

DOCKET

RL TRIPS CONTINUED.....

INDIAN VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVIE: "PAUL, APOSTLE OF CHRIST" (PG-13)

Tuesday, March 26 1:15 p.m. (TRIP)

The Living Branches coach will be traveling to Telford to enjoy the 2:00 p.m. movie, *Paul, Apostle of Christ*. This 2018 American biblical drama film stars James Faulkner as Saint Paul and Jim Caviezel as Saint Luke. This film tells the story of Paul, who was known as a ruthless persecutor of Christians prior to his conversion to Christianity. The plot focuses on his becoming a pivotal figure in the formation of the early church before being executed by Emperor Nero in Rome. The price of this trip is \$3.50 per person. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the March sign-up times. The coach will pick up at each entity.

EXPANDING HORIZONS SESSIONS/SHUTTLE

Thursdays, April 4, 11, 18, 25 - 8:00 a.m.

Mark your calendars for the spring sessions of Expanding Horizons to be held on Thursday, April 4, 11, 18, & 25 at The Lutheran Community at Telford. The featured sessions this spring are: *Cold War Warriors, Local Exploration, Spirituality in a Changing World, and Renaissance Arts & Music*. Sign-up with Eileen Burks during the March sign-up times if you plan to take the shuttle for all four weeks in April. Please note that the shuttle will begin to pick up at 8:00 a.m. each week. If you have not received the Expanding Horizons Spring catalog, they are available in Eileen's office. Deadline for registration is March 7.

READING FIGHTIN' PHILS - DECK PARTY/BASEBALL GAME/FIREWORKS

Friday, June 28 - 4:00 p.m. (TRIP)

The Living Branches coach will be traveling to Reading to enjoy the evening deck party, baseball game, and the spectacular fireworks show following the game. Upon arrival, you will enjoy the all-you-can-eat buffet which includes BBQ chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, baked beans, potato salad, chips, cookies, and Pepsi products. At 7:05 p.m. the baseball game is with the Reading Fightin' Phils vs. the Portland Seadogs (a Red Sox affiliate). The price of this trip is \$36.95 per person, which includes the deck party buffet, game tickets, fireworks display, and transportation. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the March sign-up times.



This month, the spring semester of Living U will get off to a great start. We have planned an interesting variety of classes for your learning enjoyment. The following is just a sampling of what's in store:

Friday, March 1, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. - Zero Waste Living

Tuesday, March 5, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. - Railroading on the North Penn

Thursday, March 7, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. - Living and Dying in the Resurrection

Friday, March 8, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. - Stories from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

For more information, please contact Maribeth Benner, Living U Coordinator, at ext. 44204.



WELLNESS CENTER

Lab Services are available for Dock Acres, Dock Gardens, the Villas, and residents of Dock Manor who have joined the Wellness Center.

Please bring your request to the Wellness Center during the Walk-In Clinic Hours Monday through Friday 8:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Please bring your physical therapy requests and lab requests during this time. The Residential Living Services nurse is only available outside these hours by appointment.

Labs are drawn Monday and Thursday at 7:30 a.m. and Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. You must have an appointment.

To make an appointment with the following doctors:

Please inform them that you will be seen at Dock Woods.

Dr. Arthur Donley,
Podiatrist
Call 215-361-7848

Dr. Christine Kilczewski,
TriValley Primary Care
Call 215-361-5010

Dr. Gwen Rosenthal,
Optometrist
Call 610-667-4123

**** Please bring your insurance cards & list of medications****

DOCK WOODS

ART GALLERY RECEPTION

The Dock Woods Art Committee invites you to attend a reception and opening of the Dock Woods art gallery wall on Monday, March 4, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. in Fisher Auditorium. The gallery is located in the hallway between the fitness center and new library in Dock Gardens and will be used to display a rotating selection of artwork from our very own Dock Woods artists and crafts persons. Light refreshments will be served as we enjoy the unveiling of our first exhibit. No shuttle service is available.

