Author Talk

Dr. Betty Livingston Adams

Black Women's Christian Activism:
· Seeking Social Justice in a Northern Suburb

Summit Free Public Library
Thursday, September 29, 2016
7:30 PM

Violet Johnson

THEY CHALLENGED THE STATUS QUO

When a domestic servant named Violet Johnson moved to Summit, New Jersey in 1897, she became one of just barely a hundred black residents in the town of six thousand. But Johnson did not intend to accept the status quo. Establishing a Baptist church a year later, Johnson challenged assumptions of gender and race, advocating for a politics of civic righteousness that would grant African Americans an equal place in a Christian nation. Johnson's story is powerful, but she was just one among the many working-class activists integral to the budding days of the civil rights movement.

Dr. Betty Livingston Adams earned her Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Yale University, a Master of Divinity degree from Drew University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Southern University. She has many academic articles and public lectures to her credit. Her latest publication is Black Women's Christian Activism: Seeking Social Justice in a Northern Suburb, published by New York University Press. A former corporate manager, Dr. Adams is also an Associate Minister at Fountain Baptist Church (Summit, NJ).

The program is free and all are welcome. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing.