

Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

www.hilbus.org



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SIGNIFICANT RECENT DC TRACKERS

arranged by Carolyn Booth

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2020

10:00 a.m - 11:30 a.m.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE

1725 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC 20036

Lively-Fulcher Organ Company

1995/2019

Four manuals - 68 stops - mechanical action

It is recommended that attendees reach the Cathedral via Metro, walking from either the Dupont Circle station (south on Connecticut Ave) or the Farragut North station (north on Connecticut Avenue) then turning East on Rhode Island Avenue to the Cathedral

12:00 noon -1:30 p.m.

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

THE DAILY GRILL

1200 18th St NW #2, Washington, DC 20036

Return to Connecticut Ave, crossing to the West side, continue on M Street, the restaurant is on the immediate right at 18th & M

continued on page 2

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2:00-3:30 p.m.
ST. PETER'S CHURCH ON CAPITOL HILL
313 2nd St. SE, Washington, DC 20003
Noack Organ Company, Opus 162 (2019)
Three manuals - 47 stops - mechanical action

Take the Red line to Metro Center and then the Blue/Orange Line to the Capitol South station.
Go one block east via C street to the Church at 2nd and C, SW

DUES RENEWAL

It is time to renew your chapter membership by paying Annual Dues if you have not already. Send a check for \$14 to our treasurer Carolyn Booth, 9200 LaBelle Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20879. Include any address changes or other changes to contact information. Carolyn writes:

Please do not forget to donate a minimum of \$10.00 or more towards the Biggs Fellows program run by the Organ Historical Society. Last year we raised \$1725.00 and were able to support one of the chosen fellows. We have leftover money which will go towards the donation to the OHS Convention which will be in Columbus, Ohio July 26th-31st. Thank you for your support.

**Additional Photographs from the monthly crawls
may be viewed on the chapter Facebook Page**

UPCOMING CRAWLS

- March 28 Churches in central Virginia**
- April 25 Joint crawl with Baltimore AGO to churches in the Lancaster PA area
See last page for preliminary details**
- May 23 Crawl to Damascus, Maryland area and Chapter Picnic and meeting
at the Becker residence.**

NOVEMBER CRAWL REVIEW
Five Organs in Southern Prince Georges County
November 23, 2019
Arranged by Paul Birckner

Review by Peter Crisafulli

A goodly number of Hilbus Chapter members turned out for the crawl.

First up was St. Mary's Catholic Church, 13401 Piscataway Road, Clinton, MD 20735, beginning in Our Lady's Chapel (the Old Church). Located in a tiny rear gallery is the Utica, NY builder C. E. Morey's Opus 193. Originally built in 1902 for a church in Ft. Plain, NY, the organ is now in its third home, having been restored and modified by Wigton Pipe Organs as their Opus 38R in 2017. St. Mary's Director of Music, Eran Lupo, described how St. Mary's acquired the organ and demonstrated its various stops and combinations.

This nine-stop, ten-rank mechanical action organ is a perfect fit, both tonally and visually, for the intimate space of the chapel. The unenclosed Great is bold, featuring a noble sounding Open Diapason that easily fills the chapel with sound. By contrast, the Dulciana is the softest stop, yet capable of providing accompaniment for the many solo possibilities available on the Swell. Adding the 4' and 2' creates a bright, cheerful chorus. The enclosed Swell features a marvelously versatile Violin Diapason, charming 8' and 4' flutes, and colorful mutations. The Pedal Bourdon undergirds the whole. Truly, this organ is a gem.

