

Volunteer Training: Something New

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH AT MOUNT OLIVET UMC, 9 - 12 NOON

Presenters: Reverend Betsy Caudill, Arlington District Program Coordinator and Doug George, veteran ESL instructor

A combined training for new and returning volunteers is scheduled for Saturday, January 17th.

You will not want to miss this unique event. The first half will explore the spiritual implications of serving others through ESL ministry. The second half will emphasize content-flexible teaching strategies that engage the student in active learning.

Registration is required.

To register email Barbara Bennett at eslim02@gmail.com.

Deadline to register: Wednesday, January 14, 2009.

Location: Mount Olivet United Methodist Church - 1500 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA, 22207.

Mount Olivet UMC's private parking lot is on the corner of North Glebe Road and 16th Street.

Parking is free. For a map visit our website at www.eslim.org

Visit our website at www.eslim.org

Past copies of the newsletter can be found on the website. To be removed from the mailing list email eslim02@gmail.com



United Methodist Church in Northern Virginia
5001 Echols Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22311

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage PAID
Permit No. 68
Fall Church, VA

FALL 2008



ESL & IMMIGRANT MINISTRIES

Speak Easy



www.eslim.org

Archangel Barbara Bennett Retires

Story submitted by Monte Campbell

I met her at a Crossroads Café workshop one sunny Saturday morning 9 years ago. She had been helping with childcare at the Wesley ESL program and volunteering as a teaching assistant there. By the end of the afternoon, we had become friends and she was considering joining our ESLIM administrative team. Now as I reflect back upon the intervening years and basket full of warm memories, I give thanks for the many gifts bestowed upon me and ESLIM by our administrative assistant, volunteer coordinator, professional colleague and dear friend, Barbara Bennett.

My shorthand symbol for her is B². I christened her this long before I realized how prescient I had been. Barbara's abilities are considerably more than twice those of an average person. She quickly learned the ropes and in short order helped us expand and improve the services offered to local church ESL ministries. The special touch of her professional and people skills is upon all that she does – volunteer recruitment, training and support, textbook ordering, database maintenance, website management, advertising design, coordinator liaison - to name a few.

No matter how tight the turn around, no matter how long the to-do list, no matter how full the email inbox, Barbara always has time for others. Her caring attitude and gentle manner mark correspondence, phone calls and in-person contacts with Barbara. Additionally, her faith in God and in



Barbara (front row) and Students

others is evident in all that she says and does.

During the 9 years we have worked together, I have been impressed with Barbara's philosophy of life. She is never content to stand still. She is always striving toward personal goals that stretch and challenge her. At this point in her life, she is moving on to new horizons. She is working on an AAS degree in Early Childhood Development at Northern Virginia Community College and plans to transfer to GMU to continue her studies.

We now bid her a fond farewell and God's richest blessings as she journeys on to the next exciting chapter in her life.



Fall 2008 Semester Statistics

| | NO. OF STUDENTS REGISTERED | AVERAGE ATTENDANCE | NO. OF TEACHERS | NO. OF NEW TEACHERS | OTHER VOLUNTEERS |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Arlington UMC | 83 | 48 | 20 | 5 | 3 |
| Arlington Forest UMC – First Presbyterian | 59 | 23 | 11 | 7 | 21 |
| Calvary UMC | 28 | 23 | 18 | 9 | 4 |
| Centreville (a.m. & p.m.) | 223 | 153 | 26 | 10 | 8 |
| Crossroads UMC | 96 | 58 | 25 | 3 | 16 |
| Culmore UMC | 73 | 38 | 9 | 6 | 6 |
| Dulin UMC | 136 | 92 | 19 | 2 | 4 |
| Fairfax UMC | 130 | 101 | 33 | 3 | 11 |
| Floris UMC | 147 | 93 | 41 | 18 | 16 |
| Grace UMC – Trinity Episcopal | 99 | 65 | 25 | 7 | 9 |
| Graham Road UMC | 60 | 37 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| Herndon UMC – Trinity Presbyterian | 25 | 20 | 13 | 5 | 6 |
| Leesburg UMC | 65 | 30 | 14 | 5 | 15 |
| Manassas-St. Thomas | 75 | 31 | 12 | 2 | 2 |
| St. George's UMC | 93 | 57 | 22 | 3 | 12 |
| St. Matthew's UMC | 61 | 45 | 14 | 4 | 30 |
| Washington Street UMC | 27 | 18 | 12 | 5 | 10 |
| TOTALS | 1480 | 932 | 320 | 95 | 181 |

