

THE LIGHT RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY E-NEWSLETTER



Time to Reflect, Friends!

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MUSIC DIRECTOR (FIRST SERVICE)

Welcome to the December issue of “The Light.” We celebrate and reflect as we come to the end of a monumental year. We thank our racial justice committee members and a myriad of volunteers for making this year an impactful one.

We all have come to realize that working for racial justice and equity is exceptionally important for the greater world and especially important to those who walk with Christ. This is holy work.

*“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness?”
Micah 6:8*

Govans Presbyterian Church is not only committed to being a church of love and kindness, but also a beacon of positive change. We continue to change and update our policies to reflect our commitment to being an antiracist church.

We will continue to hold book discussions, speaker series, and more in the coming year. In January 2023, we will launch a Racial Justice Lending Library, a free resource where one can learn about antiracist practices and build cultural awareness. We will celebrate Juneteenth with Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and community musicians. There is so much to look forward to!

Thank you for your commitment to justice, fairness, and equity. If you would like to volunteer with the Racial Justice Ministry, please contact me at: lea@govanspres.org.

Abundant Blessings,
Lea



Racial Justice
Ministry

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"It's up to all of us —
Black, white, everyone —
no matter how well-
meaning we think we
might be, to do the
honest, uncomfortable
work of rooting it out."

Michelle Obama



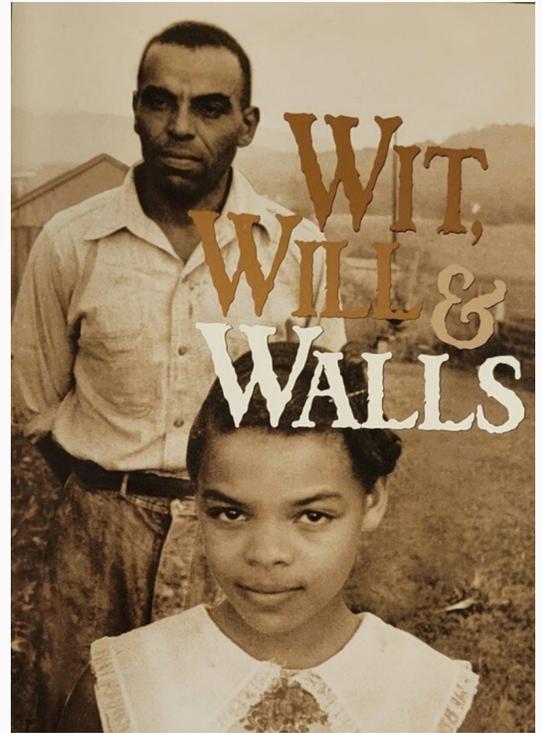
EVENTS

Racial Justice Ministry Film Series Wit, Will & Walls

Saturday, December 3 at 2:00 PM
Govans Presbyterian Church

**IN
PERSON!**

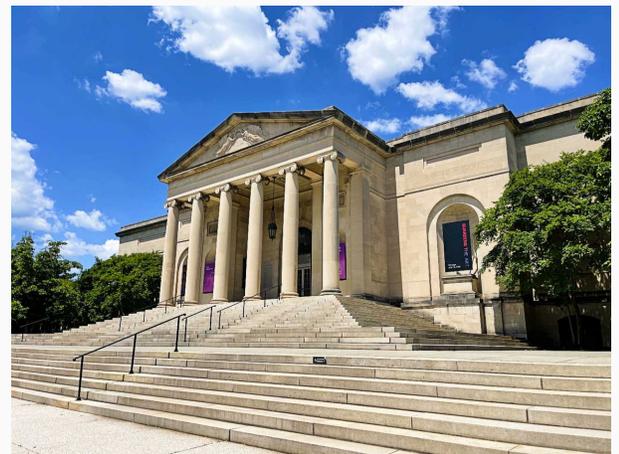
"Wit, Will & Walls" is a powerful epic of an African American family's struggle for equality. Betty Kilby was an "infant plaintiff" in the case *Betty Ann Kilby vs. the School Board of Warren County, VA*, which followed the landmark U.S. Supreme Court *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision. A short discussion and refreshments will follow. Email Lea Gilmore (lea@govanspres.org) for more info.



A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration October 30, 2022 — January 29, 2023

Check out the Baltimore Museum of Art's exhibit on the Great Migration before it's gone! The BMA is always free! The following is taken from their website:

The Great Migration (1915–1970) saw more than six million African Americans leave the South for destinations across the United States. This incredible dispersal of people across the country transformed nearly every aspect of Black life and culture. *A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration* explores the ways in which its impact reverberates today through newly commissioned works across media by 12 acclaimed Black artists, including Akea Brionne, Mark Bradford, Zoë Charlton, Larry W. Cook, Torkwase Dyson, Theaster Gates Jr., Allison Janae Hamilton, Leslie Hewitt, Steffani Jemison, Robert Pruitt, Jamea Richmond-Edwards, and Carrie Mae Weems.





