

Immigration and Refugee Ministries

St Brendan's Franklin Park



Overview (Tim)

- Introduction (Regis)
- Brief History of St. Brendan's Involvement
 - Seeds of ESL Activities
 - Accompaniment to ICE Hearings – Our “toe in the water”
 - Conversation Friends
 - Program Basics
 - Volunteers
 - Students
 - Cultural exchanges
 - Partnering with our Students in Ministry
 - Accompaniment – Revisited
 - Hosting
 - Visitation

Overview (continued)

- We plan to talk for about 40 minutes, allowing 20 for formal Q&A.
- Simple questions (clarifications, explanation of terms we use, etc.) are welcome at any time during the presentation.
- Broader questions that will likely require some time to answer fully are best left to the end.
 - We have index cards available if you would like to jot down a questions for us to consider during the Q&A period.

Introduction (Regis)



For in this case the saying is true, one person sows and another reaps. (John 4:37)



Accompaniment to ICE Hearings – Our “toe in the water”



The “Scary” Thing that Happened

Writing about our Astonishment and Outrage



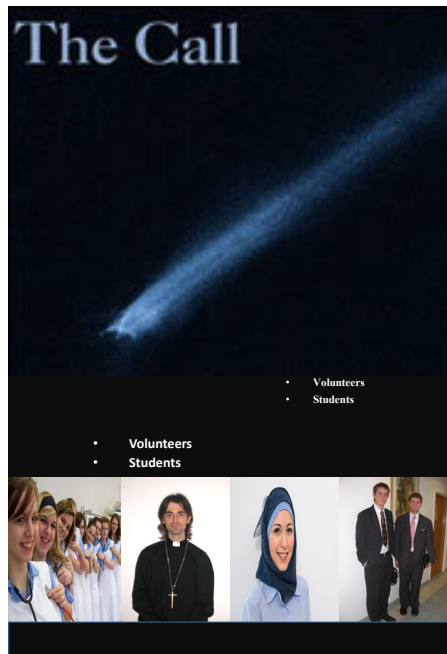
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The Birth of Conversation Friends



Program History (Joyce)

In so many ways, our involvement began with the man we lovingly refer to (in public, anyway) as “Our Friend from Haiti.”

(You’ll see more pictures of him as we go along.)



Early in the process, we were acutely aware of how little we knew about the whole area of migration, so we invited a number of speakers to educate us.



Two members of our parish also attended a conference in Atlanta organized by Episcopal Migration Ministries.



One of the ministries in this general area that attracted us early on—in part because of a history of such work at St. Brendan's in the past—was to provide informal tutoring in English conversational skills to non-native speakers.

We therefore invited *additional* expert speakers to (re)-introduce this particular topic.

From this seed was born ...

Conversation Friends ESL Classes

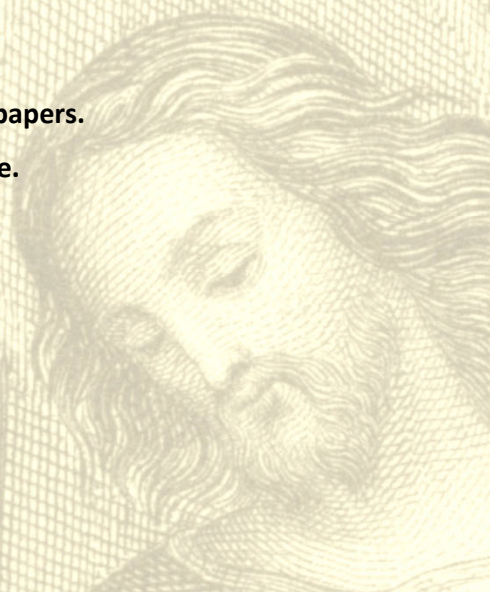
Conversation Friends Program Mission (Tim)

Our primary mission is to provide a safe and loving environment in which speakers of other languages improve their fluency in conversational English and familiarize themselves with U.S. culture.

While we pursue this ministry in response to the Bible's call to care for the "alien in our midst," we do not proselytize; we simply take advantage of opportunities to respond to learners' questions about our faith when and as they arise.

Program Basics (Linda)

- **Materials**
 - A CRIES grant pays for *Easy English News* newspapers.
 - Other educational materials are available online.



Class Materials

Conversation Questions
Television

A Part of Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom.
Some related questions can be found on the Entertainment page.

