Beatrice Swift: I don't know how to explain that to you because he's Chairman of the Board of Education. George Battle is.

Karen Ferguson: Now?

Beatrice Swift: Uh-huh, now. And he was made Bishop while he was minister of Gethsemane AME Zion Church.

Karen Ferguson: Was that while you were going?

Beatrice Swift: Huh?

Karen Ferguson: Was that while you were still attending?

Beatrice Swift: No, no. [coughs] Pardon me. It's just been in the last year that he was made Bishop.

Karen Ferguson: Right. But, when you were growing up, was he involved in that kind of—

Beatrice Swift: He wasn't the minister.

Karen Ferguson: Oh, okay.

Beatrice Swift: He wasn't the minister there. Had several ministers.

Karen Ferguson: Have you ever had a minister who was involved in that way?

Beatrice Swift: In politics?

Karen Ferguson: In politics, in local politics—

Beatrice Swift: No, no, no. No. No.

Karen Ferguson: Were there ministers who were?

Beatrice Swift: Not as I recall, no. [indistinct 00:00:56].

Karen Ferguson: Were the ministers at any of your churches involved in the Civil Rights Movement when it started?

Beatrice Swift: Yes. The one at Seventh Street, First United. He marched with the group in Washington. And I think he was arrested with a group in Washington where [indistinct 00:01:28] was.

Karen Ferguson: And was the congregation involved in any way with the Civil Rights Movement?

Beatrice Swift: None other than supporting the kids and the younger ones and not shopping at places that were not integrated.

Karen Ferguson: Right. I see. Did that ever happen before the 1960s? That you wouldn't shop at places that weren't integrated—maybe they wouldn't be integrated then, but maybe that treated Blacks unfairly or?

Beatrice Swift: It only happened in the 60s? In the 60s.

Karen Ferguson: When your daughter was born—you have how many daughters?

Beatrice Swift: Just the one child.

Karen Ferguson: One child? When your daughter was born, when she was growing up, did you ever have to explain to her about segregation?

Beatrice Swift: Did she ever question me? I'm trying to think. No. She never questioned me about why she couldn't do this or why she couldn't do that, as I recall. Until she got older, and she was in college, and she wanted to join with the marches. And she went to Bennett College too. And she was determined that she was going to join in the marches and all, and she did it. And I told her to go help herself. Just don't get arrested.

Karen Ferguson: Do you think you have ever been treated like a second class citizen in your life?

Beatrice Swift: Sure. When I couldn't sit down, go downtown and couldn't go to a restroom. It said, "White only," and I had no decent place to eat. It would not serve Black people, and I feel very indignant about it. Yeah.

Karen Ferguson: What do you think that that segregation has meant to your life? That kind of treatment has meant to you in your life?

Beatrice Swift: Well, segregation and integration—versus integration. Things are more open now. It has made me see the world in a different perspective than when everything was closed. And I've been able to travel halfway around the world. I've been to Hong Kong, I've been to Tokyo. My daughter lives in Hong Kong. And just things are just open. And when I ask for a plane ticket, they don't say "Well, are you Black or White" or anything like that, you can just get your plane ticket and go wherever you want to. And when you sit on a plane, you make your own—select your own seat and everything. And it's quite a difference than when it was segregated. It's more open. I just feel freer in doing the things you want to do. Yeah.

Karen Ferguson: Do you think you lived day to day with a sense of limitations before?

Beatrice Swift: Yeah. There were certain things you couldn't do. As I said, you couldn't eat, you couldn't relieve yourself downtown. And now it's more open, you can go anywhere you want to.

Karen Ferguson: All right. Well, I guess we can—we'll finish up with that. We've been talking a long time.

Beatrice Swift: Oh, have we though? I hope it's been some help to you.

Karen Ferguson: It's been great. It's been very good. Just before we finish up, I have a few things. I've got a little bit of paperwork to do.

Beatrice Swift: Well, do you mind if I get—

Karen Ferguson: Sure.

Beatrice Swift: You—