REAL ID PRESENTATION

Please join presenter, Scott Johnson in the Fisher Auditorium on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. as he shares information about REAL ID in PA. The REAL ID Act is a federal law that affects how states issue driver's licenses and ID cards if they are going to be acceptable for federal purposes, such as boarding a domestic commercial flight, or entering a military installation or federal facility that requires ID. At this presentation Scott will share the current information about the REAL ID in PA and what it is, how people can decide whether they need or want a REAL ID, and how to prepare to get a REAL ID. Mark your calendar and come receive the most up-to-date, accurate information from PennDot's representative. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity at 1:20 p.m.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

Come be "Irish for the Day" on Friday, March 15, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fisher Auditorium. Wear your green and celebrate while enjoying a green shamrock shake and soft pretzel at the St. Patrick's Day Party. You will enjoy a musical experience with musician and historian, Lon Gibson. Lon provides the ultimate concert featuring his talents of playing the cello, piano and singing some of our favorite Irish songs. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity at 1:20 p.m.

BOOK FAIR

North America's largest portable bookstore and novelty gift items will be set-up for your spring shopping on Monday, March 18, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Fisher Auditorium. There will be a selection of children's books, cookbooks, inspirational books, best sellers, sports...and a variety of novelty gift items for sale at discounted prices. Cash and credit cards are accepted. A rebate from the total sales will benefit the new purchases of books and DVD's for the Dock Woods library. Be sure to remind your family and friends to join you shopping!

2019 MARCH TALENT SHOW - "ISLAND FANTASY"

Join us Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fisher Auditorium for the 2019 Talent Show, featuring this year's theme, "Island Fantasy." Come imagine Dock's beautiful island complete with white sand, colorful shells and crystal blue water! Just imagine the sun shining on your face and the beautiful music and talent presented by your friends and neighbors on this colorful island! There is still time to reserve a space in the talent show to sing, dance, perform a skit, or comedy act. Contact Eileen Burks at 215-368-4438, extension 44121. **Dress rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, March 20 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fisher Auditorium** remember to bring along your music and props. On March 21, a shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity at 1:20 p.m.

Inside This Issue

Community Events - 2-3

General Reports - 4-5

RL Trips - 6 and 8

Birthdays & Updates - 7

Upcoming Events - 8

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

11:00 a.m. – Computer “Help Desk” With Gail Watts (DMCL)

Volunteer, Gail Watts, a retired educator, will be available for one hour in the Dock Manor Computer Lab to assist you with any questions related to your computer, iPad, or iPhone. No reservations are required.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

2:00 p.m. – Computer Class 101 (FA)

This month we will have a repeat class on retrieving your photos. Please bring along your laptop fully charged, if you use one. Please let Eileen Burks know that you plan to attend so we have enough tables and seating for the afternoon class. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity at 1:20 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

2:00 p.m. – PA Pain & Spine Presentation (FA)

You are invited to join Dr. Robert Kelly and Dr. David Qu, partners from the Pennsylvania Pain & Spine Institute as they present, “*Cutting Edge, Minimally Invasive Treatments for Spinal Stenosis and All Other Age-Related Pain.*” The doctors will discuss the latest techniques and talk about what causes a person’s pain. A Q & A will follow the presentation. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity at 1:20 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

10:30 a.m. – Ash Wednesday Service (CH) **See Pastor’s write-up on page 4** There will be NO shuttle service.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

2:00 p.m. – Catholic Ash Wednesday Service (CH) **See Pastor’s write-up on page 4** There will be NO shuttle service.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

8:00 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast (FA)

Our guest speaker for the men’s breakfast this month is John L. Ruth, a leading historian, author, and speaker on Mennonite history, faith, and culture over several decades. His topic will be the history of the Mennonites in Europe and their migration to America. John is a graduate of Eastern (Baptist) College and Harvard University. He taught literature at Eastern University, and has been an associate minister of the Salford Mennonite congregation. In recent years John has been utilizing historical research to write nonfictional narratives of Mennonite life in the Salford and Franconia region. Please make your reservations with Eileen Burks by calling 215-368-4438, extension 44121 by Tuesday, March 5. The price of this breakfast is \$7.04 per person, plus tax. Ladies are welcome to hear the presentation at 8:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

2:00 p.m. – Chimes Concert (CH)

Come join in on a hymn sing-a-long, accompanied by the chimes choir on Friday, March 8, at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel. We will learn a little about each hymn before singing them joyously together! A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity at 1:20 p.m.

