



**SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT**  
**July / August 2017**

**San Andrés Itzapa, Chimaltenango, Guatemala &  
Christ Episcopal Church, Blacksburg, VA, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Brian “Alejandro” Tyler

**Last Visit:** August 12, 2017

**Next Visit:** October 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** San Andres and Christ Episcopal are in the midst of planning a South to North delegation for 2018. The coming months will be dedicated to starting the passport and visa process for the potential delegates. The Chay Balam Scholarship program is beginning to prepare for the end of the year activities.

**Budget for Visit:** Approximately \$13

**Tierra Nueva I, Chinautla, Guatemala &  
Faith Lutheran Church, West Fargo, ND, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Brian “Alejandro” Tyler

**Last Visit:** August 14, 2017

**Next Visit:** October 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Tierra Nueva 1 and Faith Lutheran are starting conversations for a 2018 North to South delegation. This year, Tierra Nueva 1 has held numerous information sessions with its communities to provide parish members with information about Sister Parish and its work. Tierra Nueva 1 hopes to be able to receive the members of Faith next year with an opportunity to share some of the new developments within the community and parish.

**Budget for Visit:** Approximately \$15

**UPAVIM, La Esperanza, Mezquital, Guatemala City, Guatemala &  
First United Methodist Church, Downers Grove, IL, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Brian “Alejandro” Tyler

**Last Visit:** August 14, 2017

**Next Visit:** October 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** First United Methodist and UPAVIM are happy to say that all five delegates from UPAVIM have been granted their visas. The women from UPAVIM will be traveling in November to share with their sisters and brothers of First United Methodist. UPAVIM is one of Sister Parish’s first member communities in Guatemala and continues its work in handmade crafts. If you are looking for a place to do holiday shopping, their crafts are beautiful and the proceeds support the local community with education, health, nutritious food options, and jobs. More information can be found at [www.upavim.org](http://www.upavim.org).

**Budget for Visit:** Approximately \$15

**Las Margaritas II, Ixcán, El Quiché, Guatemala &  
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Raleigh, NC, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Brian “Alejandro” Tyler

**Last Visit:** June 13, 2017

**Next Visit:** October 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Las Margaritas II and St. Francis had to postpone their North to South delegation until 2018. The two communities hope to have the opportunity to inaugurate the Las Margaritas Catholic Church together. The church construction project has been under way for over a year now. Photos can be seen on Facebook @Sister.Parish and @iglesias.hermanas.1.

**Budget for Visit:** Approximately \$50

**Chichipate, El Estor, Izabal, Guatemala &  
St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Bloomington, IN, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Brian “Alejandro” Tyler

**Last Visit:** June 14, 2017

**Next Visit:** October 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Chichipate hosted this year’s bi-annual Solidarity Walk and Representatives Meeting. Chichipate was excited to have this opportunity. The visit also gave the Chichipate Sister Parish committee the ability expand visibility within its own church. For more information please see the Sister Parish blog ([www.sisterparish.org/blog](http://www.sisterparish.org/blog)). St. Thomas hopes to have a 2018 delegation and an opportunity to see all the changes that Chichipate and the surrounding communities have gone through over the years.

**Budget for the Visit:** Approximately \$80

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Tierra Nueva II, Guatemala  
& St. Joan of Arc, Minneapolis, MN, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Carrie Stengel

**Last Visit:** March 12, 2017

**Next Visit:** September 24, 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** The two communities are preparing for a potential South to North delegation tentatively planned for February 9-19, 2018. The 5 representatives from Tierra Nueva II will be applying for visas in September or October. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. If the delegates receive visas, this will be the first time St. Joan of Arc has had visitors during the infamous Minnesota winter, but the delegates say they would be happy to see snow for the first time and get to see their sister parish in a different season.

**Budget for the Visit:** \$18

**San Antonio, Cunen, El Quiche, Guatemala &  
Danville Congregational Church, Danville, CA, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Carrie Stengel

**Last Visit:** Delegation March 30-April 8, 2017

**Next Visit:** September 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** The San Antonio Catholic Community has received funding through a Catholic university program to build a new church. The community has been dreaming of this possibility for a long time. The funding is for a limited time period, so they will be working hard through September to finish the new church as soon as possible. Danville eagerly awaits news and pictures of the construction process.

**Budget for the Visit:** \$40

**Guarjila, Chalatenango, El Salvador &  
Wallingford United Methodist Church, Seattle Washington**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** September 2, 2017

**Next Visit:** September 16, 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** The two groups are preparing for a South to North delegation that will take place September 21-October 2, 2017. The last South to North was over five years ago, so WUMC is looking forward to re-engaging its members and introducing the current church leadership to their first Sister Parish experience. The delegates will have lots of opportunities to connect with the wider WUMC community, as they will be staying in a number of different homestays and participating in an all church retreat with the theme, "Weaving our lives together."

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

**San Antonio Los Ranchos, Chalatenango, El Salvador &  
First Lutheran Church, Duluth, Minnesota**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** June 11-12, 2017

**Next Visit:** September 16, 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Los Ranchos continues to look at alternatives to the long-standing scholarship program supported by First Lutheran since the students are receiving support from the municipal government now. The First Lutheran program currently has one student. The Los Ranchos committee would like to continue to support education in the community by meeting other needs, but research on costs for the 2018 school year and current needs is pending. In June, Los Ranchos celebrated the patron saint festival for St. Anthony. Haydee, a Sister Parish member and 2016 delegate to Duluth, was elected queen for her age group and was honored during a community parade.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

**Potrerrillos, Nombre de Jesús, Chalatenango, El Salvador &  
First United Methodist Church Decorah, Decorah, Iowa**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** July 30, 2017

**Next Visit:** October 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** From July 7-17, seven delegates from Decorah visited Potrerillos and other areas of El Salvador. Rev. John Caldwell shared some of the [highlights from the delegation](#), including the participation of youth delegates and the connection with youth in Potrerillos, a community fish-fry and picnic and unplanned moments of singing, joke-telling and playing games.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

**San José La Montaña, Chalatenango, El Salvador &  
Trinity Episcopal Church, Newtown, Connecticut**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** June 25, 2017

**Next Visit:** October 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** The two communities are re-gathering after the U.S. summer break. In October, they plan to start regular Bible study Skype sessions again with a call tentatively planned for October. The community of San José la Montaña asks for prayers for Reina and her family, following their recent loss.

**Budget for Visit:** \$12

**ACOMUJERZA, Zaragoza, La Libertad, El Salvador &  
People of Hope Lutheran Church, Rochester, Minnesota**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** August 12, 2017

**Next Visit:** October 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** The two communities continue to hold monthly Skype calls whenever possible, with the next call tentatively scheduled for October. The long-term goal for the relationship continues to be a South to North visit to Rochester. People of Hope continues to work on local fundraising to be able to make that visit possible.

**Budget for Visit:** \$0

**CCR and CRIPDES, El Salvador**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Meeting Date:** N/A

**Next Meeting Date:** October 12, 2017

**Meeting Notes:** Organizations and communities that are members of the CCR are planning activities to celebrate the anniversary of the repopulation in Chalatenango. Guarjila and Los Ranchos will celebrate their repopulation on October 12, with other communities like Arcatao celebrating soon after.

**Budget for Visit:** N/A