

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Sunday, January 25, 2026

This is a life-long journey for each of us. Here are some ideas we have so you can continue the work. And feel free to share your information with us!!

A. Interested in attending a Sacred Ground Course here at Christ Church, or on Zoom?

Email Jan DeBoissiere jdeboissiere@gmail.com or Kathy Simms katsimms@gmail.com

SACRED GROUND CIRCLE – A nationwide Episcopal approach to study of the race-related history and events with an eye toward building a more beloved community. Maryland Diocese Truth and Reconciliation Commission oversees this here in Maryland.

B. The Diocese of Maryland for the Episcopal Church has many offerings of seminars, videos, worship services, courses to help us understand and reconcile the dividing issues in our lives. Go the Diocesan website (www.episcopalmaryland.org) and explore the calendar or search with terms like: "sacred ground" "beloved community" "truth and reconciliation".

C. Sign Up for Emails from the diocese so you get notifications of events/workshops, etc. (www.episcopalmaryland.org)

D. Join the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. They currently meet monthly on Thursday nights.

E. Books

Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman

Waking Up White by Debby Irving

James by Percival Everett

All That She Carried by Tiya Miles

Sundown Towns by James W. Loewen

Beyond the Messy Truth by Van Jones

F. Videos

The Power of Illusions Episodes 1-3

Episode 1 - The Difference Between Us (57 mins) - <https://youtu.be/V2JgVhL5-QE>

Episode 2 - The Story We Tell (57 mins) - <https://youtu.be/exX7zp2ccgl>

Episode 3 - The House we Live In (57 mins) - <https://youtu.be/KXl8zaNSE1U>

Reconstruction: America After the Civil War - (Playlist of 4 videos, each approx. one hour)

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8eJ1Ooo2cWfn1-8ee8ZEX6cZ8FC17lx1>

13th - (100 mins feature film)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8>

Where Do We Go From Here by Katie Couric

G. Articles

Colin Woodard. A Geography Lesson for the Tea Party

[A-Geography-Lesson-for-the-Tea-Party-1.pdf](#)

U.S. Senate apologizes for Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882

[U.S. Senate Apologizes for Chinese Exclusion Act – 1882 Foundation](#)

Japanese Americans' Incarceration 2 articles:

[The Japanese American Wartime Incarceration: Examining the Scope of Racial Trauma - PMC](#)

[Reflection by The Rev. Canon John E. Kitagawa on incarceration of Japanese Americans — The Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice](#)

David Paulson – Episcopal New Service

<https://episcopalnewsservice.org/2021/10/12/indigenous-leaders-lament-intergenerational-trauma-inflicted-by-boarding-schools-some-tied-to-episcopal-church>