RESIDENT BIRTHDAYS AND UPDATES

MONDAY, MARCH 11

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Genealogy 101 (DMCL)

Would you like some assistance researching your family tree? Facilitators Lyn Dimmig, and Jane Early will be available for two hours in the Dock Manor Computer Lab to assist you. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the March sign-up times for the 1:00 p.m. one-hour session, or 2:00 p.m. one-hour session. Space is limited per class. Please direct any questions to Jane Early at 215-361-6857, or Lyn Dimmig at 215-412-0116.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

7:00 p.m. – Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance (CH)

Just in time to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, we invite you to attend the evening performance with the Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance. Director Siobhan Murray is excited for you to watch her talented students as they perform the traditional Irish steps and much more! This organization continues to be dedicated to preserving the Irish culture through their dance performances. Wear your green and come and support these talented dancers. Family and friends are invited. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity at 6:20 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

2:00 p.m. – RL March Birthday Celebration (FA)

ALL RL residents are invited to attend the monthly birthday celebration. If you are a March birthday celebrant, please call Eileen Burks at 215-368-4438, extension 44121 by Tuesday, March 12 if you plan to attend and receive your

This page has been removed to protect the privacy of our residents.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING TRIPS

LANSDALE COMMUNITY CONCERT N.P.H.S. (TRIP)

Saturday, March 9 – 6:00 p.m.

The Living Branches coach will be transporting residents with a season membership to the North Penn High School to enjoy the 7:30 p.m. final concert of the season, “*The Irish Tenors*.” The price for the transportation is \$4.00 per person. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the March sign-up times. The coach will pick up at each entity.

THE 36TH ANNUAL PETER BECKER FLOWER SHOW “SUPER POWERS & FLOWERS” (TRIP)

Thursday, March 14 – 1:30 p.m.

The Living Branches coach will be providing a shuttle service to PBC for RL residents to attend the 36th Annual Flower Show, “SUPER POWERS & FLOWERS.” The retired super heroes of Peter Becker Community and their friends at Peaceful Living are called in to battle the enormous botanical super villains. See the botanical beings that have emerged to wreak havoc on the town of Harleysville! Sign up with Eileen Burks during the March sign-up times. The coach will pick up at each entity beginning at 1:30 p.m. for the 2:00 p.m. tour time. A donation will be received at the door and free parking and shuttle service is provided to all the campus attractions.

RL DINE AROUND - OLIVE GARDEN (TRIP)

Thursday, March 21 – 4:30 p.m.

The Living Branches coach will be traveling to North Wales, PA to enjoy dinner at Olive Garden. At the restaurant you will order off the menu, be seated at tables of 4 & 6, and receive separate checks. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the March sign-up times. The coach will pick up at each entity beginning at 4:30 p.m.

HUNTERDON HILLS PLAYHOUSE “TAKE ME AWAY” (TRIP)

Friday, March 29 – 9:15 a.m.

The Living Branches coach will be transporting residents and guests with reservations to Hampton, NJ to enjoy the served lunch and afternoon show, “Take Me Away.” The coach will pick up at each entity. Approximate return home to Dock Woods is 5:15 p.m.

FRANCONIA-LANCASTER CHORAL SPRING 2019 CONCERT (TRIP)

Saturday, April 27 – 6:00 p.m.

The Living Branches coach will be traveling to the First Baptist Church in Lansdale to enjoy the 7:00 p.m. Spring Concert. The Choral singers will be performing, *Felix Mendelssohn: Elijah*. The price of this trip including the transportation and concert ticket is \$15.80 per person. Sign-up with Eileen Burks during the March sign-up times. Guests are welcome. The coach will pick up at each entity.

PERKIOMEN TOURS & TRAVEL AMERICAN MUSIC THEATRE “OVATION” (TRIP)

Thursday, May 2, 2019 – 10:30 a.m.