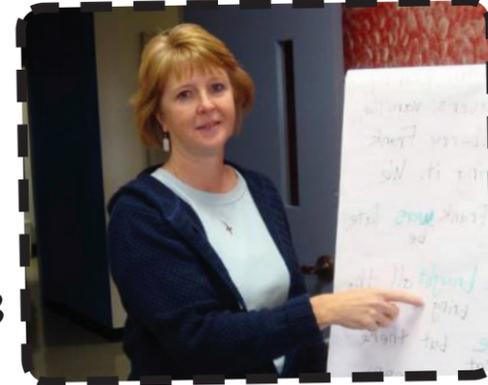
ESLIM Celebrates 20 Years of Service in 2009

Plan to be present at this dinner event to take a bow and join other volunteers who have made 20 years of ministry a reality. In 1989, the first ESL classes were held with 30 students and 5 volunteers in the basement of Mount Olivet UMC. Since that time, 33 churches in the Arlington and Alexandria Districts have offered this outreach of language and love. Over 10,000 immigrant neighbors have been served in Christ's name by hundreds of volunteers. **Don't miss this landmark event. Save the date today on your 2009 calendar.**

| May | | | | | | | 2009 | |
|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|--|
| Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su | | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

Continued from page 4

ESL Angels: Our Veteran Voluneers



Dorothy Hettmann

Dorothy Hettmann has been a pillar of the ESL program in Manassas since its inception in the spring of 2003. Whatever "hat" she is wearing... UMW co-president, TAG Team Leader, Grace Mission Project member, participant on mission trips to Mexico, vice chair of Grace's Church Council, member of the Battlefield High School Band Support Organization, ESL lead teacher...Dorothy is always well prepared and demonstrates her enthusiasm and love for others. ESL students continue session after session to request her class.

About her volunteer experience, Dorothy says, "I was very excited when I found out that Grace was going to have an ESL ministry. It is something that has always been near to my heart. It is very heart warming for me to teach ESL and see the enthusiasm that our immigrant friends have for learning English." The Grace/Trinity ESL program is truly blessed to have Dorothy as one of our teachers. Like our other staff members, she makes this outreach mission program possible and touches and changes the lives of so many of our students. Thank you, Dorothy, for all you do to support and sustain our ESL program.



Marguerite Clossman was one of a group of United Methodist Women who decided in 1992 to begin an ESL program at Dulin. She helped organize the program and began teaching Dulin's first classes in January, 1993. Almost sixteen years later, she can be found at Dulin three days a week helping both students and teachers. For many years she made time to teach a class, regardless of level. Not only did she teach ESL, she also showed new teachers the ropes. **Marguerite has a special talent for helping literacy level students get off to a good start by providing individual tutoring, and this is her special contribution to our program now.** She has had a number of successes guiding such students so that they will not get discouraged and will go on to master the English language. We count on Marguerite's help to test and register students, not only on registration day, but also throughout the semester as new students arrive. She willingly helps with whatever tasks are needed, including setting up refreshments, answering student questions, and in general helping students feel welcome at Dulin. Students pay their regards to Marguerite with comments such as "I have learned very much English from Miss Marguerite."



Marguerite Clossman (on left)



ESL Angels: Our Veteran Volunteers



Story submitted by program coordinators

As we watch the evening news, our hearts break with the suffering we see around the world. Often we feel helpless to make a difference.

John Wesley said, "The world is my parish." We say, "The world is IN our parish." Whether you have served for a semester or 20 years, you are an ESL angel. Because of your efforts lives have been touched in a profoundly positive way. You have done something about the suffering; YOU have made a difference.

Following are stories of some of our longest serving ESL volunteer angels:

Doug Herbert is a busy corporate attorney, yet for the past 18 years, one night a week, he has taught English. His first volunteer assignment was at Mount Olivet, then he transferred with the program to Arlington Forest and now he will be found every Saturday morning at Graham Road with his advanced level students. **He currently serves on the ESL Board of Directors helping to guide the ministry into its 3rd decade of outreach. Doug has learned a lot about his students over the years.**

"My conversations with ESL students have included such topics going to the disco in Ulan Bator on Saturday nights, managing the Sarajevo power grid while being besieged by the Serbs, the glories of the fresh meats in the markets in La Paz, summer swims in the river at your grandmother's country home in India, a teenage girl from Lima hiking high to an Andean village with no electricity or running water and having to sleep in the same bed as your Incan grandmother who speaks only Quechuan, cutting firewood in the winter in Nepal, working as a high fashion designer in Seoul, fighting in the Salvadoran army against the guerrillas, seeing starving Korean



Doug Herbert



June Smithson

orphans in the aftermath of the Korean War, running an orphanage in the mountains of Venezuela (and seeing it seized by Hugo Chavez), and what it was like to go from the Ivory Coast to being a student at the Sorbonne, just to touch on a tiny handful of the thousands of memorable stories I have heard. My 18 years as an ESL teacher have been life-enriching and just amazingly fun. And my students' love for this country and its ideals have made me love America more than I ever thought possible."