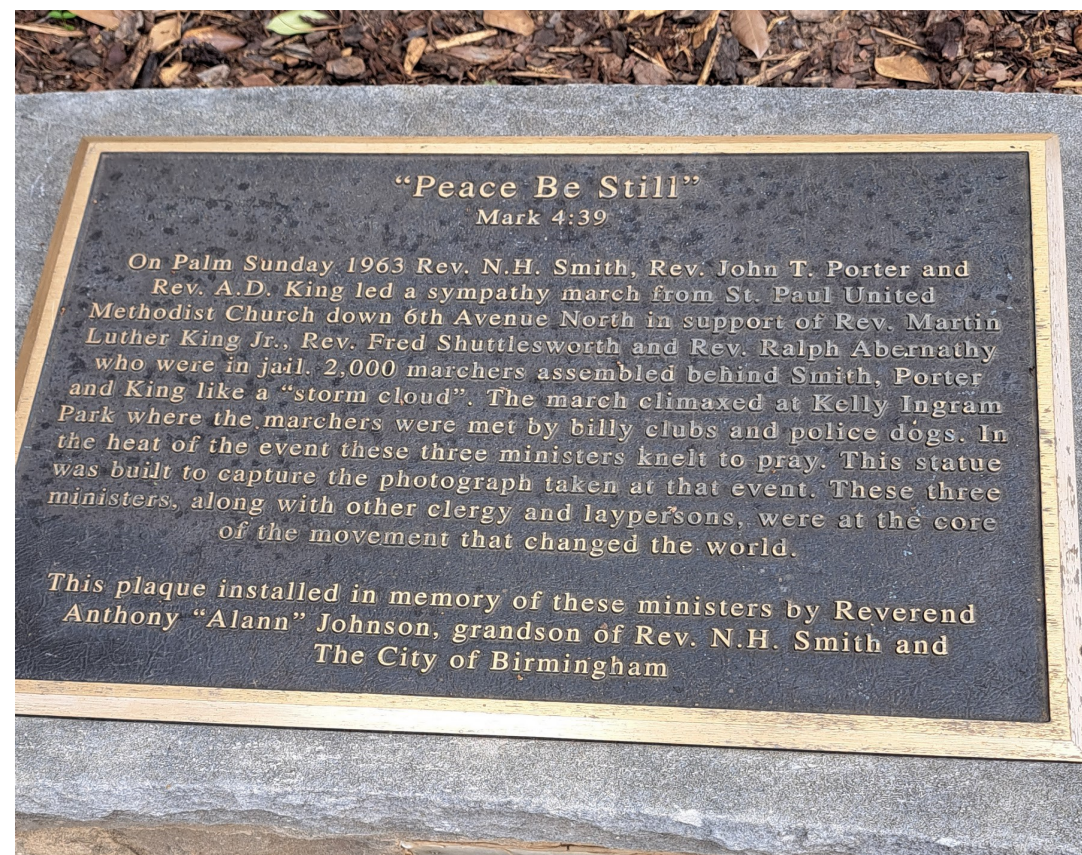
2025 Pilgrimage Photos & Art



Day 1

Palm Sunday 1963 (about 7 months before the four girls were killed at the 16th Street Baptist Church) these ministers led a march to honor the Civil Rights leaders who were in jail. As police began beating marchers with billy clubs and dogs, Rev. N.H. Smith, Rev. John T. Porter and Rev. A.D. King knelt and prayed.

Their photograph became world famous and represented the power of church leaders to help change the world.



Day 1

POLICE POWER AGAINST MARCHERS (Children too)

*Fire Hoses and Dogs among the
tactics used*







THIS SCULPTURE IS DEDICATED TO THE
FOOT SOLDIERS OF THE BIRMINGHAM
CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

WITH GALLANTRY, COURAGE AND GREAT
BRAVERY THEY FACED THE VIOLENCE
OF ATTACK DOGS, HIGH POWERED WATER
HOSES, AND BOMBINGS. THEY WERE
THE FODDER IN THE ADVANCE AGAINST
INJUSTICE, WARRIORS OF A JUST CAUSE.
THEY REPRESENT HUMANITY UNSHAKEN
IN THEIR FIRM BELIEF IN THEIR NATION'S
COMMITMENT TO LIBERTY AND JUSTICE
FOR ALL.

WE SALUTE THESE MEN AND WOMEN
WHO WERE THE SOLDIERS OF THE GREAT
CAUSE.

RICHARD ARRINGTON, JR.
MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM
MAY 1995

RONALD S. McDOWELL, ARTIST L.B.J.C.

© 1995







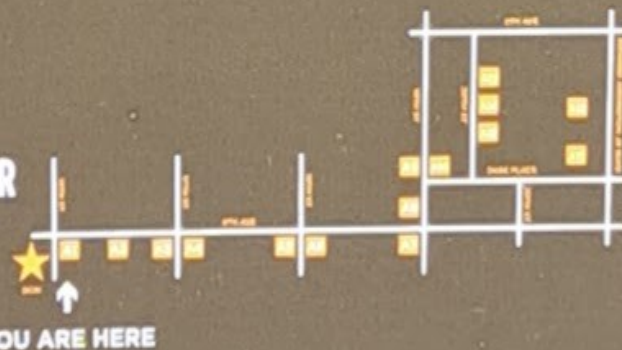


JIM CROW ON THE BOOKS

The first march to City Hall was organized in 1955 by Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth when he petitioned the city to hire Negro policemen. By 1963, thousands of Blacks marched on City Hall to protest Jim Crow laws that were a constant reminder of Blacks' second-class status in America. Such laws robbed them of fair voting, and public facility rights. Separate water fountains, restrooms, schools, public transportation and other facilities were marked with "Whites Only" and "Colored" or "Negroes" signs. Separate did not mean equal: facilities for Blacks were substandard to ones for Whites. When Supreme Court rulings in the 1950s began reversing the legal basis for Jim Crow nationally, Blacks in Birmingham and throughout the American South began to disobey segregation laws, demanding that the laws be repealed.