Thoughtful Readings & Resources

The Road to Freedom

There is an effort underway in East Towson to create a "Freedom Trail", which will connect the historic sites of East Towson all the way back to the Hampton Plantation, and its ancestral ties to those enslaved by Maryland's 15th governor, Charles Carnan Ridgely, and successive generations. Sites will include:

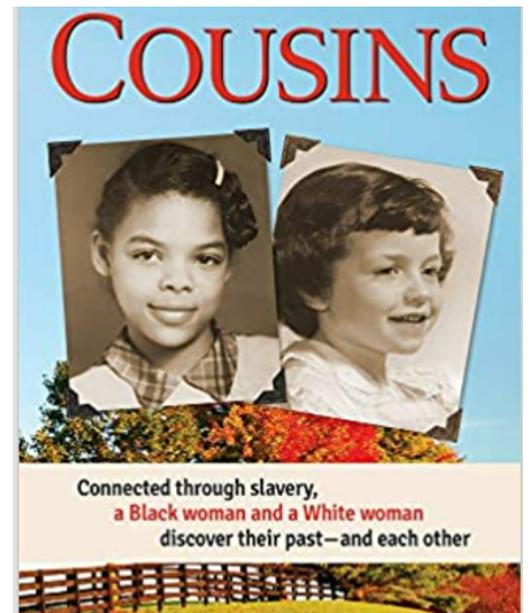
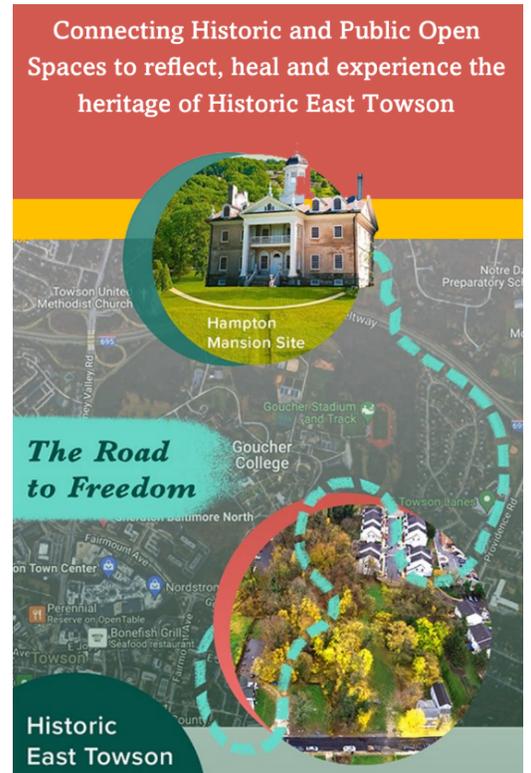
- Parker House
- Jacob House
- Carver Colored School
- St. James AUMP Church
- Mt. Calvary AME
- Howard Cooper Memorial Marker
- Pleasant Rest Cemetery (African American Cemetery)
- Mt Olive Baptist Church
- The community formerly known as Sandy Bottom
- The Pride of Towson Lodge
- Goucher College's Hallowed Ground Project
- Hampton Historic Site's slave quarters, overseer's house, spring house, and the mansion

Next Bookclub Book is Cousins!

Our next Racial Justice Bookclub Book will be Cousins: Connected Through Slavery by Betty Kilby Baldwin and Phoebe Kilby - What happens when a White woman, Phoebe, contacts a Black woman, Betty, saying she suspects they are connected through slavery? The answer is revealed as they tell the dramatic story of their meeting, sharing of family histories, and search for reconciliation - from Betty's experience desegregating her county's only high school to Phoebe's eventual question to Betty: "How do I begin to repair the harms?"

The authors will join us for our discussion via Zoom on February 28, 2023, 7pm EST.

Books will be available after December 10, 2022. Contact Andy at wilson@govanspres.org to order yours. Books will be \$15. Your purchase will support Urban Reads, a local woman and Black-owned bookstore.



THE AUTHORS WILL JOIN OUR DISCUSSION!



Racial Justice Ministry Working Group

Co-Chairs Adam Allen
Julie McDill **Secretary** Wendy Smith

Members

	Shelley Ensor	Tanya Morrel
Kamila Alexander	Kaye Gooch	Susan Saunders
Beth Allen	Deletta Gillespie	Keith Snipes
Myra Brosius	David Harris	Jennifer Williams
Laila Ali	Gwen Lloyd	Maria Wong
Lisa Beacham	Julie McDill	



Advisory Members Rev. Dr. Heber Brown, III
Professor Ron Williams

Mission

We are Govans Presbyterian people who have come together in response to what we believe is God’s call to understand, address, and dismantle racism in ourselves, and our society.

We want to:

- Provide opportunities and a safe environment at Govans where we can openly share thoughts and feelings, and ask questions about racism.
- Educate ourselves about the history and continuing presence of personal and systemic racism.
- Publicly advocate for racial justice in our society.

To generate this kind of learning and action, we will utilize book discussions, films, speakers, museum exhibits, prayer groups, partnerships with other organizations, and other modes yet to be determined. We are open to ideas and suggestions, and would welcome your participation in any aspect of this work.

“Forgive yourself for not knowing what you didn't know before you learned it.”

MAYA ANGELOU

For more information about the racial justice ministry, please email lea@govanspres.org or go to <https://www.govanspres.org/what-we-do/racial-justice/>.

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