Perkiomen Tours & Travel will be traveling to Lancaster this afternoon. It’s a spectacular musical journey unlike any you have ever seen before. The American Music Theatre includes band members, singers, dancers and composers who come together to create an energetic experience. Music lovers will be thrilled to see the variety of tributes on display that span iconic artists to

present-day stars. The theatre’s world-class band members perform the hits of legends and modern-day pop icons. A plated meal will be included at the Eden Resort at 12:30. You will pre-select a menu choice of C- Chicken Portabella, F- Flounder Almandine, or S- Sliced Roast Top Sirloin. We will travel to the American Music Theatre for the 3:00 p.m. show. The price of this trip is \$81.00 per person, which includes the motor coach transportation, lunch, tax and gratuity for lunch, show, and Perkiomen Driver gratuity. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the March sign-up times. Guests are welcome. Approximate return home to Dock Woods is 6:30 p.m.

HUNTERDON HILLS PLAYHOUSE “OVER THE RIVER & THROUGH THE WOODS” (TRIP)

Thursday, May 16 – 9:15 a.m.

The Living Branches coach will be traveling to Hampton, NJ to enjoy the afternoon lunch and show, “Over The River & Through The Woods.” This is a funny family comedy! Nick has a brand new job on the West Coast that threatens to take him away from his beloved, but annoying, grandparents. And so begins a series of hilarious schemes designed by these four over-adoring conspirators each determined to keep their darling grandson in the East! The price of this trip is \$73.60 per person, which includes the transportation, served lunch, and show. Sign up with Eileen Burks during the March sign-up times. Guests are welcome.

EILEEN’S MARCH SIGN-UP TIMES

Friday, March 1 – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (Bistro)
Monday, March 4 – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (Bistro)

*If you are unable to come during these times, please contact
Eileen Burks at 215-368-4438, extension 44121.*

COMMUNITY EVENTS

birthday plant. This month we will be entertained by vocalist/entertainer, John Bauer. A shuttle will pick up at each entity beginning at 1:20 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15 9:30 a.m. – Welcome To Laos Class (RR)

This month IVEP’er, Bong Vilayphone will continue to teach us about his country, Laos. Bong will be speaking about his culture, beliefs, and traditional clothing. We welcome you to join us in the recreation room for this one hour class. See you there!

SUNDAY, MARCH 17 6:30 p.m. – Sunday Evening Worship (CH)

Paul Bennett, pianist and organist from the Souderton Mennonite Church will be performing many of our favorite melodies and hymns. He will ask the congregation to sing along to some of the hymns. He is a wonderful pianist. Join us for an evening of music and song. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity at 5:50 p.m. An offering will be graciously accepted. Shuttle will pick up at each entity.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19 9:30 a.m. – MINUTE to WIN IT! (FA)

The Resident Fitness and Aquatics Committee is inviting all residents to a Brain Fitness Challenge called “A Minute to Win It.” It’s sort of like the TV gameshow, only we don’t have a one million dollar prize. Sorry about that, but you are sure to have fun and laughs when you participate. On-campus shuttle is available.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19 5:00 p.m. - March Potluck (DMCR)

Wear your green and come and find that pot of gold, good food and fellowship with your neighbors and friends at the March Potluck Supper! Fran Sargent and committee welcome you to sign up on the Dock Manor bulletin board and share what you plan to bring enough to feed six. We suggest meats, casseroles, salads, vegetables, soups, and of course desserts; maybe even some Irish soda bread! Please contact Fran at 215-362-3281 if you could assist with set-up and clean-up. Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 2:00 p.m. – Cross Campus Chef Demo (FA)

Join us for National Nutrition Month on Friday, March 22 at 2:00 p.m. in Fisher Auditorium for a Nutrition Education and Chef Demo. We will be featuring apples for this presentation so come hear what our dietician has to say and taste some of our chef’s recipes! A shuttle will pick up at each entity at 1:20 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 2:30 p.m. – Amici Opera Company (CH)

This month Amici Opera Company proudly presents, Rosini’s, William Tell. This fully staged opera is FREE for DW residents with their ID badge. Guests may purchase a ticket located at the Chapel porch entrance hallway. The senior rate is \$22.00, adult rate is \$25.00, student rate is \$15.00, and children under 12 are \$10.00.

