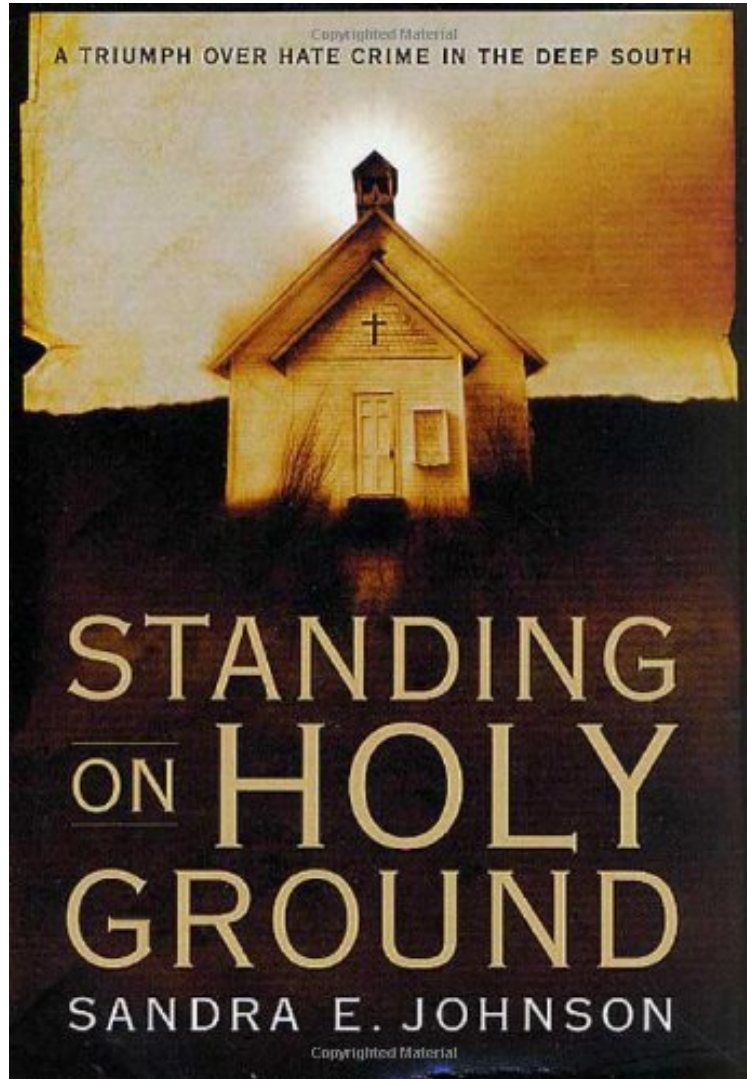


[Get free] Standing on Holy Ground: A Triumph over Hate Crime in the Deep South

Standing on Holy Ground: A Triumph over Hate Crime in the Deep South

Sandra E. Johnson

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Sandra E. Johnson : Standing on Holy Ground: A Triumph over Hate Crime in the Deep South before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Standing on Holy Ground: A Triumph over Hate Crime in the Deep South:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Blessed be the tie that binds -By S. HowellI live relatively close to this area so I found this book fascinating, but disturbing that such ignorance still exists...but it does. Fortunately not all folks in this area are such heartless racists. There are a lot of good people in the South and the valiant Ammie Murray

and Barbara Simmons are two examples of our homegrown best...but sadly bigotry is still present...as it is to some extent everywhere. I believe this would be an excellent book for college and/or possibly high school and middle school (except for language?) social studies classes. Additional note: St. John has been attacked again — just last week the windows were shot out. Why can't these good people be left alone to worship in peace? 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fell short of its potential. By Marcia Powell read it for my book club and although it clearly invoked thoughtful discussion of an on-going problem of race relations in our country, I found the writing style laborious and repetitive. Over-long for keeping the reader's attention to the ending which seemed to switch in purpose to a memorial to the protagonist rather than the earlier stated purpose of exposing acts of racism and the perseverance of those who in some measure triumphed over it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Book By Mary M Haygood With everything going on in today's world this tells a tale of hatred and love and respect between the races. We can work together and love one another.

