

From: HoCo County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Inc.
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Subject: STATEMENT: Howard County's Case, Tubman School etc.

Date: Aug 2, 2021 at 8:47:33 AM

To: [REDACTED]@icloud.com

Please see the following statement released today from our Board of Directors regarding the County's circuit court case, the Tubman School and our work. We are

See below.

rights etc? Do you know these things about the place where you live and worship? Do you know someone who is scared or resistant to learn the answer? How about their reasons?

You may find it interesting to learn that in our quest to obtain Director's insurance for our nonprofit, we were declined flat out by the first few underwriters. One who bothered to say "why" remarked that they looked at our website, saw the topic, and rejected the application. And then we received a quote. We were ecstatic, until we learned that it would be over \$20,000 PER YEAR! Our knee-jerk reaction was "What struggles and fights do underwriters imagine we will be facing to give a quote like that?" Thankfully, one took a chance on us and we have a reasonable premium. But the question of how far we've come as a society as it relates to prejudice, division, equal rights and protections, acceptance of differences, compassion/empathy, and even the ability to question and ask for information from government,

still remains.

It's undesired by many to be in a legal situation, though it sometimes achieves purposes having nothing to do with winning or losing which only one or both of the people directly involved would know. Though we didn't ask for the legal case now dismissed, the words of the insurance underwriters may be foretelling what lies ahead in our nonprofit's future. We are informed by other words from the late Rep. John Lewis who said "Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and redeem the soul of America."

Howard County had TWO recorded extra-judicial mob lynchings, and SIX events referred to as "near-lynchings" that we have been researching and compiling. We've already worked to correct the records of Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) and others, and then revealed the history of Rev Hezekiah Brown who wasn't lynched but who was one of many local county people who worked for the rights of others. We had a wonderful Memorial Day weekend event to celebrate him and the work of Ms. Buckner, despite false rumors circulated that our celebration was to be a protest. We're glad researcher access has been restored to her archive. We have plans for more events, and we optimistically hope they will be met with acceptance and celebration from the community. That's the WE who it's for.

The Board of Directors for Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc.

Marlena Jareaux
Joy Owens
Lynn Mumma
Erika Carruth
Rev. Sadie Woolford

Here's a bit of history to examine the continuum Lewis spoke of that we're sharing with the Tubman allies and community. The year was... 1991.

'Caring' community restores a vandalized church: Building now has fresh paint, flowers--and iron bars

Michael James Staff writer. [The Sun \(1837-1995\)](#); Baltimore, Md. [Baltimore, Md]09 ...



**Growth-control advocates
urge delay of River Hill**

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**Waverly Woods foes seek
truce, but developer wary**

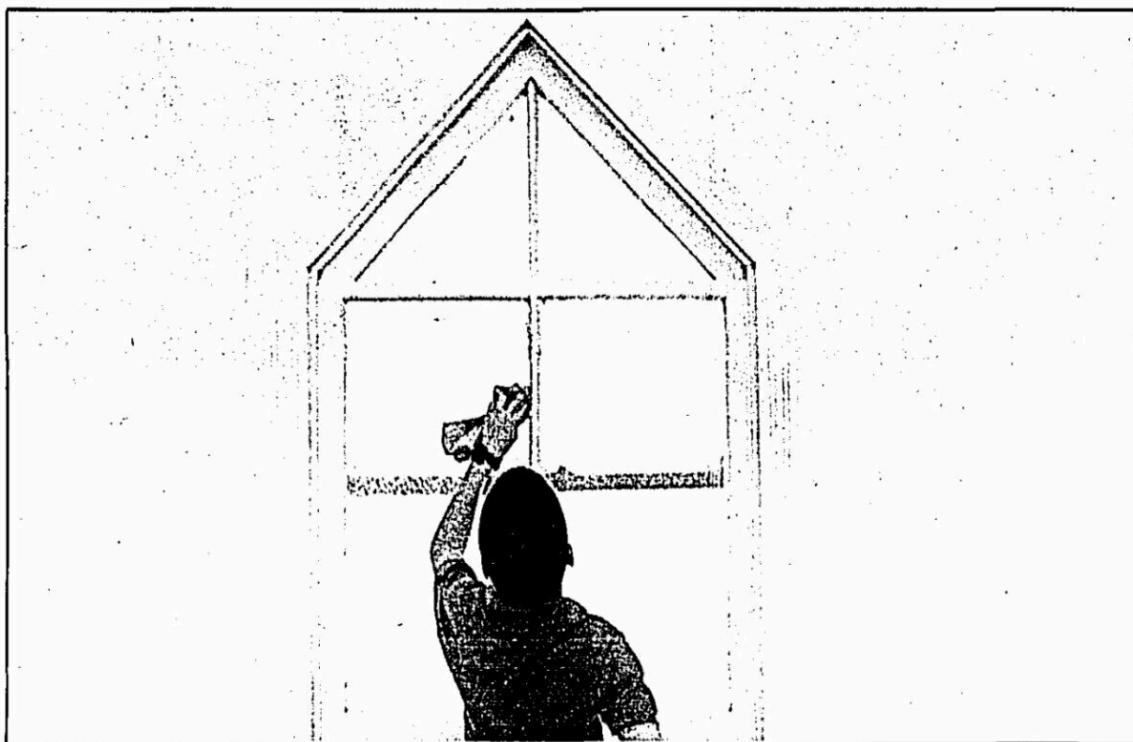
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**Wilde Lake's 5th shutout
may presage title match**

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Howard County Sun

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1991



A window at Simpson's United Methodist Church in Mount Airy gets a cleaning from volunteer Curtis Dorsey, 11, of Woodbine, a member of Mount Gregory United Methodist Church.