MONDAY, MARCH 25 2:00 p.m. – “GRACE AGAIN” (CH)

Let’s celebrate spring, and be enriched by the Gospel music and nature slides with Willie and Rodi Longenecker from Morson, Ontario. The Longeneckers have been traveling across North America for over 25 years sharing their music ministry for seniors in retirement homes and churches. You will love listening to the beautiful blend of Willie and Rodi’s voices, while enjoying God’s beautiful world! Following the concert an offering will be received. A shuttle will begin to pick up at each entity at 1:20 p.m.

2019 SUMMER BOCCE TOURNAMENT SIGN-UPS

Bocce season is coming upon us and that means plenty of opportunities for bocce fun. For those interested in getting involved in the 2018 tournament season, please register your two-person team with Cliff Heizmann at 267-663-7551 by Friday, March 22 for early-bird registration. The tournament is free. Registering early allows us to start scheduling round-robin play for April.

REPORTS

DINING SERVICES

March 13 – Full Service Dinner –There are two seatings for this reservation only meal; 4:45 and 5:30 p.m. Please call extension 52407 on Friday, March 1 to make your reservations.

March 22 – Nutrition Education/Chef Demo – Join us for National Nutrition Month on Friday, March 22 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fisher Auditorium for a Nutrition Education and Chef Demo.

March 27 – Big Band Banquet Sign-Ups – Sign-Ups for our annual Big Band Banquet will start on March 27 at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Center Lobby. The banquet will be held on April 9 at 5:00 p.m. Entertainment for that evening will be the Society Music Makers. Price is \$18.49 per person. Entrée selections will be needed at the time of signups. Entrée Choices are:

1 – Lemon Dijon Herb Crusted Pork Tenderloin, shallot red pepper sauce

2 - Grilled Filet Mignon, balsamic red wine sauce, frizzled onions

March 27 – Full Service Dinner –There are two seatings for this reservation only meal; 4:45 and 5:30 p.m. Please call extension 52407 on Friday, March 1 to make your reservations.

FUND DEVELOPMENT

Charitable Gift Annuities – Income for Life, Tax Benefits, and Generous Giving

A charitable gift annuity is a great way to donate to the Living Branches benevolent care ministry while securing your financial future. It's a one-time gift that provides you with fixed payments for life and frees you from managing funds that you intend to eventually give away. Additionally, there are tax benefits included at the time of your gift. Any remaining funds are donated to the charities of your choice after your passing. Gift annuities are available through the Living Branches Preferred Trust Providers: Everence Financial Services and Univest Bank and Trust Co. For more information, contact Keith Heavener at ext. 44115.

Save the Date – Everence Seminar

The Living Branches Fund Development office will be hosting an Everence Seminar on Wednesday, May 22, at

10:00 a.m. in Fisher Auditorium. Come and learn from the Everence professionals about "A Helping Hand: How Everence Can Assist You." This free seminar will give an overview of the varied services that Everence offers and includes a continental breakfast. Shuttle service will be provided for villa and cottage residents who request the service. Please RSVP to Rose Hackman, Fund Development Assistant at 215-368-4438, ext. 44305 by May 15. Flyer invitations will be circulated to residents the end of April.

PASTORAL CARE

Ash Wednesday Services for 2019

This year our Protestant Ash Wednesday Service will be held on March 6 at 10:30 a.m. in the chapel. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent which is the 40 days before Easter in which we remember Jesus going into the wilderness for 40 days prior to the beginning of his ministry. For him it was a time of contemplation on the ministry ahead and a time of great temptation to choose the way of power, fame, or wealth. For us it is also a time of reflection on God's call on our lives and a time of confession for often failing to follow that call. Come and join us for this special service of preparation for the season of Lent. The Catholic Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel. No shuttle service will be provided for either service.