GREAT

8'	Open Diapason	58 pipes	zinc & spotted metal; 12 in façade
8'	Dulciana	58 pipes	12 capped zinc basses, rest spotted metal; in SW
4'	Violina	58 pipes	6 zincs in façade; remainder spotted metal
2'	Fifteenth	58 pipes	added by Wigton; repurposed spotted metal pipes

SWELL

8'	Violin Diapason	46 pipes	Notes 1-12 common w/S.D.
8'	Stop'd Diapason	58 pipes	wood
4'	Flute Harmonique	58 pipes	harmonic from mid. C; zinc & spotted metal
2 2/3' & 1 3/5'	Nazard & Tierce	78 pipes	added by Wigton; from Tenor G; double-draw – half-draw brings on 2 2/3' only, full-draw adds 1 3/5'; repurposed spotted metal pipes

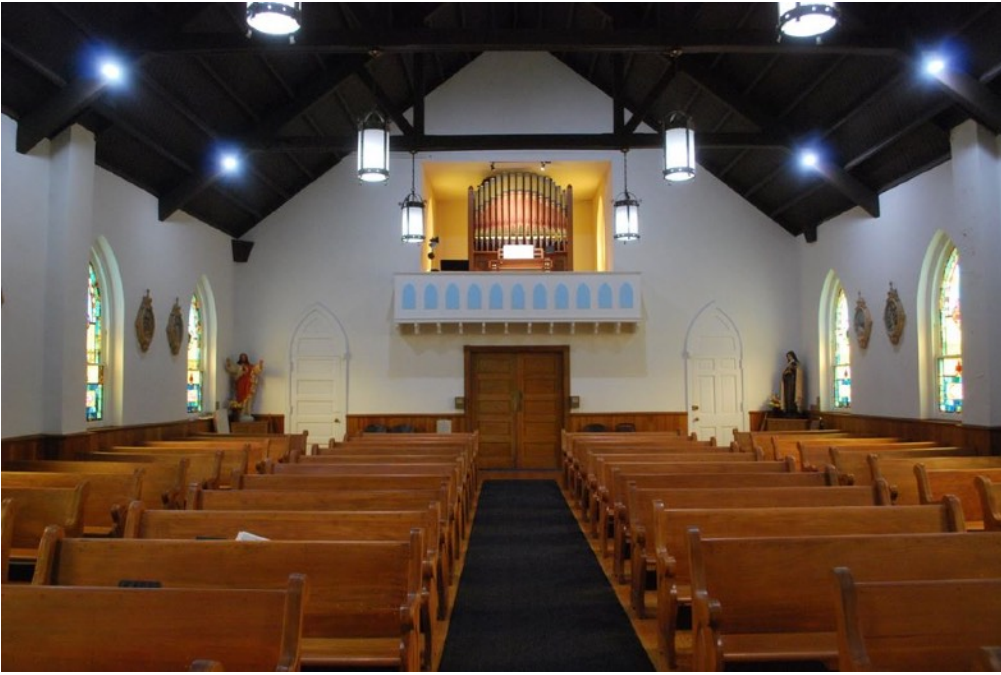
Tremolo

PEDAL

16'	Bourdon	27 pipes	stopped wood
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Couplers: SG, GP, SP.

Totals: 9 stops, 10 ranks, 499 pipes



In the New Church is an organ built by the Gress-Miles Organ Co. in 1989, a two-manual of approximately 30 ranks encased in an elevated position at the front of the church behind the free-standing altar. The detached stop-key console is located to the right of the altar. Utilizing electro-mechanical action, the organ features extensive unification. It appears that there have been a few tonal alterations as noted below. Overall, the sound is characteristic of the neo baroque style with bright, silvery choruses, colorful flutes, and incisive reeds.

GREAT

- 16' Quintaton –
this now plays from the 8' Rohrfl. + Subbass
- 8' Principal
- 8' Rohrflöte
- 8' Gemshorn (SW)
- 8' Open Flute (replaced Quintaton)
- 4' Octave
- 4' Spillflöte
- 2' Spillpfeife
- II Cornet (Tenor G)
- IV-V Mixture
- 8' Trumpet
- 4' Clarion

SWELL

- 8' Gedeckt
- 8' Gemshorn
- 8' Gemshorn Celeste (TC)
- 4' Principal
- 4' Spitzflöte
- 4' Octave Celeste
- 2 2/3' Nasat
- 2' Octave
- 1 3/5' Terz
- 1 1/3' Quintflöte
- 1' Sifflöte