A sweeping epidemic of hate crime targeted over one hundred Southern Black Churches between 1995 and 1996, leaving them in charred ruins. St. John Baptist Church in Dixiana, South Carolina, was one of the first destroyed. This small, isolated church had faced dark times before. It had been viciously desecrated in 1985 and withstood more attacks until it was burned down in August 1995. From the beginning, two friends--a white woman named Ammie Murray, and a black woman named Barbara Simmons--rallied volunteers to rebuild the historic St. John. Much to their amazement, hundreds of people from diverse racial and cultural backgrounds responded to their call for help. They refused to stop rebuilding the church--despite repeated attempts on Ammie and Barbara's lives and relentless attacks on the church. Soon, these two heroic women joined the leaders and congregations from two other burned, black churches--Macedonia Baptist and Mt. Zion AME--in leading the nation in a courageous battle against hate crime in the deep South. Beautifully rendered with warmth and grace, this inspiring story of enduring friendship, reconciliation, spiritual strength, and hope shows us how we can triumph over racial hatred.

From Publishers Weekly In January 1985, Ammie Murray, a white labor organizer, committed herself to helping rebuild the primarily African-American South Carolina church of her friend Barbara Simmons after it suffered terrible vandalism. Johnson, a columnist for the State, South Carolina's largest newspaper, offers a journalistic account of their 13-year friendship and struggle the church underwent many more attacks including an arson that completely destroyed that is a shocking and ultimately heartening case study of political involvement, social action and religious faith. Johnson spins a far wider web and covers the rise of the Klan in the South; an enormous, seemingly planned, epidemic of vandalism inflicted upon Southern black churches in the 1980s and 1990s; and the complicated racial politics of the Southern law enforcement and legal system. She also draws on the personal stories of Murray, whose daughter nearly died in an automobile accident, and Simmons, whose troubled son is convicted of murder and whose case goes to the Supreme Court. Johnson, who herself got involved with the rebuilding efforts, has a superb sense of storytelling that dovetails with the terrifying facts of her story: Murray's involvement with the church's ongoing troubles generated such enormous hatred in the South Carolina town of Dixiana that she was verbally and physically harassed and her beloved pet dogs brutally murdered. By the end, the book becomes a stimulating whodunit and courtroom drama. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This gripping page-turner offers an intricate account of the concerted vandalism of black Southern churches over the last two decades and focuses on the diverse group of volunteers who came together to rebuild the churches and their communities. The heart of this story belongs to Ammie Murray, a white grandmother who spearheaded the rebuilding and clean-up of small St. John Baptist Church in Dixiana, SC, over more than ten years. South Carolina journalist Johnson places the story of St. John in the maelstrom of black church burnings instigated by the Ku Klux Klan. She also covers the successful lawsuit brought against the KKK by two nearby churches. This touching and compelling story of the heinous effect hate crimes can have on a community delivers the uplifting message that people can overcome the hatred and renew a community. The story is compelling and well written enough to compensate for Johnson's occasional heavy-handedness with foreshadowing. This excellent first effort is highly recommended for public and academic libraries. Karen Sandlin Silverman, Ctr. for Applied Research, Philadelphia Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist In 1985, St. John Baptist, a small, insulated black church in Dixiana, South Carolina, was desecrated in the midst of a 10-year period when more than 119 black churches were substantially damaged or destroyed as an apparent consequence of racial animus. Johnson details the efforts of two friends, one white and one black, both southern--with all that that legacy implies--to find common ground among the town's racially, politically, and socially diverse groups. Johnson focuses on the South, but she exposes the racial divides in our national landscape that we tend to deny. A group of white southerners who befriended St. John found themselves in a modern-day civil rights struggle, thrust in the roles of traditional civil rights activists and abolitionists. Though the church desecration was the rallying point, as many whites were drawn into the issue, they began to evaluate the continued and substantial influence of the local Ku Klux Klan. The vandalism and the town's response provide the stage for a contemporary struggle between good and