- What is one of your favorite TV shows?
 - Why do you like it?
 - When is it on?
 - Does your father like it, too?
- Are you going to watch TV tonight?
 - If so, what will you watch?
- What did you watch on TV yesterday?
 - What is one of your favorite TV shows?
 - Why do you like it?
 - When is it on?
 - Does your father like it, too?
 - Do you like ____? (Insert the name of a TV show.)
 - Do you prefer listening to the radio or watching TV?
 - Do you think it is good for children to watch TV?
 - Do you think there is too much violence on TV?
 - Do you think that TV is a good thing?
 - If you could design a new television show to boost ratings, what kind of show would it be?
 - How often do you watch TV?

Elizabeth Claire's
Easy English NEWS
January 2019
Volume XXIV Number 5

A new Congress* begins in January

On January 3, the 116th Congress* will meet in Washington, D.C. Americans elected this Congress on November 6, 2018.

Many changes

There are 535 members* of Congress: 435 members and 100 representatives. The new Congress is the most diverse* in U.S. history. There are now 125 women. That's 23% of the total.

Fifty-five members of the 116th Congress are black, 40 members are Hispanic. Four are Native Americans.

Most members of Congress are

**Life in the U.S.A.
Crimes* and punishments***

Crimes are acts that are against the law*. Some crimes are not doing something that the law says people must do.

Types of crimes

There are personal crimes, property* crimes, incomplete crimes, and statutory* crimes.

Personal crimes are: harming* or threatening to harm another person, kidnapping*, murder, manslaughter*, rape*, and child abuse* are personal crimes.

Property crimes take away a person's right to have and use his or her own property. Some property

Incomplete crimes are crimes that have been planned or started, but not completed: attempted* robbery, attempted murder, and conspiracy* to

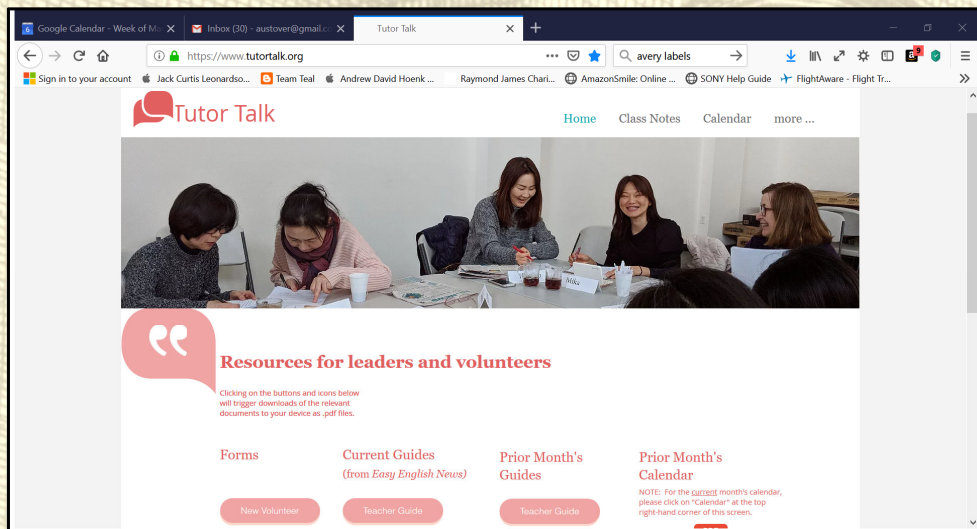
Words in black print with a star (*) are in WORD HELP on page 12.

What's Inside?
January 2, 3
Our Page 4
The Moon 5
each Crutch-
ing with sp, sc, st 5
Beautiful
National Park 6
Smartphones
Smart? 7

Program Basics (continued)

- **Materials**
 - A CRIES grant pays for *Easy English News* newspapers.
 - Other educational materials are available online.
- **Committed Volunteers**
 - We require a volunteer leader and at least one helper per class.
 - Volunteers sign up online on a monthly calendar.
- **Students**
 - Students choose which class session(s) to attend.
 - Tuesday 10-12 :: Wednesday 7-8:30 :: Thursday 10-12

Web Site



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Tutor Talk website. The browser tabs include Google Calendar, an email inbox, and the Tutor Talk page. The website URL is https://www.tutortalk.org. The page features a navigation menu with links for Home, Class Notes, Calendar, and more. Below the navigation is a photograph of several people sitting around a table, engaged in a discussion. A prominent red speech bubble icon contains the text "Resources for leaders and volunteers". Below this, a note states: "Clicking on the buttons and icons below will trigger downloads of the relevant documents to your device as .pdf files." There are four main resource categories, each with a red button: "Forms" (with a "New Volunteer" button), "Current Guides (from Easy English News)" (with a "Teacher Guide" button), "Prior Month's Guides" (with a "Teacher Guide" button), and "Prior Month's Calendar" (with a "NOTE: For the current month's calendar, please click on 'Calendar' at the top right-hand corner of this screen." below it).