June Smithson was a charter member of the Saint Matthew's ESOL program launch over 15 years ago. She now reflects back over those years with many memories. **"To be a part of ESL at first was a new frontier because it had not been done at our church before and so much was new. Our students were the generators . . . They were hard-working persons who were trying their best to provide for their family. It was a time of giving a helping hand. Our first students often came with little education from their native countries, but they had a thirst to learn as much as they could to fit into their new country. I admired them greatly. The number that came underscored their desire to do well and to be successful. It still makes me feel honored to have been a part of the program."**

To be continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

ESL Angels: Our Veteran Volunteers

Debbie Harrison spends her weekdays preparing kindergartners for navigating the joys and mysteries of life. Her devotion for giving of herself extends to



Debbie Harrison

teaching English one night a week with her husband, Frank, assisting. She has volunteered from the beginning of Trinity Episcopal Church's participation in Grace United Methodist Church's program three years ago. Some of our students say, "May I come back to your class? I understand and learn. Don't make me go to the next level!" Reflecting on her experience as a lead teacher with our class #3 students, Debbie says, **"The students have shared with us their pride in their accomplishments and their concerns as they adapt to life in the U.S. We feel honored to be invited into their lives as friends, and each class has been a joy."**

In 2000, when Susan Gonzalez recruited teachers for the first year of operation at Fairfax United Methodist Church, **Suzy Schrock** was one of the first to say yes. She taught the first class of C level students and has been teaching that level ever since. While there are many current volunteers who have been with the program since the second semester, Suzy is the only teacher who has been teaching since the "get go". Her co-teacher, Marsha Ficken, reports that Suzy really connects with the students and makes Wednesday evenings informative and fun for one and all. During the day, Suzy is busy serving as the Nurse Manager for perioperative services at Sibley Memorial Hospital. Her hobbies include reading, needlework and family.

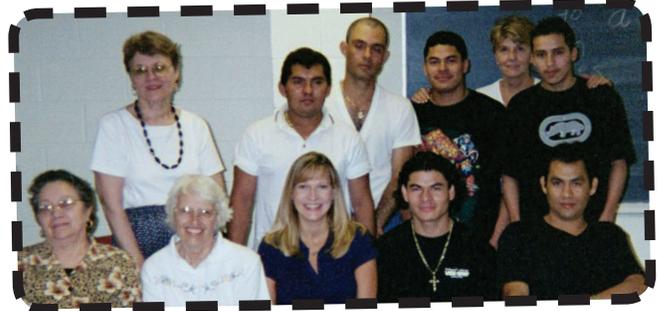


Suzy Schrock



John Pasek

Sarah Nobles was one of the original teachers with the Herndon UMC/Trinity Presbyterian ESL program, which began in 2003. Sarah was active in many charitable organizations in the Herndon area. She taught six beginning level classes from the spring of 2003 until the fall of 2005. Sarah even taught while undergoing cancer treatment. Sarah inspired and was loved by all who knew her. A student, who attended her funeral, said, "She helped her." Co-teacher Dorothy Mackay still remembers Sarah for singing the "ABC" song. Many of the teaching aids which Sarah assembled are used by beginning level teachers today.



In Memory of Sarah Nobles

In this group shot, Sarah is pictured on the top left-hand corner.

Recruited by a good friend and former ESL volunteer who knew he would be an excellent teacher, **John Pasek** has been a cornerstone of the Arlington UMC program for the last seven and a half years. Always flexible and happy to lend a hand, he has taught beginning or intermediate classes, on Mondays or on Thursdays, with or without a co-teacher, mainly using the Side by Side curriculum. **"I enjoy teaching ESL because it makes me feel connected to the community in which I live.** I also end up learning as much as the students that I teach...even about the English language," he says. John's students benefit not only from his encouragement and his eagerness to answer their questions, but also from his love of grammar—a rare gift, indeed!



To be continued on page 5