



CONVERSATION CAFES LEARNING AND SERVING THE INTERNATIONAL PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY

Three WPC members volunteered to chat with English as a Second Language (ESL) students at their Conversation Cafes in April. The ESL classes are one of the ministries that WPC's mission partner in Philadelphia directs. All three volunteers had the same reaction – each loved the experience, learned more about immigration and Philadelphia's diversity and each want to return in the fall to do it again. It was energizing, fun and enlightening!

One volunteer spoke with two ladies from Brazil who have only spoken Portuguese for the last three years while living in Philadelphia. Brazilians are the largest immigrant group in Philadelphia with over 40,000 Portuguese speakers. The ladies communicated that they work, live, and socialize with Portuguese speakers, so the conversation cafes are a good opportunity to practice their English.

Another volunteer chatted with a mother and daughter from the Ukraine who have been in Philadelphia for one month, living with the mother's sister. They had learned some English in Ukraine, but still rely on their phones to help with translation, as do all the students. Making their way from eastern Ukraine, prior to the US government allowing

refugees to fly directly from Europe, was difficult to say the least. Their escape involved a train ride to Poland, a flight to Germany, and then another flight to Mexico where they made the US border crossing on foot in Tijuana before a final flight to Philadelphia. Thousands upon thousands of Russians, Ukrainians and immigrants from the "Stans" (Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan & Kazakhstan are represented in the ESL classes) live in Philadelphia. We prayed for their husband/father who remains in Ukraine.

The third volunteer spoke with a woman from China and another from Kazakhstan, one who was expecting a child and both who were interested in supporting and helping each other. They were very eager to improve their English so that they can pursue a career.

Overall, there was a nice camaraderie among the students in each class and a huge appreciation for the volunteers who came to speak English with them and help them in their conversation.

The Conversation Cafes will begin again in the fall, and you are welcome to join. The location is a few minutes from Lower Moreland.



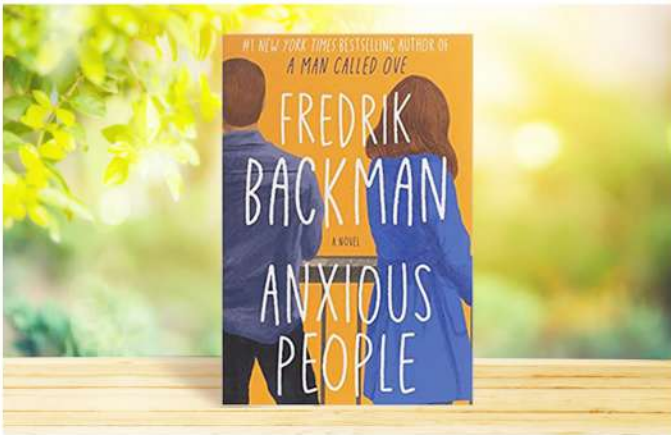
WPC BOOK CLUB

Anxious People is a quirky story that jumps from a current hostage situation resulting from a failed bank robbery to a desperate situation in the past that ties the hostages, the police, and the bank robber together.

Rich with Fredrik Backman's "pitch-perfect dialogue and an unparalleled understanding of human nature." Anxious People is an ingeniously constructed story about the enduring power of friendship, forgiveness, and hope—the things that save us, even in the most anxious times.

The in-person discussion will be on **June 26th at 10:30 am** in the Fireside Room. A Zoom option will be **Monday, June 27th at 7:00 pm**. You will need to purchase your own book or check one out of the public library.

If you have any questions, please email Janice Mack at gardengirl65@gmail.com.



SUMMER WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT:

Please note that beginning June 19th, WPC will have one Sunday service at 10 a.m. rather than two at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. See you in the Sanctuary!

#WELCOMINGWAYNE INITIATIVES

On May 15th, we held a Building Community Coffee Hour, which was a fabulous time of fellowship! In case you missed it, sign up for any or all of our initiatives to foster connection and make WPC a welcoming place for all.

On Sunday mornings, congregants may volunteer to greet all who enter- Greeter sign up slots are available through the summer. For those who have a heart for outreach, the Andrew Ministry is the perfect opportunity to reach visitors, prospective and current members, and to help with New Member classes, dinners, and other gatherings. Finally, if you're looking to meet new friends, our Small Dinner Groups are returning soon! Those who sign up are matched with each other and will meet regularly to share meals. Visit the link below to learn more.

waynepres.org/communityfellowship



MEN'S MINISTRY

Thursday Morning Men's Ministry is an informal group of Wayne Presbyterian Church that meets at 7:00 am each Thursday. It is a wonderful opportunity for relationships, prayer, and learning. The program year runs from September through June.

The morning begins with prayer & fellowship. This is followed by learning time: a 30-minute presentation typically from professors from Eastern University. We usually wrap up at 8 am, although the speakers often stay for a while to answer questions and chat. Our June speaker is Dr. Walt Huddell, Professor and Chair of the Math Department at Eastern who studies mathematics from a philosophical and theological standpoint.

Are you looking to explore the world of history, bible study,

astronomy, philosophy, theology, and a host of Bible-related topics? This might be just what you are looking for. The lineup of speakers will challenge your mind and fill your spirit. Join in for a morning or two or the entire series. You will be glad you did.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Monday Morning Bible Fellowship is a member-led group that meets hybrid weekly in the Fireside Room from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Mary Nicol and Scott Laird facilitate each weekly scripture selection, and the group shares their personal insights and reflections on the week's selection.

We will not meet May 30. For the first 3 weeks of June, we will share and discuss participants' most favorite psalm (excluding Psalm 23). On June 6, Rev. Dr. Heather Shortlidge will lead the study on her selection: Psalm 139.

Attendance by Zoom is available. Contact Scott Laird to register at hslaird@aol.com or 610.745.7479 (cell). We will not meet after June 20. Plans for the Fall of 2022 are TBD.



RECOGNITION & THANKSGIVING FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE

On May 15th, the Faith in Action Committee honored three long-time church members for their decades of service: George Aman, Jane Beatty, and Ted Behr. Sheryl Durham, Faith in Action's outgoing Elder, gave a Moment for Mission at both worship services that detailed just a few of their accomplishments.

Read an excerpt below:

"I'd like to highlight the areas where their contributions were most deeply felt. It is challenging to pinpoint one area of their dedication and service, but I will attempt to do so nonetheless.

By initiating the establishment of the Social Justice Advocacy Ministry, George has been instrumental in bringing our attention to the needs of those in Southwest Philadelphia and beyond, and their respective challenges related to education, hunger, fair housing, and illegal firearms.

Ted's commitment to the Southwest Community Development Corporation included a regular presence in the communities, where he developed working relationships with residents, churches, and businesses. His efforts were most particularly realized in his revitalization of the Southwest Globe Times, for which he acted as publisher, reporter, and editor.

Since 1995, when our City Lights program was founded by Carey Davis, who is here with us today, Jane became dedicated to Mitchell School. She has tirelessly served on the front lines there through five principals, recruiting volunteers for tutoring, library support, and countless other needs that have arisen."

We are incredibly grateful for and inspired by all that George, Jane and Ted have contributed. Visit the link below to learn more.

waynepres.org/faithinaction



LIFE EVENTS

Baptisms

We rejoice in the baptisms of...

Stephen Anthony Sessa, Jr.
April 10, 2022

Deaths

We give thanks for the life and the ministry of...

Dr. Brett B. Gutsche
April 13, 2022

Robert (Bob) Nicander
April 20, 2022



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If you are receiving the
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newsletter by surface mail
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receive it by email
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jayne@waynepres.org

June 2022