

Speak Easy

ESL & Immigrant Ministries Newsletter

Spring 2011

In This Issue

[Student Spotlight](#)

[Introducing Dorothy Hettmann](#)

[ESLIM Tidbits](#)

[Fall Teacher Training](#)

[Teaching Tips](#)

[Volunteer Headed to Kyrgyzstan](#)

ESLIM at a Glance

Number of Programs:
13

Number of Students:
933

Number of Volunteer Teachers:
194

Number of Other Volunteers:
63

Fall 2010 statistics

Mission Statement

We promote and support the teaching of English to adult immigrants in Northern Virginia and welcome their active participation in our community.

Welcome!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of ESL & Immigrant Ministries' online newsletter! We hope you will enjoy inspirational stories about our students and volunteers, resources for teaching ESL, and news about our confederation of ESL programs. We welcome your ideas for articles and feedback about the e-newsletter; please email office@eslim.org.

As you may know, ESL & Immigrant Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports the teaching of English as a Second Language at United Methodist and other churches throughout Northern Virginia. ESLIM is primarily a volunteer-run organization, blessed with a cadre of hundreds of wonderful volunteers, from teachers to program coordinators, behind-the-scenes helpers, board members and more.

Student Spotlight



What is the most important way Connie's English classes through ESLIM are helping her? Her first answer is that she can now attend English-speaking services at her church, whereas before she could only understand the services in Spanish. She would say that the professional benefit is being able to do a better job reviewing her clients' real estate contracts. As a real estate agent, she knows how important it is to be able to understand all of the fine print. She has come to ESLIM with strong reading skills and with the desire to improve her speaking and writing skills. She says that attending ESL classes has helped her improve in both of these areas. She now feels more confident responding to her English-speaking co-workers and isn't worried about making as many mistakes in writing emails.

Connie attends classes two evenings a week at ESLIM's site in Manassas. Those four hours of instruction with several dedicated teachers are giving her an understanding of the language she can't find anywhere else. In class she feels safe speaking up, and when she makes a mistake she wants to be corrected so that her English keeps improving. She took the placement test last fall and is in an upper level class. She plans to keep coming through the end of the spring semester and be back again in the fall. This schedule works beautifully for her, because she says in the summertime she has more work in the evening hours, but that tapers off in the late summer, just when ESL class registration takes place for next year.

Fall 2010 Statistics by Program

Number of Students Registered:*

Annandale UMC
54

Arlington UMC
54

Calvary UMC
34

Centreville UMC (a.m.)
104

Centreville UMC (p.m.)
78

Crossroads UMC
71

Culmore UMC
40

Dulin UMC
132

Fairfax UMC
123

First Presbyterian / Mt. Olivet
UMC
18

Grace UMC / Trinity Episcopal
84

Graham Road UMC
24

Leesburg UMC
43

St. Matthew's UMC
74

Introducing Program Administrator Dorothy Hettmann



Dorothy Hettmann became ESLIM's part-time Program Administrator in April 2011. Even before becoming Program Administrator, Dorothy has been a member of our ESLIM family. She has taught in our Grace UMC/Trinity Episcopal program in Manassas since its inception in 2003 and was honored as an ESL Angel in 2008.

Dorothy is very active at Grace UMC, where she is Chairperson of the Church Council, a Spanish translator in the "Caring and Sharing" food pantry program, and a frequent participant in mission trips to Mexico and within the United States.

Dorothy has a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Marywood College and studied at the University of Madrid and Ibero-American University in Mexico City. For more than 15 years, Dorothy worked for AT&T on IT-related projects, before becoming a full time mom to her three children.

ESLIM Tidbits

Welcome to **Bruen Chapel UMC**, the newest ESLIM site, and Pastor Ruth Burgess, who serves as the ESL coordinator. Bruen Chapel is located in Fairfax.

Thank you to Doug George for leading an excellent "**Refresh and Renew**" training session on encouraging students to access their existing English knowledge; to Sue Almond and Judy Blanchard at Fairfax UMC for hosting the training; and to Karen Brown for coordinating the training.

Thank you to everyone who supported ESLIM through generous contributions during our annual fund campaign!