1963

MARCH ROUTE WALKING TOUR



Rev. Fred L.

Shuttlesworth

A name to remember
and study



REVEREND FRED SHUTTLESWORTH

Fearless Leader for Change

The Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth was a bold, charismatic minister who pioneered confrontations over segregated accommodations, transportation and schools. In addition, he confronted discrimination in employment and voting rights.

Born near Montgomery in 1922, Rev. Shuttlesworth served as the pastor of Bethel from 1953 to 1961 and used his pulpit to forcefully protest Jim Crow segregation despite three bombing attacks on the church.

The first bombing attempt was of the adjacent parsonage on Christmas night in 1956. He emerged from the ruins and told a policeman, "You go back and tell your Klan brethren if God could keep me through this then I'm here for the duration."

In 1957, Rev. Shuttlesworth was savagely beaten by a white mob when he attempted to enroll his children at the all-white Phillips High School.

Rev. Shuttlesworth inaugurated the 1963 campaign to desegregate public facilities in Birmingham. Images of nonviolent demonstrators being fire-hosed and attacked by dogs were broadcast throughout the world. It marked a turning point in the Civil Rights Movement and led to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Birmingham municipal airport was renamed in his honor in 2008. He died in Birmingham on Oct. 5, 2011.

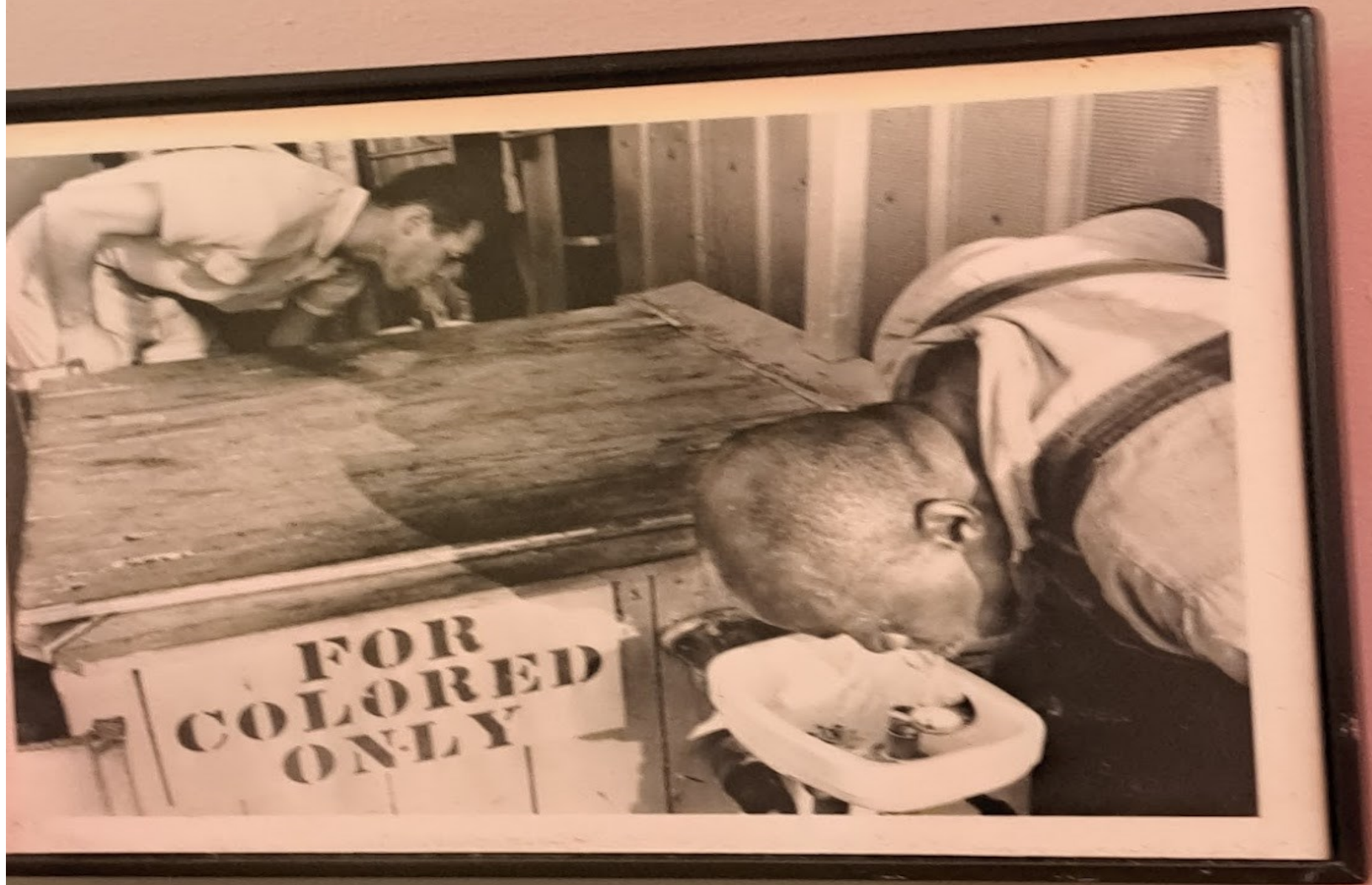
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ERECTED BY THE ALABAMA TOURISM DEPARTMENT AND BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
2017