Lenten Prayer Station

Lent is a period of time in the church calendar in which Christians focus on our need for a Savior and to honor the sacrifice of Jesus. A Lenten prayer activity will be available in the chapel during season of Lent to help us to pray. Beginning on Thursday, March 7, each week a hands-on prayer experience will be setup in the chapel for residents, family members and staff to stop in at your convenience to use. The activity will change each week on Thursday morning and will focus on the Lord's Prayer. All are welcome to participate and take this opportunity to set aside time to focus on Jesus and his great love for us.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Spring is on the way and with it new opportunities to serve at Living Branches. Opportunities exist inside and outside; there is something for everyone. If you have a green thumb, there are opportunities to weed, mulch, and deadhead in our many gardens. If you enjoy visiting with residents, spring is a great time to take those visits outside. More opportunities exist to serve in our gift shops, as an audio/visual assistant, or in worship as a worship leader,

REPORTS

song leaders, Scripture reader, usher, musician, or speaker. For more information on these, and all the opportunities at Living Branches, contact Lynne Allebach at 215-368-4438 ext. 42289 or by email at Lynne.Allebach@livingbranch.com

CONSTRUCTION CHATS:

March 5 3:30 to 4:00 p.m.
March 12 2:00 to 2:30 p.m.
March 19 2:00 to 2:30 p.m.
March 26 2:00 to 2:30 p.m.
All to be held in Fisher Auditorium



THE ACORN SHOP

The Acorn Shop is undergoing a major renovation! Stay tuned to Channel 2 for information on re-opening. Restocking shelves will happen as quickly as possible when the renovation is complete. All of your Easter décor, Easter candy, and lots of exciting new merchandise will be waiting for you! Meanwhile, take a walk to the Gifts & Treasures Shop in Dock Manor where we are offering our line of .65 cards and Leanin' Tree greeting cards, stamps, dairy, eggs, tea, soda, paper products, toiletries and candy. You just might find other treasures there too!

DOCK'S GIFTS & TREASURES SHOP

All puzzles, toys, games and stuffed animals are half price for the entire month of March. Stop often to see what's new. Keep us in mind when you do your "spring" housecleaning. Your donations are always accepted during our regular business hours (1:00-4:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday), or call extension 44230 to make arrangements.

HOTLINE INFORMATION

Café/Dining Room Menu: 215-368-4438, extension 56789

Dining Reservations: 215-565-2407 or extension 52407

Fitness & Aquatics: 215-565-0236 or extension 50236

Information Technology: 215-412-5511 or extension 25511

ROAST PREACHER

President Trump began his State of the Union speech the other night by recognizing two significant anniversaries: the 75th anniversary of D-Day, and the 50th anniversary of America putting a man on the moon.

This State of the Union, which was to unify the country, unfortunately left out another significant milestone in our nation's history for 2019: the 400th anniversary of the first African slaves sold into human bondage in Jamestown, Virginia, in August 1619.

That omission struck me as important and revealing. We as a nation often applaud our successes but somehow we have a bad case of amnesia when it comes to facing the missteps in our nation's past.

I wonder, however, what it might have been like to use this occasion to acknowledge this "original sin" of our country - to use this 400th anniversary to nudge us to confess our ongoing racism and to commit ourselves to dismantling the racial injustice that divides us.

Ironically, in Virginia, we heard again this week of governmental officials who had demonstrated racial insensitivities in the past. Calls are coming from Democrats and Republicans for them to resign. But is resignation enough? What if we need something deeper? What if we need repentance; a complete turning around? What would it be like for Governor Northam (and I borrowed this idea from Jim Wallis at Sojourners magazine) to say something like this: "This incident around my yearbook page has revealed to me, and to the whole country, how oblivious and utterly clueless so many of us white people are when it comes to the hateful, violent, and sinful history of racism in our country. I will indeed resign, but that is no longer enough. I first need to repent of the sin of racism, on behalf of myself and on behalf of the state of Virginia. I will practice that repentance as governor of the state of Virginia by declaring that all Confederate statues in the state of Virginia will be removed from all public places. I believe this is the right way to recognize the 400th anniversary of human bondage for black people in America. I will also declare the end of any more racialized voter suppression in Virginia, as well as the continuing racially unequal and unfair policing and mass incarceration in our state. After such repentance, I will resign."

I wonder if this kind of repentance might be a step towards the unification of a country that we all long for. What do you think? Let's talk.