SWELL (continued)

- III-IV Scharf
- 8' Hautbois
- 8' Cromorne
- 4' Hautbois
- Tremulant
- Octaves Grave

PEDAL

- 32' Acoustic Bass II
- 16' Subbass
- 16' Quintaton (GT Open Flute?)
- 8' Principal
- 8' Rohrgedeckt (GT)
- 8' Gedecktbass (SW)
- 4' Octave
- 4' Spillflöte (GT)
- 2' Schwiegel
- III-IV Mixture
- 32' Basse de Cornet IV
- 16' Posaune
- 8' Trumpet (GT)
- 4' Cromorne (SW)

Lunch was enjoyed at Mama Stella's Ristorante Italiano, followed by a brief visit to Hope Lutheran Church, 6201 Coventry Way, Clinton, MD 20735 to see Hinners Organ Co's Opus 3297, a one-manual and pedal mechanical action organ originally built for a Methodist church in Geneva, PA c. 1910. Paul Birckner was the moving force behind Hope Lutheran Church acquiring this organ. This was one of Hinners' many "garden variety" stock model instruments, slightly modified by the addition of a 4' Principal and an 8' extension of the Pedal Bourdon. This small, unpretentious organ sufficiently fills the rectangular-shaped sanctuary with a warm, pleasing sound, and the stops offer a variety of dynamic ranges and timbres.

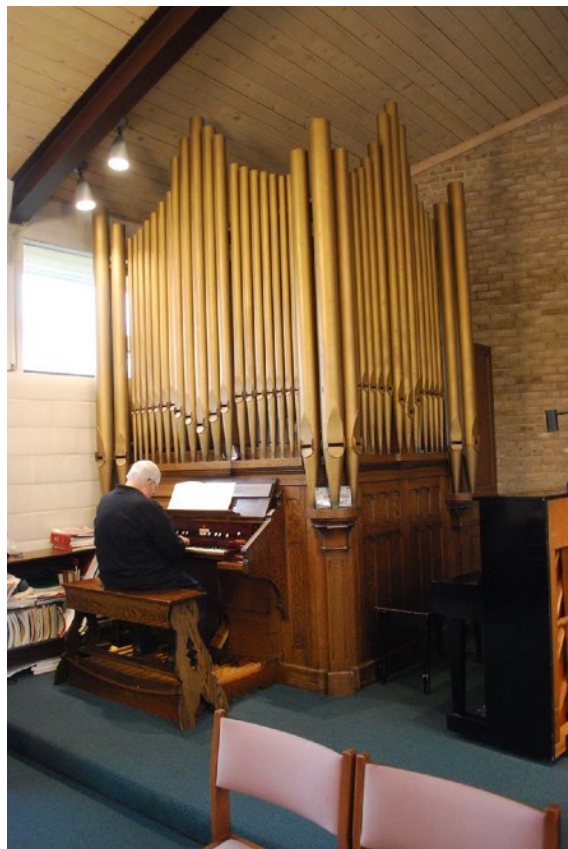
MANUAL

- 8' Open Diapason (partly in façade)
- 8' Lieblich Gedeckt (wood)
- 8' Salicional (notes 1-12 common w/L.G.)
- 4' Principal (later addition)
- 4' Flute (open metal)
- Octave Coupler
- Tremolo

PEDAL

- 16' Bourdon
- 8' Bourdon (ext., added)
- Manual/Pedal Coupler

All enclosed except Open Diapason & Bourdon



The final destination of the crawl was the home of Barbara & Paul Birckner in Fort Washington. Housed in their music room are two pipe organs. The writer visited these instruments during Hilbus Chapter's May 23, 2015 crawl and wrote a review at that time, reprinted here.