Day 2

Birmingham Civil
Rights Institute and
16th St. Baptist
Church. Quick stop at
A.G. Gaston Motel

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute



BARRIERS

1920s-1950s

From its earliest days, Birmingham was a city of two worlds: Black and White. People lived and worked side by side, however, double standards and segregation of all the races were facts of life. Here and throughout the South, unequal opportunity was a barrier to the hopes and dreams of nearly half the population.

WHITE



COLORED





SCHOOL DAYS

THE SEGREGATED classroom told a powerful story of discrimination. White schools had more money, better buildings, newer textbooks, and teachers with higher pay. But the Black community was proud of its own institutions, like Jaggie Institute, Miles College, and especially Parker High School, which in the 1930s was the "largest Negro high school in the world."

BLACK CLASSROOM, c. 1953



Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy

Gee's Bend Quilts

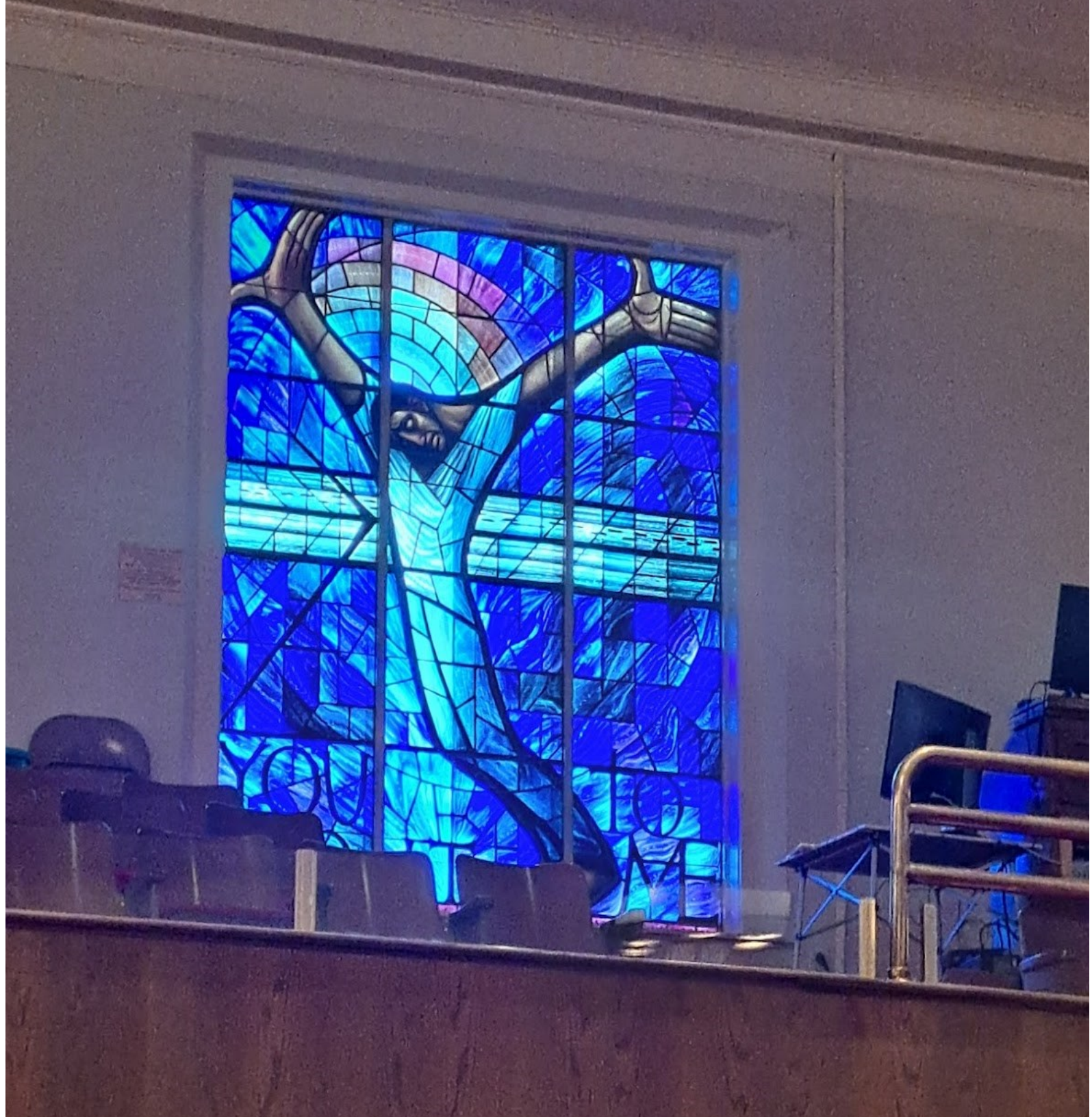




Everywhere we toured, walked or ate, we found quotes, poems, sculptures, landscaping, fountains, plaques, etc. with important facts sharing the history and drive to reconcile.

16th Street
Baptist Church





Sunday September 15, 1963
10:22 A.M.

Addie Mae
Collins



Denise
McNair



Carole
Robertson



Cynthia
Wesley



*We thought we were just one but God meant it unto each
to bring to pass on this day.*

Addie Mae Collins (14)

Denise McNair (14)

Carol Robertson (14)

Cynthia Wesley (11)

Killed Sept. 15, 1963

16th St. Baptist Church

Sarah Collins (now Rudolph) lost her right eye
in the bombing.

“I had to forgive them, because I didn’t want to
carry this hate in my heart.”

At 16th Street Baptist Church there was a movie with child actors portraying the parts of teenagers who had confrontations with the police or others in 1963. Both boys died the same day that the 4 girls were killed.

Johnny Robinson was shot in the back by a police officer who saw him and others throwing rocks at a car draped in the Confederate flag.

The Police Officer was not prosecuted.

Also on September 15, 1963, Virgil Ware was riding on the handle bars of his brother's bike when they were shot at by a teenager who claimed he was trying to scare them. The teenager who killed Virgil and the one who told him to shoot were prosecuted for manslaughter and given suspended sentences with 2 years probation.

St. Mark's
Episcopal Church
Montgomery



EQUAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE

Legacy Museum

(part 1 of 3 parts of EJI
that we visited)

**Enduring the horrors and pain of slavery,
You still found the capacity to love,
to dream, to nurture new life, and to triumph.**

We honor your strength.

