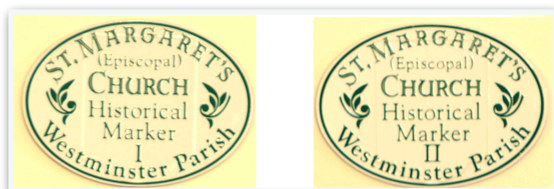


The 2014 Trail of Souls Pilgrimage Prepared SMC for 2021 Trust, Reconciliation, Reparations

The 2014 Trail of Souls Pilgrimage prepared the way for the 2021 efforts of Trust Reconciliation Reparations. The actual Trail of Souls pilgrimage was along five handcrafted historical markers recalling its 172-year history during the period of legal chattel slavery in Maryland. SMC offers guided and directed pilgrimage visits for individuals and groups requesting to follow the Trail of Souls pilgrimage at SMC.

Historical Marker One Located inside the church, along the north wall near the historic bell tower door recalls baptisms, weddings, and burial services conducted by SMC clergy for enslaved and free persons of African descent. Services would likely be at the rectory or at then Asbury Broadneck AME Church.



Research and 2014 has taught us so much about the people and the services

Historical Marker Two Located inside the church immediately below Marker One recalls Sunday afternoon worship services for persons of African descent — free and enslaved — held at SMC in the mid-1800s. Apparently this Sunday-afternoon worship ended when the church burned in 1851 and the opening at the same time of Asbury Broadneck AME Church and Asbury Methodist Church. Research since 2014 has taught us that persons of African descent could attend Sunday morning worship at SMC and at Marley Chapel. At Marley it was necessary to stand in the back; at the church it was necessary to remain in the back of the church (capacity about 75-100 at the time) though whether it was necessary to stand is not known.



Historical Marker Three Located outside, along the north side of the church. Recalls that at least 33 and perhaps as many as 100 persons were enslaved at and worked at White Hall when SMC owned this Maryland tidewater farm/plantation from 1749 to 1764. It is likely that descendants of these enslaved persons who worked for and were not directly held by SMC were freed in 1800 with execution of the will of John Ridout. John Ridout was the second owner of White Hall following forced sale by SMC to colonial governor Horatio Sharpe in 1764.



Historical Marker Four Located outside, along the north side of the church. The marker acknowledges that enslaved persons likely served as unskilled laborers for SMC in the construction of three or four church buildings and the chapel of ease. These were erected at four different locations from 1697 though 1852.