Calendar

March 2019 ESL Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1 2
		3 4 10:00-12:00 Leader: Charlotte Pierce Volunteers: Suggested Topic: P.1 "Hold Onto Your Money" to P. 9- Stop at top of second column Retirement	5 7:00-8:30 p.m. Leader: Linda Schneider Volunteers: Erin Mahoney Suggested Topic: P.2 Events in March "March Comes In..." "Daylight Savings" P.3 "Lent," "Ash Wednesday," "Mardi Gras"	6 10:00-12:00 Leader: Tim Austin Volunteers: Libby Juel Suggested Topic: P.5 "Ask Elizabeth about Spelling" and "Many Ways to spell a sound" Television	7 8 9	
		10 11 10:00-12:00 Leader: Joyce Donadee Volunteers: Nancy Snyder Suggested Topic: P.9 "Hold Onto Your Money" - Begin top of second column and continue to P. 11 Can You Tell Me About... e pierce	12 7:00-8:30 p.m. Leader: Erin Mahoney Volunteers: Cheryl Cotten Suggested Topic: P.2 Events in March "Read Across America" P.3 Spring and St. Patrick's Day	13 10:00-12:00 Leader: Tim Austin Volunteers: Libby Juel Suggested Topic: P.1 "The U.S. Legal System (Continues to P.10) Transportation	14 15 16	
		17 18 10:00-12:00 Leader:	19 7:00-8:30 p.m. Leader: Elizabeth Murphy	20 10:00-12:00 Leader: Tim Austin	21 22 23	

Program Basics (continued)


- **Publicity**
 - **Banner on the lawn outside the church**
 - **Fliers**
 - **Business cards**
 - **Church Web site**
 - **Local press**
 - **Word of mouth**
 - **School districts**
 - **Contact with individual ESL teachers**
 - **North Allegheny ESL Open House**



Would you like to improve your English?
Would you like to meet with others, working to improve their English as well?

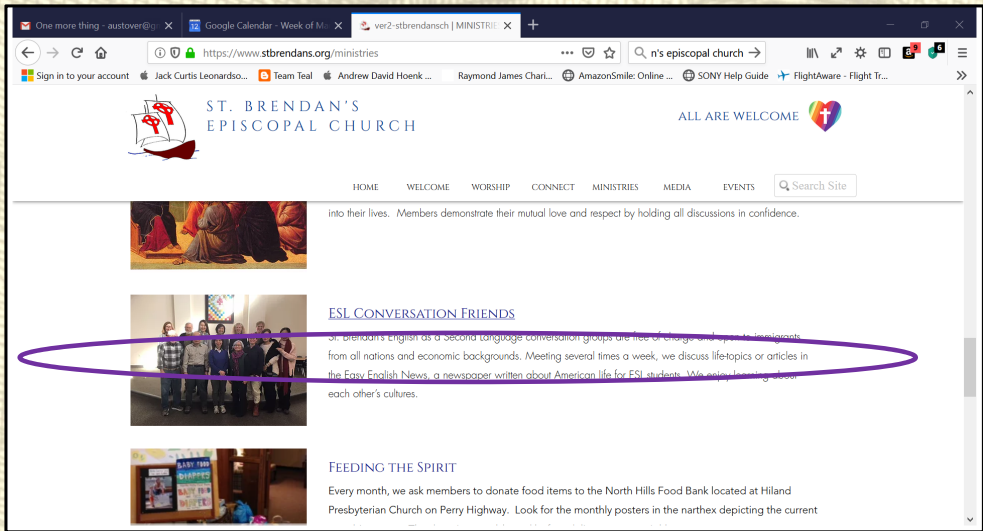
Come join the Conversation Friends ESL Classes.
They're friendly! They're free!
All backgrounds and faiths welcome and respected.