Save the Dates for Fall Teacher Training

Back by popular demand, Lauren Lang will provide new teacher training on **August 27** at Crossroads UMC in Ashburn and **September 10** at Dulin UMC in Falls Church. Doug George will present a session for returning teachers at Mount Olivet UMC in Arlington on **September 11**. Stay tuned for details!

Teaching Tips

The Internet provides a wealth of teaching materials for ESL classes. Here are some of our favorites that ESLIM teachers may find helpful.

[Arlington County's ESL program](#) site includes a variety of resources for both teachers and students. The REEP Curriculum tab takes you to the adult ESL curriculum, family literacy curriculum, or technology resources. Lesson plans are provided at different levels and there are printable teacher resources. The REEP Best of the Web tab links to many other resources.

The [Virginia Adult Learning Resources Center](#) provides education and literacy resources and publications for teachers of adults in Virginia, including [ESL-specific resources](#). This site includes multi-class lessons on various topics, including financial literacy, construction, and landscaping. There is also a link to the excellent Fairfax Family Literacy Curriculum as well

Number of Teachers:

Annandale UMC
15

Arlington UMC
15

Centreville UMC (a.m.)
11

Crossroads UMC
23

Culmore UMC
7

Dulin UMC
15

Fairfax UMC
31

First Presbyterian Church / Mt.
Olivet UMC
8

Grace UMC / Trinity Episcopal
26

Graham Road UMC
6

Leesburg UMC
17

St. Matthew's UMC
20

** May not include late registrants*

as other ESL resources, both academic and practical/classroom oriented.

The [100 Best Resources and Guides for ESL Teachers](#) by Alisa Miller is an annotated listing divided as follows: lesson plans and handouts, teaching tips, specifically for teachers, specifically for teaching children, videos and podcasts, newsletters and blogs, high tech teaching, for ESL teachers abroad, and supplemental resources.

Recommended by two of ESLIM's teachers at the February 2011 Refresh and Renew teacher training session, www.eduBakery.com provides puzzles that you can either download or create. Using the same or different vocabulary you can construct crosswords, bingo cards, word searches, or word scrambles. This program is easy to use; one of our volunteers who describes herself as "technologically challenged" tried it out and created a set of bingo cards with health-related vocabulary for her Advanced Beginner class. There is a free version in addition to a more advanced subscription-fee based application available.

If you have a favorite Internet site, please send it to Karen Brown at ksb22vmb@yahoo.com and we'll include it in a future Speak Easy.

ESLIM Volunteer Headed to Kyrgyzstan



By Doug Herbert

Shortly after he graduated from George Mason University, Eric Connor joined our ESL program at Graham Road UMC. Eric wanted to gain experience in teaching English because he hoped to get accepted into the Peace Corps.

For the past year, Eric has served as my assistant teacher in the Advanced level class at Graham Road - and he has been a joy to work with. Eric has boundless energy (he also taught English to adults in the Arlington County REEP program) and unlimited enthusiasm. He brought to our class both a keen intelligence and an impressive grasp of many world cultures (Eric is fluent in Mandarin Chinese). Eric was perfect for our diverse class, which during Eric's tenure included students from Algeria, Bolivia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Nepal, Peru, Thailand, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

Eric did not limit his contributions to the classroom. When one student expressed interest in learning more about American culture, Eric formed a book club and spent his Saturday afternoons reading and explaining *To Kill a Mockingbird* to his students. This American classic -- though somewhat challenging -- was a huge hit with the students.

Eric has now achieved his dream and has been accepted to the Peace Corps. Eric has been assigned to Kyrgyzstan, a former Soviet republic in Central Asia. As you'd expect if you knew Eric, he is excited and eager about the assignment, which begins in April 2011.

For our final class with Eric, the class's writing assignment was, "Discuss the history, culture, and foods of Kyrgyzstan. Give details." (Fortunately, there was a backup assignment!)

After class, the students treated Eric to a delicious Korean lunch at Vit Gol Lighthouse Tofu in Annandale. There were hugs and handshakes all around as the class bid Eric a fond farewell -- but not before all the students gave Eric their email addresses and extracted a promise from Eric of frequent updates about his adventures in Kyrgyzstan!