The first organ is of two manuals & pedal with nine stops built by the German firm of Walcker. Built in the early 1970's, this organ originally resided at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, and later at Towson State University. At Towson, it was installed in a too-small practice room and the installation proved problematic. Following Towson, it came into the hands of a Baltimore owner. By the time it came into Paul's possession in November of 1997 it had been abused, including cigarette burns on the console and some missing façade pipes, and action parts were missing, no doubt due to the many moves this organ had gone through. Paul, along with fellow Hilbus Chapter member John Becker, moved the organ to Paul's home. Subsequently, Paul did much to refurbish the instrument with help from organ builder Xaver Wilhelmy.

There are two particularly unique features about this organ: first, the new 4' Querflöte stop by Wilhelmy is made of open metal pipes of square configuration! Standard round pipes of the desired scale would not fit the allocated space. They sound lovely. Second, the manual coupler works two ways – one can either couple Manual II to Manual I, or the reverse. The instrument employs mechanical key and stop action and is comfortable to play. The sound is gentle, a delight to the ear.

MANUAL I

8'	Gedeckt	PEDAL (located behind case)	
4'	Nachthorn	16'	Subbass (wood)
2'	Harfenprinzipal (façade)	4'	Gemshorn

MANUAL II

8'	Rohrflöte	II/I or I/II, I/P, II/P
4'	Querflöte (new pipes by Wilhelmy)	Tremulant (new, Dom Bedos style, added by Wilhelmy)
2 2/3'	Quint (originally 1 1/3' re-pitched)	Manual/Pedal compasses 61/32
2'	Piccolo (originally a 1' Siffelöte re-pitched)	

The second organ was built by Detlef Kleuker, also of Germany. It is a one-manual and pedal instrument with all manual stops divided between Tenor A – A#. That means each stop has two knobs: one for the bass, the other for the treble.

Originally, the Pedal consisted only of a metal 16' Subbass and a manual to pedal coupler, but Paul wanted more independence so Wilhelmy constructed a new electric-action chest placed behind the organ which contains two new stops. It is now possible to do much pedal-playing without resorting to the manual to pedal coupler. Other than the new pedal additions, the remainder of the instrument is entirely mechanical action.

MANUAL (all stops divided bass/treble)

8'	Gedeckt
4'	Rohrflöte
2 2/3'	Quint
2'	Prinzipal (façade)
III	Mixture (1')

