church**

**9700 New Church Street**

**Damascus, Maryland 20872**

*1930 Skinner Organ Company, Opus 843*

*Three manuals and Pedal - 31 ranks*

*Electro-pneumatic action*

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**DIRECTIONS:** **From Baltimore** - The church is 32 miles from the intersection of I-70 and I-695. Merge onto I-70 W (23.0 miles). Take Exit 68 for MD-27 (0.2 miles). Turn left onto MD-27 S/Ridge Road (sign for Damascus/Mt. Airy) (5.0 miles) Turn left onto Woodfield Road (1.0 mile). Turn left onto New Church Street. Destination will be on the right (499 feet). **From Points South** - The church is 21 miles from the merge onto I-270. Take I-270 towards Frederick. Head northwest on I-270 Spur N - Merge onto I-270 N (12.7 miles). Take Exit 16 toward Damascus (0.5 miles) - Merge onto Ridge Road (6.9 miles). Turn right onto Bethesda Church Road (0.5 miles). Turn left onto Woodfield Road (0.2 miles) Turn right onto New Church Street. Destination will be on the right (499 feet).

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*Articles and news may be submitted to the Editor electronically: [kevinclemens@mac.com](mailto:kevinclemens@mac.com)*

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

**11:30 a.m.**  
**Messiah Lutheran Church - LCMS**  
**13901 Clopper Road**  
**Germantown, Maryland 20874**

Hosts: Bill Parsons

*1990 Flentrop Orgelbouw*  
*2 manuals and pedal - 23 stops - 30 ranks*  
*Mechanical Action*

**DIRECTIONS:** From Damascus UMC - Head west on New Church Street toward Woodfield Road (499 feet). Turn right onto Woodfield Road (489 feet). Turn left at the 1st cross street onto Main Street (0.2 miles). Continue onto MD-27 S Ridge Road (6.5 miles). Use the left two lanes to turn onto N. Frederick Road (0.9 miles). Turn right onto Germantown Road (3.1 miles). Turn right onto MD-117 W/Clopper Road. Destination will be on the right (0.4 miles).

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**12:45 p.m.**

**Dogfish Head Alehouse**  
**800 West Diamond Avenue**  
**Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878**

**DIRECTIONS:** From Messiah Lutheran Church - Head southeast on MD-117 E/Clopper Road (4.3 miles). Turn left onto Bureau Drive (331 feet). Turn right into parking lot.

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**2:00 p.m.**

**Church of the Ascension, Episcopal**  
**205 South Summit Avenue**  
**Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877**

Host: Carl Schwartz

**2001 Casavant Frerés, Opus 3801**  
**2 manuals and pedal - 22 ranks**

**DIRECTIONS:** From Dogfish Head Alehouse - Turn left on Bureau Drive. Turn left at the 1st cross street onto MD-117 E/W Diamond Avenue (0.9 miles). Turn right onto MD-117 E (0.2 miles). Turn right onto S. Frederick Avenue (0.3 miles). Turn right onto South Summit Avenue. Church will be on left. You may park in the lot at Ascension House across the street. **DIRECTION TO I-270** - Drive south on MD-355 Frederick Road to I-370 spur west. **DIRECTIONS TO BALTIMORE** - South on MD-355. Left on Shady Grove Road to ICC (left exit). In order to use ICC you must have **EZ Pass**. This will take you to US 29 or I-95 North.

Our November crawl itinerary took members on a long trip through the blazing colors of fall foliage to Cumberland, in the mountains of western Maryland. Our host was Mark Steiner who is the organist and choir director at the first church we visited.

### **Emmanuel Episcopal Church 16 Washington St., Cumberland Maryland. 21502**

Emmanuel Church's early instrument was E. & G. G. Hook, Opus 117 (1851). Located in the north gallery, it was replaced by a two manual Odell organ around 1892. The casework and façade of this organ is extant. This was replaced in 1951 by M. P. Moller Inc. Opus 8263, an instrument of 2 manuals and 19 ranks located in an organ chamber on the south side of the chancel.