'Caring' community restores a vandalized church

By Michael James
Staff writer

Building now has fresh paint, flowers — and iron bars

Two months ago, while Simpson's United Methodist Church members were on edge over the appearance of Ku Klux Klan rallies in town, someone ransacked the church and tried to burn it down.

It was perhaps the worst day in the nearly all-black congregation's 98-year history, a time when some parishioners said they felt betrayed in their own community.

But on Saturday, about 50 volunteers tried to restore the small Mount Airy church back to its former luster, providing it with everything from a new coat of paint to a newly paved driveway — and this time the windows have wrought-iron bars.

"It's a shame, but we had to bar the windows and put strong locks on the doors," said the Rev. Jane W. Jenkins, pastor of the congregation. "It's too bad when you have to try to keep people out of the church."

Fear among the congregation spread quickly this summer after the church was struck on three different nights by vandals. On Aug. 18, vandals set the church's front doors on fire after turning on a gas stove in the basement.

Along with the new security measures, the volunteers from United Methodist churches throughout the area worked all Saturday to provide cosmetic improvements

for the church.

Flowers were planted, weeds were removed and every room of the building was cleaned and mopped. Electrical and plumbing repairs also were completed, Jenkins said.

"I was overwhelmed. Saturday was a good day for healing," she said. "The community showed us that we are not alone."

The recent vandalism had hit Simpson's 50 parishioners hard, particularly in light of recent recruitment efforts by area KKK representatives. Some church members were even afraid to attend a local anti-KKK rally, parishioner Kevin Myers says.

"We're just a little black church on the hill. We didn't want to get burned down," said Myers, 29, whose family has attended Simpson's for more than 30 years.

But now, Myers said, the church has bounced back — perhaps stronger than ever — thanks to community support and even some pockets of outrage against racial and religious hatred.

Among the volunteers were local residents and parishioners from nearby Methodist churches, including Lisbon, St. Paul, Jennings Chapel, Poplar Springs and Go shen.

Myers said the church's fresh appearance parallels a fresh perspective on the

Please see CHURCH, Page 4

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Volunteers restore vandalized church

CHURCH

Continued from Page 1

church and its role in the lives of members.

"A lot of people have been coming back to church. I think their eyes have been opened a little wider because of this," Myers said. "People aren't as afraid anymore. We may still be just a little black church on the hill, but we see people supporting us like we're all one race. It's been beautiful."

The volunteers hope to return to the Hardy Road church again Saturday, said the Rev. Harry C. Kieley of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Laytonsville.

"We're going well beyond just fixing up the church. It's a way of showing some solidarity with Simpson's and to let the community know that we will support them through this kind of trouble," Kieley said.

Simpson's church is on a former farm that was donated to black sharecroppers in 1893. Most of the parishioners come from a predominantly black neighborhood along Schaeffersville Road in Mount Airy.

Police say the break-ins were committed by three white teen-agers who got carried away during late-night drinking binges. The three, arrested in August, allegedly burned a Bible and defaced the building with human blood.

While there is still no proof that

the incidents were racially motivated — police say the suspects awaiting trial apparently were unaware that the congregation is mostly black — Kieley and others say a strong message needs to be delivered nonetheless.

"This is a tiny black church. I think they're pretty scared," Kieley said. "We want to show them we're on their side and to say, 'This isn't right, and we're not going to be quiet about it.'"

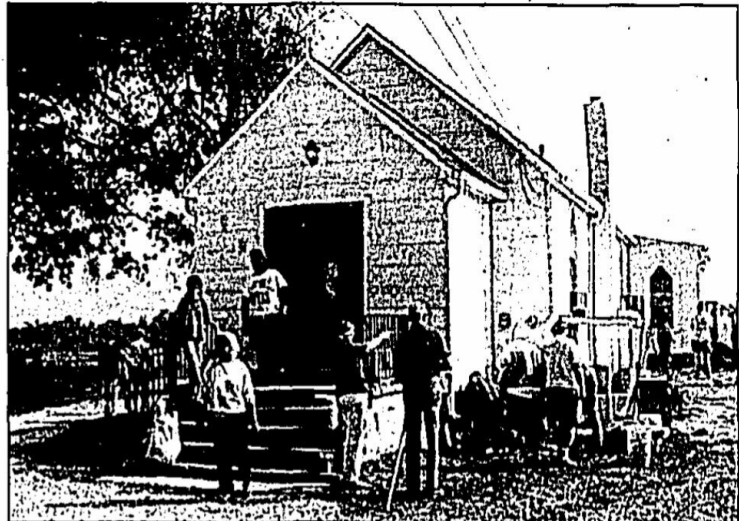
The Rev. Scott Medlock, pastor of Lisbon United Methodist, an all-white congregation, said racial concern was not his primary motivation in helping Simpson's.

He called the help a Christian gesture "that I hope we would do for any church that found themselves in the same situation. It doesn't matter whether it's a small white church or a small black church, the point is that it's been a real blow to them."

Joseph H. Yeakel, presiding bishop of the Baltimore conference of the United Methodist Church, of which Simpson's is a part, called the vandalism "wanton and needless trashing."

But religious and community members should try to use the incident to better themselves, Yeakel said.

"I believe this tragic incident offers us all an opportunity to try to build together a community characterized by justice and mutual caring," Yeakel said.



THE HOWARD COUNTY SUN — KIM HARRISTON

Above, volunteers swarm around Simpson's United Methodist Church. Below, Bruce French of Long Corner, a member of Damascus Baptist Church, paints window frames.



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