Onondaga Historical Association sponsors tour of church organs in downtown Syracuse

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Syracuse -- Onondaga Historical Association is repeating history. It is building upon the success of its 2012 listening tour of organ music at historic churches in its downtown Syracuse neighborhood. The annual Cathedral Square Neighborhood Organ Crawl will be held Saturday and once again feature four churches. In its first year, the event attracted 100 visitors.

This year the tour begins at 1 p.m. Saturday at Park Central Presbyterian Church, 504 E. Fayette St. Gregg Tripoli, executive director of the Onondaga Historical Association, will lead the tour. It will end with a reception and desserts provided by area restaurants.

At each church, visitors will learn about the church and its organ. An organist will talk about the instrument and demonstrate some its specialties before performing a short concert. The music has been chosen to honor the 850th anniversary of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

Here are the churches and organs to be featured on the Organ Crawl:

Park Central Presbyterian Church, 504 E. Fayette St. Will Headlee, Syracuse University professor emeritus, will play the 1967 M.P. Moeller Organ.

St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, 310 Montgomery St. Jim Potts will play the Moeller organ. It was redesigned in 2002 with 4,327 pipes in 74 ranks.

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 259 E. Onondaga St. Timothy Davenport will play the 1892 Roosevelt organ.

Plymouth Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, 232 E. Onondaga St. Joseph Downing will play the newly refurbished 1930 Moeller organ.

Tickets are $10. Reservations and pre-payment are suggested. Call Karen Cooney at 428-1864, ext. 312. Tickets also can be purchased at the start of the tour.

The organ crawl is a fundraiser for the Cathedral Square Neighborhood Association. Proceeds will be used for the hanging flower baskets placed throughout the historic neighborhood, which is bordered by Madison, Warren, Fayette, and Townsend Streets and includes the beautiful historic district encompassing Montgomery Street, Columbus Circle and Fayette Firefighters' Park.

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