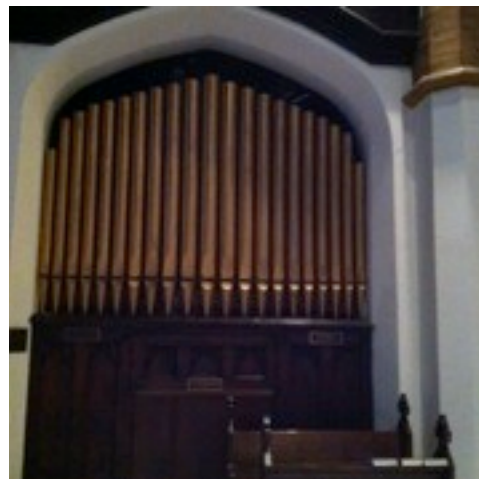
The present instrument, M. P. Moller Opus R-157 of 1984 is hung on the west wall of the church with the choir seated below. It incorporates several stops from the 1951 instrument and has been subsequently altered and enlarged by the Steiner-Murphy Organ Company.

Mark Steiner described the Moller organ, which was installed at about the time he arrived at the church, as being typical of the series organs of the time. There was much unification though the instrument has an independent Great chorus from 8 to 2 pitch plus Mixture III-IV. Moller had gone so far as to cut the slots off the fine 1951 strings and de-nick the pipes so that they chuffed. This is a signature effect of Don Gillett's style at the time. The first change to the organ was to require Moller to restore the nicking. In time the zinc façade pipes of the Pedal Principal 16 unit rank collapsed. These have been replaced by Eastern Organ Supply. That firm also provided a very fine Geigen Diapason stop that was added to the Swell.

Mark's company has renovated the console with new solid state equipment preparing for upcoming additions that will add to the palette of Flute tone, presently all unified: a Melodia 8 & 2 in the Great and a Harmonic Flute 4 in the Swell. Further, the church has acquired a 1917 M. P. Möller: a six stop duplex organ that Mark is installing in the chancel organ chamber, playable from the console of the west end organ.

There are some lovely sounds in this instrument: the Viole and Celeste, the Swell unit Flute and Geigen Diapason stand out, complimented by the fine Moller reeds. The pipework of the 1970s is, perhaps, less distinguished, but the Great chorus is appropriately scaled and the overall ensemble of the organ is exciting and very satisfying, especially when heard at a slight distance from the pipes.

The renovated console is comfortable to play and has all the conveniences one could desire.



## M. P. Moller R-157

### Great

16' Bourdon 97 Pipes  
8' Principal 61 Pipes  
8' Diapason (Pedal)  
8' Bourdon (Melodia, prep.)  
8' Gamba (Sw)  
8' Gamba Celeste (Sw)  
4' Octave 61 Pipes  
4' Gedeckt (Extension 16' Bourdon)  
2-2/3' Nazard (tc) 49 Pipes  
2' Super Octave 61 Pipes  
2' Flute (Ext. 16' Bourdon)  
2' Mixture III - IV ranks 174 Pipes  
8' Trumpet (Swell)  
8' Oboe (Swell)  
8' Clarinet 61 Pipes  
Tremolo  
Chimes (21 Tubes)