PEDAL

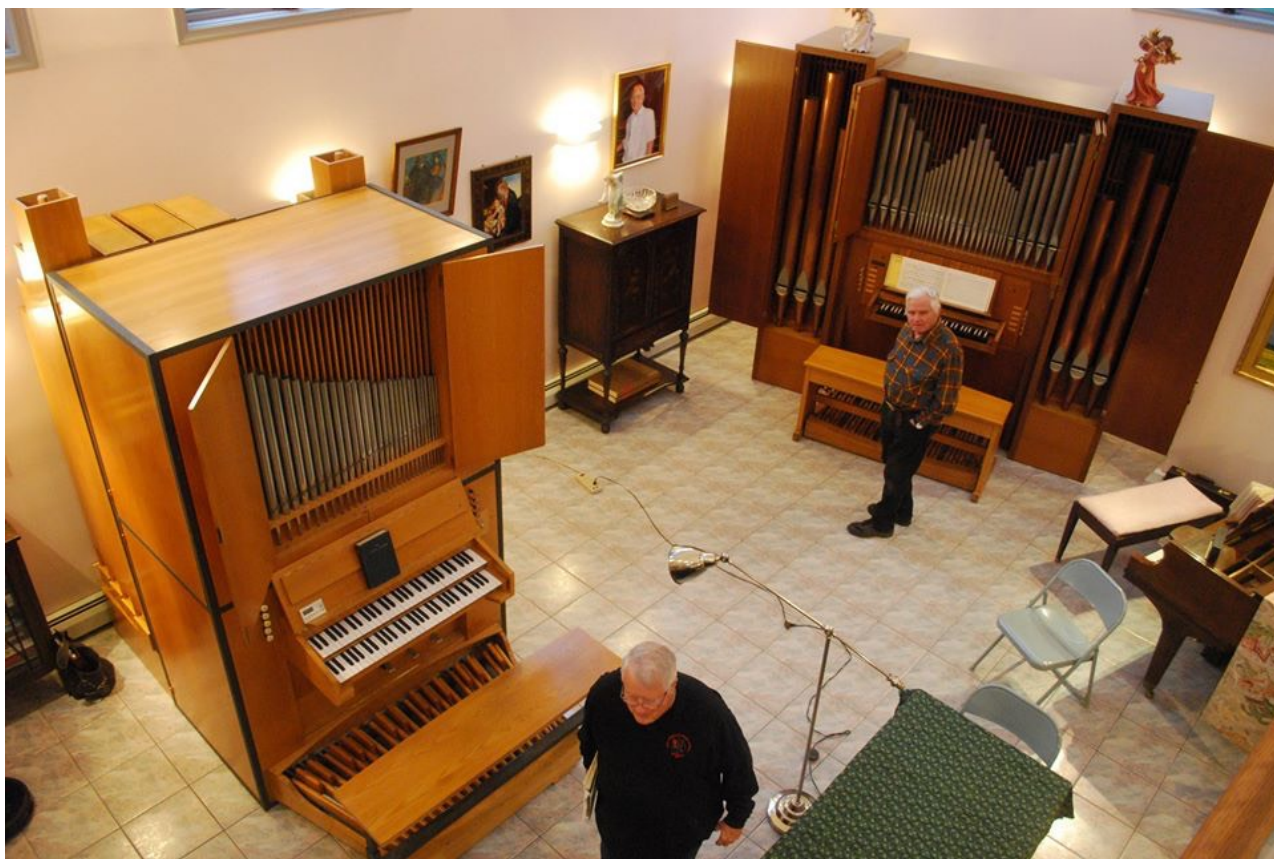
16'	Subbass (part in façade; copper)
8'	Gedeckt (new; wood)
4'	Prinzipal (new; open wood)
	Koppel (manual to pedal coupler)

Zimbelstern

Manual/Pedal 56/30

The organ is quite versatile, especially with the independent pedal and divided manual stops. The flutes, in particular, are charming.

At the end of the afternoon, our hosts Barbara and Paul served refreshments – a lovely end to a satisfying day of organ exploration in southern PG County. Hilbus Chapter thanks Paul Birckner for arranging this crawl, Eran Lupu for hosting us at St. Mary’s, and Barbara and Paul Birckner for their gracious hospitality.



**Hilbus Chapter Crawl – Northern Virginia
Organs by the Di Gennaro-Hart Organ Co.
Saturday, January 25, 2020
Prepared by Peter Crisafulli
Review by Peter Crisafulli**

Hilbus Chapter’s first crawl of 2020 was an interesting opportunity to study how one organ builder addressed the musical needs and challenges presented by building pipe organs for two different churches. While both have commonalities, they both represent distinct traditions, one Lutheran, the other Anglo-Catholic. And, of course, each church has its own architectural, spatial and acoustic properties to account for, on top of liturgical similarities and differences.

The featured builder was the Di Gennaro-Hart Organ Co. of McLean, VA. Michael Hart was on hand to discuss features of each instrument, what the challenges were coupled with the musical needs required of each situation, and how they were met. His insights added greatly to the appreciation and understanding of the instruments seen, heard and played.

The first organ visited is in Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 3022 Woodlawn Ave., Falls Church, VA 22042. Built in 2012, this is a two-manual and pedal instrument of 25 ranks, totaling 1,376 pipes and located in the rear balcony of the church. The dedication recital was played by the late J. Reilly Lewis on October 27 of that year.

GREAT (3 1/2" W.C.)

8'	Principal	56 pipes
8'	Rohrflöte	56
8'	Dolce	56
4'	Octave	56
	[blank drawstop]	
2'	Super Octave	56
1 1/3'	Mixture 19.22.26	168
16'	Basson	SW
8'	Trumpet	SW
16'	Great	
	Great Unison Off	
4'	Great	

PEDAL (4" W.C.)