We honor your perseverance in the midst of sorrow.

We honor your struggle for freedom.

Your children love you.

The country you built must honor you.

We acknowledge the tragedy of your enslavement.

We commit to advancing freedom in your name.

The EJI Exhibits were extremely well done. We needed a lot more time there because we kept getting engrossed in the individual exhibits. The jail cells with phones where you can sit and speak with the people incarcerated. The sacred soil where descendants of those lynched could help honor their loved ones. The voter registration questionnaires that were actually used. (None of us would have been registered to vote if we'd been required to pass this test.)

Lunch in the museum's restaurant
called Pannie-George's
Kitchen

An experience by itself.

EQUAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE

Part 2

FREEDOM MONUMENT

SCULPTURE PARK

No photos permitted

Very powerful art presented outdoors with request that you tour in silence. Powerful. Beautiful. Ugly. Heart wrenching. We needed extra time to recover after this experience.

The Equal Justice Institute offered boat rides along the river so we could try to experience the transport of slaves new to this country who were often brought in that way.

Of course, we were on deck feeling the lovely breeze and wore no chains and under no threat.

We didn't take pictures. Seemed disrespectful to do so.

RAYMOND BYRD
(RAYMOND BIRD)

Lynched

August 15, 1926

Wythe County, VA

WYTHE
COUNTY
VIRGINIA

WILLIAM SMITH
07.11.1888

DAN LONG
12.07.1900

RAYMOND BIRD
08.15.1926

TYLER
COUNTY
TEXAS

RY GAIT
2

WISE
COUNTY
VIRGINIA

WYTHE
COUNTY
VIRGINIA

PUEBLO
COUNTY
COLORADO

N

WILLIAM SMITH
07.11.1888

DAN LONG
12.07.1900

RAYMOND BIRD
08.15.1926

CA

WYTHE



COMMUNITY RECKONING

In this section of the National Memorial, we honor communities that have engaged in local remembrance and reckoning with the history of lynching and racial terror.

J. Marion Sims
“Father of Gynecology”

Hero or Villian?

Many of his advances in science were based on
cruel experiments on his slaves, Betsey, Lucy
and Anarcha, who are now considered the
“Mothers of Gynecology”

Sculpture by artist Michelle Browder,

2021



SELMA

Voting Rights Museum

Edmond Pettus Bridge

(still named after a

Confederate

General)

SAMUEL E. HAMMOND SR.	JOHNATHAN DANIELS	SAMUEL L. YOUNG JR.	BENJAMIN BROWN	MARTIN L. KING JR.
VIOLA G. LIZZO	ANDREW GOODMAN	M.A. SCHWERNER	JIMMY L. JACKSON	REV. JAMES K.
JAMES E. CHANEY	DENISE MCNAIR	CAROLE ROBERTSON	CYNTHIA WESLEY	REV. BRUCE K.
ADDIE M. COLLINS	LAMAR SMITH	HERBERT LEE	WILLIAM L. MOORE	MEDGAR E.

"They Died For Me... And Didn't Even Know My Name!"

"They Died For Me... And Didn't Even Know My Name!"

REV. GEORGE LEE	LAMAR SMITH	HERBERT LEE	WILLIAM L. MOORE	MEDGAR
ADDIE M. COLLINS	DENISE MCNAIR	CAROLE ROBERTSON	CYNTHIA WESLEY	REV. BRUCE
JAMES E. CHANEY	ANDREW GOODMAN	M.A. SCHWERNER	JIMMY L. JACKSON	REV. JAMES
VIOLA G. LIZZO	JOHNATHAN DANIELS	SAMUEL L. YOUNG JR.	BENJAMIN BROWN	WHALES
SAMUEL E. HAMMOND SR.	DELANO MIDDLETON	HENRY E. SMITH	DR. MARTIN L. KING JR.	CLARENCE



Rosa Parks



She sat down, so we could stand tall

"There's not a liberal America and a conservative America---
there's the United States of America."

-- President Barack Obama