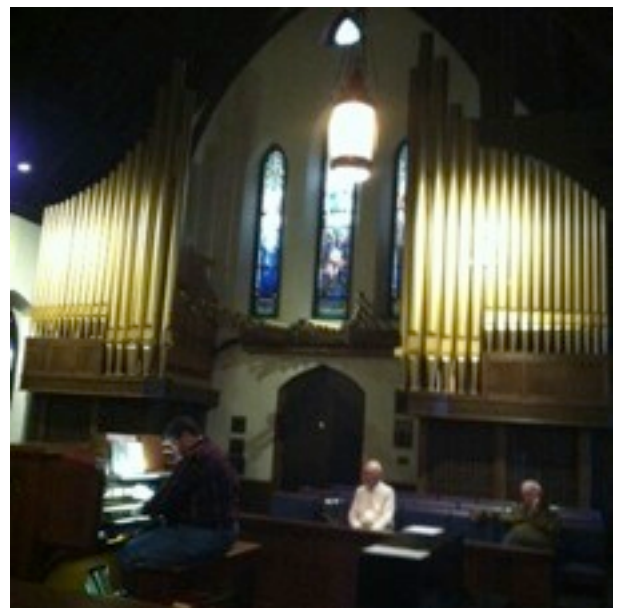
### Swell

8' Geigen Diapason 73 Pipes  
8' Rohr Flute 80 Pipes  
8' Gamba 61 Pipes  
8' Gamba Celeste (tc) 49 Pipes  
4' Geigen Octave (extension)  
4' Spitz Principal 73 Pipes  
4' Rohr Flute (Harmonic Flute, prep.)  
2-2/3' Quint (extension 8' Rohr Flute)  
2' Spitz Octave (extension)  
16' Contra Trumpet (tc) 61 Pipes  
8' Trumpet (extension)  
8' Oboe 61 Pipes  
16' Trompette-en-Chamade (tc) 61 Pipes  
8' Trompette -en-Chamade (extension)  
Tremolo



### Pedal

32' Resultant  
16' Principal 73 Pipes  
16' Subbass (1-32 Peterson Low Note Extension)  
16' Bourdon (Great)  
8' Octave (extension)  
8' Rohr Flute (Sw)  
4' Choral Bass (extension)  
4' Gedeckt (Great)  
16' Trumpet (Sw)  
8' Trompette-en-Chamade (Sw)  
8' Trumpet (Sw)  
4' Clarinet (Gr)



### **Chancel Great**

8' Open Diapason 61 Pipes  
8' Stopped Diapason (Chancel Swell)  
4' Principal (Chancel Swell)  
4' Harmonic Flute (Chancel Swell)

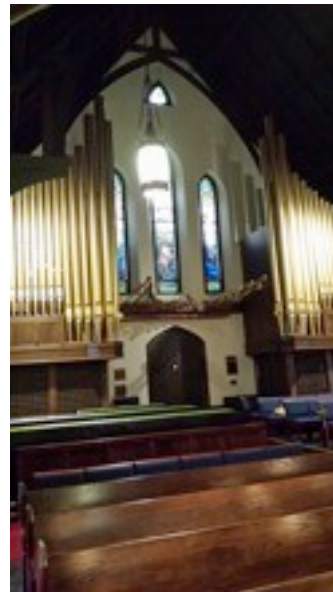
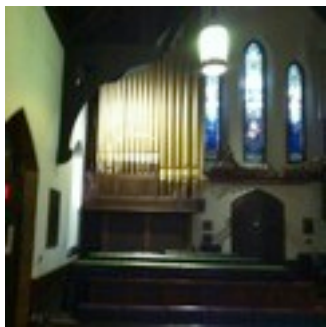
### **Chancel Swell**

8' Stopped Diapason 61 Pipes  
8' Dulciana 61 Pipes  
8' Unda Maris (tc) 49 Pipes  
4' Principal 61 Pipes  
4' Harmonic Flute 61 Pipes

### **Chancel Pedal**

32' Bourdon (Resultant)  
16' Bourdon 44 Pipes  
8' Flute (extension 16' Bourdon)

Peterson ICS-4000 Control System



### **First Presbyterian Church**

**11 Washington St., Cumberland, MD 21502**

First Presbyterian Church is located across the street from the Episcopal Church and is home to M. P. Moller Opus 5608 (1929). An earlier organ in this church was Hook and Hastings, Opus 1475 (1891).