16'	Contra Bass	12
16'	Subbass	32
8'	Octave	32
8'	Bass Flute	12
4'	Super Octave	12
4'	Flute	12
	[blank drawstop]	
16'	Bombarde	Preparation
16'	Basson	SW
8'	Trumpet	SW
4'	Clarion	SW

SWELL (3 1/2" W.C.)

8'	Viole	56
8'	Gedeckt	56
8'	Viole Celeste (TC)	44
4'	Principal	56
4'	Koppel Flöte	56
2 2/3'	Sesquialtera 12.15.17	132
2'	Octave	56
1 1/3'	Larigot	56
2/3'	Acuta	168
16'	Basson	56
8'	Trumpet	56
8'	Oboe	12
	Tremulant	
16'	Swell	
	Swell Unison Off	
4'	Swell	



From the dedication program: “The organ has been specifically designed to lead Lutheran liturgies. The case is of quarter-sawn western red hemlock and was designed by Michael Hart and Lawrence Trupiano. The façade pipes are hand-burnished zinc. The console designed by Michael Hart is constructed of quarter-sawn red oak. Manual divisions have electric action slider wind chests. Several sets of pipes were retained from the former instrument after re-voicing. A great debt of gratitude is owed to Lawrence Trupiano, project tonal director, and Bynum Petty, who in association with Michael Hart, undertook the intricate work of voicing and regulation.”

While 25 ranks may to some not seem large, this organ delivers big time due in no small part to the careful selection of stops and refined tonal finishing. Beginning with the most important stop, the Great 8' Principal, the listener is bathed in warm, clear sound that graciously envelops without overwhelming. Adding each successive element of the chorus, 4', then 2', and finally mixture, creates a smooth build-up without gaps along the way, and tops out with a satisfying robustness that seems just right for the space. The Swell chorus, much in the tradition of a Positiv division, is lighter in texture than the Great, based as it is on a 4' Principal and topped by a bright (but not shrill) Acuta mixture. The expected flute stops are present, as well as colorful flute mutations. A nice component, especially for service playing and choral accompaniment, is the inclusion of an 8' Dolce on the Great, a stop often not present on smaller Great divisions. This is complimented by a pair of rich strings in the Swell. The two reed ranks enclosed in the Swell – Trumpet and Basson/Oboe – are quite fine. Duplexing these reeds on Great and Pedal further enhances versatility.

In the opinion of the writer, this organ is an outstanding example of what can be accomplished with seemingly modest resources. Other details: Two-manual and pedal drawstop console with 56-note articulated touch keyboards and 32-note pedal. Usual couplers, 100 channel capture system, and well-appointed console accessories.



Following the visit to Holy Trinity, lunch was enjoyed by all at RT's Restaurant in Alexandria. The she-crab soup is highly recommended!

The second half of the crawl took place at Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Rd, Alexandria, VA 22305, home to two Di Gennaro-Hart organs: a one-manual (no pedal) 3-rank continuo organ built in 2008, and in the rear gallery a three-manual & pedal 38-rank organ built in 2009.

From a brochure by the Di Gennaro-Hart Organ Co: "The organs were designed first and foremost to support and enhance the rich Anglo-Catholic liturgy of the parish. Designed by Michael Hart and Lawrence Trupiano in consultation with [then] Director of Music Thom Robertson, the instruments include the necessary tonal resources to authoritatively lead congregational singing, effectively accompany choral anthems, and serve as recital instruments.

"The organ cases and moveable consoles, designed by Michael Hart, are constructed of quarter-sawn white oak. Inspiration for the North Gallery and Continuo casework came from period instruments found in English country churches. The Continuo organ is playable from its own one-manual console and from the main organ's gallery console. The Viole of the Processional Organ, located in the church's reverberant Narthex, is used to provide pitch to processing choristers and for unique echo effects."

As with the Holy Trinity Lutheran organ, Lawrence Trupiano was the project tonal director, and Bynum Petty, in association with Michael Hart, voiced and regulated the instrument.



GREAT

16' Contra Gamba
8' Open Diapason (PD)
8' Principal
8' Flute (capped metal)
8' Gamba (CH)
8' Harmonic Flute (SW)
8' Bourdon (CH)
4' Octave
2 2/3' Twelfth
2' Fifteenth
1 3/5' Seventeenth
1 1/3' Mixture IV 19.22.26.29
8' Tromba (PD)
8' Trompette (SW)
8' Clarinet (CH)
16' Great to Great
Great Unison Off
4' Great to Great
8' Major Trumpet (CH)
Chimes
Pedal Combinations w/
Great

CHOIR

16' Gedackt
8' Gamba
8' Gamba Celeste (GG)
8' Bourdon
5 1/3' Gross Nazard
4' Principal
4' Chimney Flute
3 1/5' Grosse Tierce
2 2/3' Nazard
2' Octave
2' Flute
1 3/5' Tierce
1 1/3' Larigot
8' Clarinet
8' Harp
Tremulant
16' Choir to Choir
Choir Unison Off
4' Choir to Choir
8' Major Trumpet
(non-coupling)

SWELL

16' Contra Viole
8' Open Diapason
8' Viole
8' Viole Celeste (GG)
8' Stopped Diapason
8' Harmonic Flute
4' Principal
4' Traverse Flute
2' Octavin
8' Cornet V (CH collective)
2 2/3' Plein Jeu IV 12.15.19.22
16' Basson
8' Trompette
8' Hautbois
[blank drawstop]
4' Clairon
Tremulant
16' Swell to Swell
Swell Unison Off
4' Swell to Swell

PEDAL

32' Lieblich Gedeckt
16' Contrabasse
16' Contra Gamba (GT)
16' Subbass
16' Gedackt (CH)
10 2/3' Bass Quint
8' Octave
8' Bass Flute
4' Super Octave
4' Flute
2 2/3' Mixture IV (SW)
32' Contra Basson
16' Trombone
16' Basson (SW)
8' Tromba
8' Trompette (SW)
8' Major Trumpet (CH)
4' Octave Tromba
4' Hautbois (SW)
Chimes

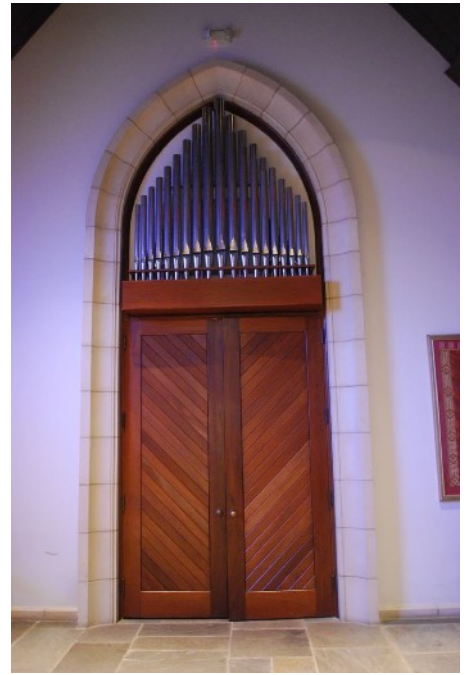
PROCESSIONAL (located in Narthex; GG-g56)

- 8' Viole on Great
- 4' Viole on Great (ext.)
- 8' Viole on Choir
- 4' Viole on Choir

Standard couplers, Great/Choir Transfer, Pedal Divide (4 points)

The North Gallery does not offer generous space, and the layout and engineering of this organ is ingenious. Not one inch of space is wasted! The organ provides the necessary dynamic and tonal flexibility required in this situation and does so successfully within a not overly large room characterized by a less than ideal acoustic.

The parish's current Director of Music, Dr. Richard Newman, demonstrated the organ.

