Racial Equity Task Force

Growing in knowledge and advocacy for racial justice

In the U.S., more than 55 million kids are heading back to school this fall. This will be the 71st fall after the Brown vs. Board of Education unanimous Supreme Court decision that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. Oliver Brown, an African-American father in Topeka, Kansas, with the help of the NAACP, initiated the suit because his third-grade daughter and others could not go to the nearby white school.

The NAACP's chief counsel, Thurgood Marshall—who was later appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967—argued the case before the Supreme Court using materials prepared by Durham's own Pauli Murray. Pauli was very familiar with racial segregation. Rejected for admission to grad school at UNC because of race in 1938, racial discrimination became a cause along with the intersectionality with sexism that also was used against Pauli. We are so fortunate to have the **Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice** nearby. Check out the tours and special events there at https://www.paulimurraycenter.com/events-and-celebrations.

Another activity you can enjoy at home is watching **"Best of Enemies"**. This is the 1971 story of Durham civil rights activist Ann Atwater (whom folks at FPC knew!) as she faced off C.P. Ellis, Exalted Cyclops of the Ku Klux Klan, over the issue of school integration in Durham. Look on-line for ways to stream this inspiring movie. The book is also available at local libraries.

And finally, if you are interested in what FPC is doing to promote racial equity, please plan to attend our Racial Equity Task Force meetings, in person in odd months after church on the first Sunday, and in the even months on the first Wednesday evening at 6 PM on Zoom. Please join us on Sunday, September 7 after church in the Wilson Parlor.

Prayers and wishes for all children everywhere to have a safe, worthwhile school year!