The original Moller tonal design was completely orchestral in concept and notable for the inclusion of two Diapason 16 registers with bass pipes of wood. The Great-Choir duplex and borrow arrangement was common in Moller instruments of the 1920s and provides, even now, much flexibility given the compact layout and resources. Opus 5376 (1929), built for Cumberland's Center Street Methodist Episcopal Church and Opus 4583 (1926) built for St. Paul's Lutheran Church had similar specifications. (OHS database - ID 31695 & 50838). This may reflect one line of thinking prevalent at Moller regarding an ideal church organ just prior to the arrival of Richard Whitelegg as tonal director. Still, in the period leading up to 1930 Moller organs were built with more complete chorus development seen in organs built for Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, DC, The Washington Auditorium (not extant), and Sts. Paul and Augustine Catholic Church, Washington, DC). History would indicate, however, that tonal design was in the hands of Mr. Schulenberger the sales director during that time. This was an effective way to produce a small 3 manual organ with lots of knobs emblazoned with numerous stop names, a mighty pipe organ that appeared to be much larger than it was.

**M. P. Möller, Inc. Hagerstown, Maryland**  
**Opus 5609 (1930) 3/24**

**Great:**

- 16 Double Open Diapason (wood)
- 8 First Open Diapason 61 pipes
- 8 Second Open Diapason 12 pipes ext.
- 8 Doppelflöte 73 pipes
- 8 Melodia 73 pipes
- 8 Gemshorn 73 pipes
- 4 Octave CH
- 4 Flute Harmonic CH
- 8 Tuba 61 pipes
- Tremulant
- Sub - Unison off - Super
- Harp CH - Harp Dampers



**Choir:**

- 8 English Open Diapason 73 pipes
- 8 Flute Harmonic 73 pipes
- 8 Doppelflöte GT
- 8 Gemshorn GT
- 8 Dulciana 73 pipes
- 4 Flauto Traverso GT
- 4 Salicet 12 pipes
- 8 French Horn 61 pipes
- 8 Clarinet 73 pipes
- Tremulant
- Sub - Unison off - Super
- Harp - Harp Dampers



**Swell:**

- 16 Bourdon 61 pipes
- 8 Open Diapason 73 pipes
- 8 Gedeckt 12 ext Bourdon
- 8 Viole d' Orchestre 73 pipes
- 8 Salicional 73 pipes
- 8 Voix Celeste 61 pipes (tc)
- 4 Orchestral Flute 12 pipes
- 2 2/3' Flute 12th 7 pipes
- 2 Flautina 5 pipes
- 8 Oboe 73 pipes
- 8 Vox Humana 73 pipes
- Tremulant
- Sub - Unison Off - Super



## **Pedal**

32 Resultant  
16 First Open Diapason 32 pipes Wood  
16 Second Open Diapason GT  
16 Bourdon 32 pipes  
16 Lieblich Gedeckt SW  
8 Octave 12 pipes ext 1st Open  
8 Flute ext Bourdon  
Couplers

This stoplist from the OHS database omits the original 4 stop Echo organ (enumerated in the rank count). Mark Steiner graciously provided the specification as it existed until the organ was rebuilt in 2001.

8' Echo Flute 85 pipes  
8' Muted Viole 73 pipes  
8 Muted Viole Celeste TC 61 pipes  
4' Fern Flute 12 pipes  
8' Vox Humana 61 pipes  
Tremulant

The church's history of the organ relates that when there was extensive construction to enlarge the church plant in 1956, Moller took the organ back to Hagerstown where "all the leathers were replaced". More than likely this refers to recovering reservoirs since it is reported that in 2001 the action leather appeared to be original. In 1974 the Moller console was replaced by one supplied by Austin Organs, Inc. This is the standard stop key type built on a steel chassis. A Mixture III made by Austin was also added to the organ at that time by whatever party was working on the organ at that time.

Over the years various ranks were inserted, moved about and re-pitched in an attempt to make this fine orchestral organ more "classic" and "baroque". The result was not convincing and given the nature of the original voicing utterly futile. The process left the instrument out of balance and no better for the effort. When the opportunity arose to carry out a full restoration of the instrument the choice was made to put things back pretty much as they were in 1929. Many pipes that had been removed were located and returned to the organ and new material compatible with the original tonal aspect used to replace missing voices. Lewis and Hitchcock, Inc. carried out the work and Gerald Piercey, then President of Lewis and Hitchcock, collaborated with the church on the tonal restoration of the instrument and creation of a two manual Echo organ in the gallery where the choir and console reside. One notable tonal enhancement is the fine full length 16-8 Tromba stop custom built for the organ by Eastern Organ Pipes, taking the place of the missing Tuba.