Classes are available at St. Brendan's Episcopal Church
Tuesday & Thursday mornings 10—12 and
Wednesday evenings 7—8:30
Attend as often as you can!
2365 McAleer Road at Rochester Road, Franklin Park
(412) 364-5974
stbrendans@stbrendans.org



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ST. BRENDAN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALL ARE WELCOME

HOME WELCOME WORSHIP CONNECT MINISTRIES MEDIA EVENTS Search Site

into their lives. Members demonstrate their mutual love and respect by holding all discussions in confidence.

ESL CONVERSATION FRIENDS
St. Brendan's English as a Second Language conversation groups are free of charge and open to individuals from all nations and economic backgrounds. Meeting several times a week, we discuss lifetopics or articles in the Easy English News, a newspaper written about American life for ESL students. We enjoy learning about each other's cultures.

FEEDING THE SPIRIT
Every month, we ask members to donate food items to the North Hills Food Bank located at Hiland Presbyterian Church on Perry Highway. Look for the monthly posters in the narthex depicting the current

Program Basics (Tim)

- Student Needs Survey

	Tuesday					Total	Rank	Wednesday			Total	Rank	Thursday		Aggregate	
															Total	Rank
Listen and understand English better	10	1	1	1	1	3	2	19	2	1	5	6	4	4	29	2
Improve pronunciation skills	7	1	4	3	5	3	11	34	6	1	2	3	1	1	38	3
Understand American culture and customs	1	1	5	2	5	3	7	24	3	8	3	11	7	7	42	5
Learn about state, regional and local news	1	9	8	4	5	9	8	44	9	8	5	13	9	8	65	9
Improve grammar skills	1	1	10	5	5	7	9	38	7	1	6	7	5	3	48	6
Join in everyday conversation more confidently	1	1	2	9	1	1	1	16	1	1	1	3	1	2	21	1
Improve skills in writing, texting and emailing	7	1	7	8	1	8	10	42	8	1	10	11	7	6	59	8
Understand the significance of national news stories	7	1	11	6	1	1	6	33	5	2	1	7	10	9	52	7
Socialize with other non-native speakers	10	9	9	10	11	10	3	62	11	8	9	17	11	10	89	11
Support my children in their everyday activities	1	9	3	11	5	11	4	44	9	8	8	16	10	11	71	10
Broaden my vocabulary	1	1	6	7	5	3	5	28	4	1	4	5	3	5	38	3

I want to have more opportunity to speak English all of the time if possible
It would be more helpful if someone [would] fix my sentences when I'm wrong (not every sentence but 1 or 2 per class).

Materials	Online	Print
	0	11

Materials	Longer	Shorter	Same	No answer
Tuesday/Thursday Break	1	0	8	2

Student Needs Survey

Top 4 Responses

- Join in everyday conversation more confidently
- Listen and understand English better
- Improve my pronunciation skills
- Broaden my vocabulary

Lowest Responses

- Socialize with other non-native speakers
- Learn about state, regional and local news
- Improve skills in writing, texting and emailing

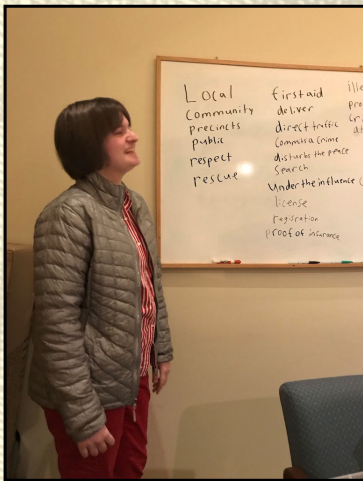
Our Volunteers (Linda)

- Many folks are interested in volunteering but cannot commit to a rigid schedule.
- We have attracted volunteers from outside the parish.
 - Two of those volunteers are ordained clergy in other denominations.
- One of our volunteers is currently in high school.



Benefits of Volunteering (Charlotte, Nancy)

Benefits of Volunteering (Erin)



Hello, everyone! I'm sorry that I couldn't be with you today; I'm in New England touring colleges.

I'm 17 years old, in 11th grade at Sewickley Academy, and I've been volunteering with St. Brendan's ESL class for over a year.

I first got involved with this program because I wanted to help immigrants navigate their new lives in the United States. When I started volunteering with this program, because I was the first minor to volunteer with the ESL classes, the leaders of the program had to contact several church leaders and set up certain procedures before I could volunteer. The program leaders ... didn't see this as a burden, and they set up the whole system very quickly. They have been so kind, welcoming, and supportive to me.

I especially enjoy helping our ESL students learn English because I have a passion for language—I'm currently learning Spanish and Mandarin Chinese at school. In ESL class, I usually assist the main teacher, but I have started to lead classes more often, and I really enjoy the opportunity to come up with a lesson plan and figure out the best ways to discuss different topics.

There is a great dynamic between teachers and helpers during classes: whichever volunteer is most knowledgeable about a certain topic will speak about it, whether they are the class leader or not. Sometimes we even ask Father Regis, St. Brendan's priest, specific questions about religious topics.

But my favorite part of volunteering with the ESL program is that I learn from the students. Since the class is conversation-based, we have many discussions about American life and how it compares to the students' lives in their home countries. The students bring unique perspectives to discussions of American life, and in this way they remind me that "normal" is a term relative to one's own culture. Most importantly, the stories that the students tell about their home countries are enthralling, and they teach me so much more about their own cultures than I could ever teach them about the US.

Thank you.

Our Students (Tim)

- Historically, most of our students have come from East Asia (China, Japan and S. Korea).
- Additional students reached us from India, Russia, Brazil, Haiti, and Turkey.
- Our students have been predominantly female and many of them have children of school age.
- A few men have recently begun coming to the night sessions.
- We have prepared some of our students to interview for—and to secure—jobs locally, though often in roles that we believe do not make full use of their talents and education.





**Our students
come ready to
work hard!**



**But they—and we—also
have a lot of fun!**



**Benefits of Being a Student
(Some of our Amazing Students)**

Cultural Exchange (All)

All of those at our class sessions learn a great deal about the cultures of the others in the room—a true cultural exchange.

On the one hand, we learn from our students ...

(Food often provides an easy and fun topic to discuss!)



These rice cakes came with bilingual instructions on how to open the wrapping



The elegance of the Japanese Tea Ceremony



Learning to play a popular Korean board game



Cultural Exchange (continued)

All those at our sessions learn a great deal about the cultures of the others in the room—a true cultural exchange.

On the one hand, we learn from our students ...

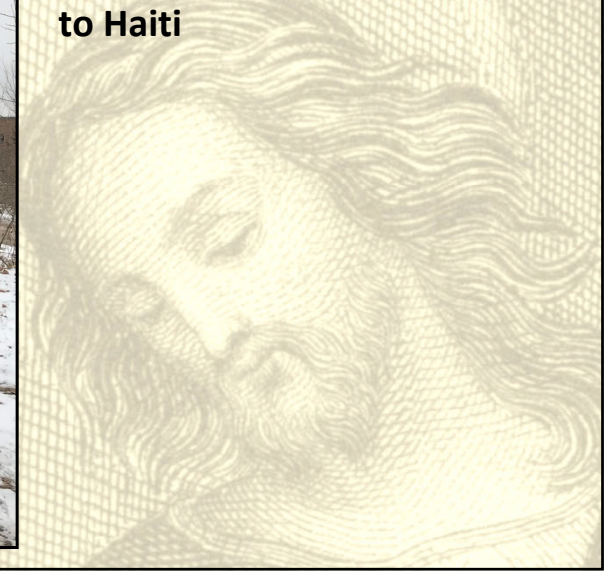
... while on the other, we are able to introduce our students to aspects of U.S. culture.



**The Place of this Program in the
Life of the Parish
(Joyce)**

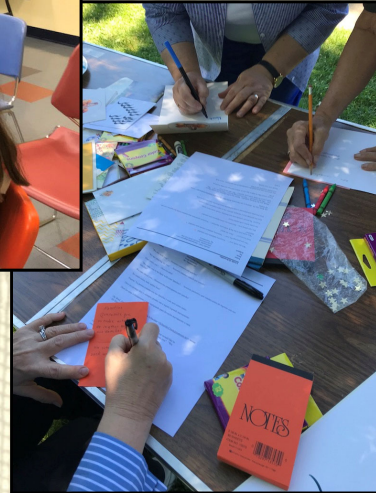


**Much needed
supplies en route
from St. Brendan's
to Haiti**





Vacation Bible School



Writing cards for children at Holy Family Institute who had been separated from their families



In early March, ESL volunteers, our students and their families collaborated to prepare a meal for Miryam's

Future Directions (Regis)

- **Accompaniment**
- **Hosting**
- **Visiting and Reuniting Detainees**

Lessons Learned

- **F – Be flexible**
- **O – Be organic**
- **C – Be culturally aware**
- **U – Be understanding**
- **S – Be sensitive**

**Thank you for your
attention.**

**We now welcome your
questions.**