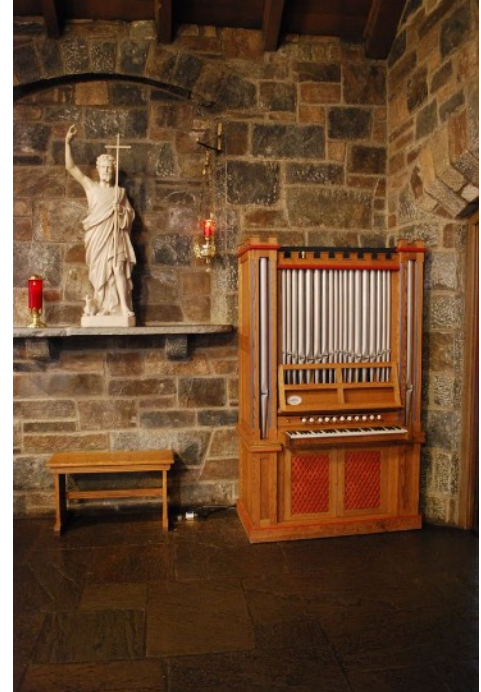


CONTINUO (CC-g56)

Fitted within movable casework. Fully playable independently of main organ via 56-note fold-away keyboard equipped with +/- eight semitone transposer. Also playable from Choir and Great manuals of the main organ console.

- 8' Diapason Bass
- 8' Diapason Treble
- 8' Stopped Diapason
- 8' Flute
- 4' Principal Bass
- 4' Principal Treble
- 4' Flute Bass
- 4' Flute Treble
- 2' Octave
- 2' Piccolo
- Melody Coupler
- Machine Stop (toe lever; silences 4's & 2's)

Once again, this was an excellent crawl, well-attended, and enjoyed by all. Hilbus Chapter thanks Michael Hart for taking time out of his busy schedule to attend the crawl and share his insights on these organ building projects. Thanks also to Dr. Richard Newman for demonstrating the organ at Grace Church.



APRIL CRAWL ANNOUNCEMENT - from David Storey

Baltimore AGO and Hilbus OHS join forces Saturday April 25 for an organ crawl to Lancaster and Lebanon, Pennsylvania. We will depart the Southwest Baltimore ParknRide in Catonsville at 8 am as we board a handsome coach. There is plenty of free parking at this facility, 1198 So. Rolling Road, Rte 166 just south of the Baltimore Beltway. We will depart at 8AM. Don't be late or you'll miss the ride.

Our first stop is at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, home of a Dobson organ with a most unique facade display. The building is a fine example of modern architecture and the organ is designed to take advantage of the architecture and outstanding acoustics. The organ is a delight to play. Chris Prestia, GSL's Director of Music and Organist, will host us.

From here we take a short trip to downtown Lancaster to St. Joseph Catholic Church in the Cabbage Hill neighborhood. The 19th century church houses a Carl Barckhoff organ, elegantly restored and maintained by Columbia Organ Works. This organ fills the room with full rich tone. Sue McPherson of Columbia Organ will host us.

Next we can lunch at Iron Hill Brewery and Restaurant, a great place to eat and drink. We will each be responsible for our own lunch. The food is quite good. The location is very convenient to downtown Lancaster.

Our final stop will be after a short drive north to the Lebanon Valley, Old Salem Lutheran Church, home to the wondrous 1888, 3 manual, A.B. Miller organ, completely original, never altered. It's an amazing organ. Imagine Old Salem's good fortune to have the Miller in the old church and in the "new" church a 3 manual, 1927, E. M. Skinner. We will get to hear both of these outstanding organs and be hosted by Cantor, Mark Dimick.

From here our day comes to a close as we travel back to Baltimore with arrival anticipated to be about 6pm.

A bus seats 55 people so please let Dave Storey know if you're coming so we are sure to have a seat ready for you. Dms1518@aol.com. The first 55 respondents will get a seat on the bus. The late comers will have to run along behind. The cost of the bus will be paid for by the chapters...so free, but make your reservation.

Directions and a schedule will be provided for those who want to drive, but it's not as much fun!