The mechanical renovation of the organ came with a new Peterson solid state switching system and a revision of the Möller windchests. The Austin console, entirely sufficient to include additional stops, was retained. While a "straight" Moller windchest is an item that can easily be restored to a reliable state, the more complex duplex type chests employed for instruments with many borrows and unification are more problematic. This is due to the many note action shifters contained in the pipe bars. In this instance the restorers chose to convert the chests to individual note electro-pneumatic action. This change is easily accommodated by the modern switching system and the pipes continue to speak on the original pouch actions for which they were voiced.

The current specification follows. The provision of new basses gives one the general idea of how stops were re-pitched in the intervening years.

**M. P. Möller, Inc. Hagerstown, Maryland**

**Opus 5609 (1930) 3/24**

**Rebuilt by Lewis & Hitchcock, Inc. Washington, DC. & Richmond, Virginia 2001**

**Great**

1. 16' Double Diapason 73 pipes
2. 8' First Open Diapason 61 pipes 1-12 new
- 8' Second Open Diapason from #1
3. 8' Doppelflute
4. 8' Melodia 85 pipes
5. 8' Gemshorn 61 pipes
- 4' Octave from #21
- 4' Harmonic Flute from #22
6. 2' Mixture III moved (Austin 1974)
7. 8' Tromba 61 pipes new
- Chimes 20 tubes in Gallery



**Gallery Great**

8. 8' Echo Flute 85 pipes
9. 4' Principal 73 pipes new
- 4' Fern Flute from #8
10. 2 2/3' Quint 61 pipes moved
- 2' Principal from #9
- 1 1/3' Quint from #10

**Swell**

11. 16' Lieblich Gedeckt 97 pipes
12. 8' Violin Diapason 73 pipes 1-24 new (!)
- 8' Gedeckt from # 11
13. 8' Salicional 73 pipes
14. 8' Voix Celeste (tc) 61 pipes
- 4' Principal from #12
- 4' Gedeckt Flute form #11
- 4' Salicet from # 13
15. 2 2/3' Nasard 61 pipes new
- 2' Flute from # 11
- 1 1/3' Larigot ext from #15
16. 8' Oboe 73 pipes, moved
- Tremulant



**Gallery Swell**

17. 8' Rohr Flöte 73 pipes moved
18. 8' Muted Viole 61 pipes
19. 8' Muted Viole Celeste (tc) 49 pipes
- 4' Rohr Flute from #17
- 2' Flute from #8
20. 8' Petite Trompette 61 pipes moved



## Choir

- 21. 8 English Diapason 73 pipes 1-12 new
- 8 Doppelflute from #3
- 22 8 Harmonic Flute 73 pipes 1-12 new
- 8 Gemshorn from #5
- 23. 8 Celeste 61 pipes 1-12 new
- 4 Traverse Flute from #4
- 2 Flute from #4
- 24. 2 2/3' Cornet II 122 pipes new
- 25. 8 Clarinet 61 pipes
- Tremulant
- Harp 49 bars
- Harp Dampers (by toggle switch)
- 8' Tromba from #7

## Pedal

- 32 Resultant from #27
- 26. 16 First Open Diapason 44 pipes
- 16 Second Open Diapason from #1
- 27. 16 Bourdon 44 pipes
- 16 Lieblich Gedeckt from #11
- 8 Diapason from #1
- 8 Bass Flute from #26
- 8' Bourdon from #27
- 16' Trombone 12 pipes new and #7

## Gallery Pedal

- 16' Gedeckt 12 pipes new & #8
- 8 Flute from #8
- 4 Rohr Flöte from #17

Pedal on any manual piston adjuster

Austin Console, all standard couplers and combination action.

Solid State chamber switching by Peterson (diode matrix).

