

Sessions II and III Racial Justice Outings November 9, 2023

These 2 outings provided me with a wealth of information that I did not previously have. I did not know about equalization schools or the black community businesses and communities that thrived in the 30s and 40s. I did not realize that the “black migration” to the north was not primarily for more economic opportunity but also to escape persecution/lynchings.

I have not ever liked the subject of the Civil War. I’ve thought it was a terrible time in our history which it was. I have wondered why the confederate monuments are in public places. And why confederate stars & bars flags were placed on some graves. (Since I was a child, I have winced when seeing the former GA state flag, stars & bars, and felt why is that on our flag. As an adult, in my 40s, I learned its history.) I did see the demonstrations on TV taking down confederate monuments. But to hear Hanna say, and Jamal concur, she felt that the statue of the confederate soldier on the courthouse lawn was a monument to racial terror/terrorists was powerful.

I’ve heard the term reconstruction but didn’t know what it really meant. I’ve heard the term “Jim Crow” and knew that was an effort to suppress the black vote. But had not thought past that. I will have to ponder what actions to take.

So far, I’m considering writing to politicians to help the descendants of Sapelo Island preserve their island.

At the least I can let friends know what I have learned when the occasion arises.

I was touched by the kind and thoughtful gesture of the ladies from Grant Chapel to meet us before and after the tour.

I am grateful to the Presbytery for presenting these opportunities. They have been very informative. I have really enjoyed both.

Sincerely, Gay Beville