This is really a lovely organ with many beautiful and contrasted colors that carry well in the spacious but not very live acoustic. The Diapasons are not heavy, but buoyant, and the solid bass provided by the open wood pipes is very convincing. The ensemble is good. The writer attended John Walker's opening recital and he played a wide range of serious organ music convincingly to a full house. The unification and duplexing do make for a multiplicity of stops that are duplicates, but it is an amazingly flexible organ for playing the church service and literature.

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**St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
115706 St. Patrick Church Road NW  
Mount Savage, Maryland 21545**

After a delicious lunch we traveled to the historic town of Mt. Savage to visit St. Patrick's Catholic Church (1865). In the gallery of the church stands an 1856 Erben organ. Charlie Mulligan, the organist of the parish related that it was brought up from the old church of St. Ignatius built around 1830 when the community was known as Arnold's Settlement. What appears to be a quiet mountain community today was briefly the fifth largest town in the state during the early years of railway development in the 19th century.

The Erben organ was cleaned and the reservoir re-leathered by M. P. Moller around 1975 for it was full of coal soot from the old heating plant of the church. The impression one gets is that the stoppers of the Stopped Diapason were recovered. Though the organ is not in use, these pipes speak well are not egregiously out of tune.

This sleepy looking instrument is a real surprise when you play it. Expecting tentative sounds to emerge from within one is struck, as if by lightning, by the fresh and vibrant tone that emerges. The key action is responsive. It was with reluctance that we departed from our visit to this delightful organ.

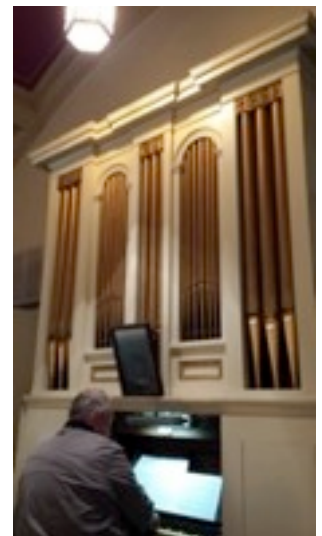
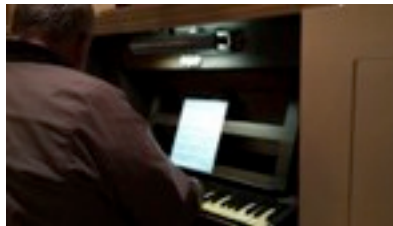
Overall the condition of the organ is acceptable except that the pedal action needs work. There is a feeder bellows but we did not test to see if this is operational. A monstrous blower, compared to the size of the instrument, is in the tower space behind the organ. The Swell mechanism must be held open with the foot and there is a machine stop, presumably acting on a slide beneath the toeboards for the Bell Gamba, Principal and Flageolet. There are two levers that protrude above the pedals, the hardware looks modern. Depressing one activates the slide and the other takes it off. If you are not careful the kick panel will come crashing down. The present arrangement for the machine stop and Swell may not be original and likely the latter was of the hitch down type originally. The pedals have no pipes of their own but there is a coupler that can be taken on and off, this on the right stop jamb.

**Henry Erben, New York, New York 1856  
Manual CC-g4 56 notes enclosed, horizontal shades open at bottom, upward  
Pedal CC-G 20 notes**

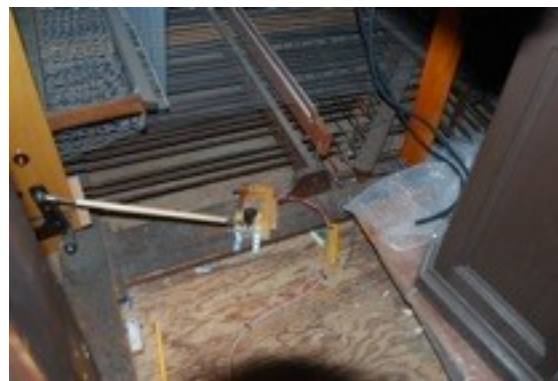
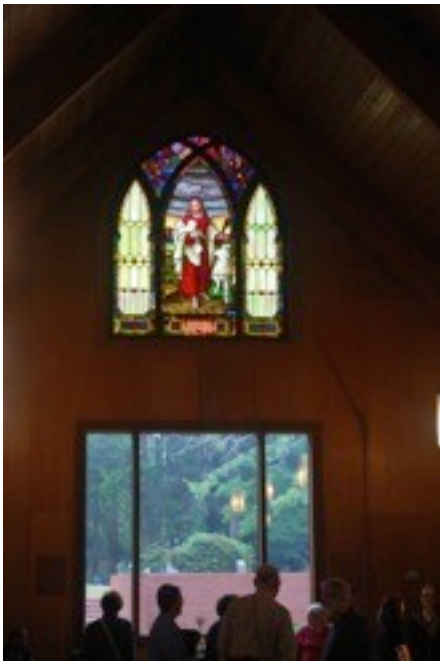
- Stopped Diapason Bass CC-E
- Stopped Diapason from F
- Dulciana from F
- Open Diapason from F
- Bell Gamba from F (label missing)\*
- Principal (4')\*
- Flageolet (4' not 2', may have been altered)\*
- Pedals (coupler)

- Swell lever,
- Machine Stop\*

**Thanks to Paul Roeder and Kevin Clemens for taking photos of the crawl.**

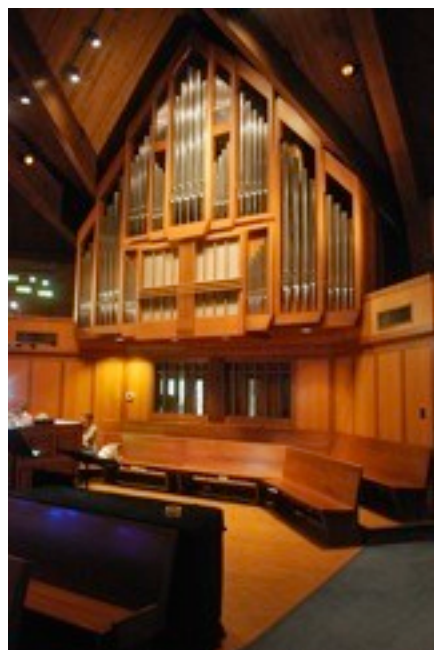


The following photographs were received after the October 2015 Newsletter was produced and printed. The following are of the ALL SAINTS SHARON CHAPEL in Alexandria, Virginia. 1891 Hook and Hastings Organ, Opus 1502. Rebuilt in 1993 by Dan Meyers. 2 manuals and pedal, 16 ranks, and mechanical key and stop action.





**BUSH HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Alexandria, Virginia. 1995 Orgues Létourneau Ltée, Opus 44. 2 manuals, 3 divisions, 23 ranks, slider chests, electric key and stop action.**





## CONCERTS AND RECITALS

Sunday, November 8, 4:00 p.m. **J. Reilly Lewis, Organist**, First Baptist Church, Sixteenth Street, Washington, D.C.

Sunday, November 8, 4:00 p.m. **David Houston, Organist**, Franciscan Monastery, Washington, D.C.

Sunday, November 8, 3:00 p.m. **Wesley Parrot, Organist**, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Alexandria, Virginia

Tuesday, November 10, 7:30 p.m. **Simon Johnson, Organist, (Organist of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, England)** National Presbyterian Church, 4101 Nebraska Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.

Friday, November 13, 12:15 p.m. **Joseph Russell, Organist**, National City Christian Church, Washington, D.C.

Sunday, November 15, 3:00 p.m. **Kenneth Lowenberg, Organist**, First Christian Church, 1345 Potomac Avenue, Hagerstown, MD.

Friday, November 20, 12:15 p.m. **Victoria Shields, Organist**, National City Christian Church, Washington, D.C.

Sunday, November 22, 3:00 p.m. **Russell Weisman, Organist**, St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church, 9601 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD.

**P.S. There is no December 2015 Newsletter of the Hilbus Chapter of the O.H.S. since we do not schedule a crawl in December. Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.**

# HILBUS CHAPTER RENEWAL FORM 2016

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail to: Carolyn Booth, 9200 LaBelle Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20879