



**SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT
March/April 2017**

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Brian “Alejandro” Tyler

Last Visit: February 19, 2017

Next Visit: May 2017

Status of the Relationship: Christ Episcopal is holding donation drives to support its Sister Parish initiatives. The congregation of Christ Episcopal is excited to begin the visa and passport process for six potential South to North delegates from San Andrés. San Andrés is hoping to expand the number of participants in the linkage and is considering new ways to address this topic. The Chay Balam scholarship students are greatly pleased that Christ Episcopal continues to work in developing the scholarship fund. The students are excited to write letters to their sponsors and look forward to being able to thank Christ Episcopal members in person on a future delegation to Guatemala.

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: April 24, 2017

Next Visit: June 2017

Status of the Relationship: Tierra Nueva 1 recently celebrated their patron saint, St. Mark. The week-long celebration included processions, concerts, and guest speakers. The committee of TN1 is preparing for its 2017 November Vacation Bible school. The current organizing is concentrated on soliciting involvement from new participants and brainstorming on possible activities. Faith Lutheran is beginning to consider a future North to South delegation to Guatemala. In the coming months, the Faith Lutheran linkage committee will organize events and activities to prepare for this delegation.

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: January 14, 2017

Next Visit: May 2017

Status of the Relationship: On March 4th, UPAVIM hosted Sister Parish's Guatemala Representatives Meeting ([see photos](#)). The UPAVIMs all pitched in to facilitate a wonderful experience for all the Guatemala Representatives that arrived. UPAVIM is also in the beginning stages of planning a possible 2017 South to North delegation with 5 delegates. The ladies will select the potential delegates in their June 6th general assembly meeting.

Budget for Visit: Approximately \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Brian "Alejandro" Tyler

Last Visit: February 21, 2017

Next Visit: May 2017

Status of the Relationship: Las Margaritas 2 ardently continues to work on the church construction project which is about 80% complete. The community is pleased to have the prayers and moral support from St. Francis and has asked that the wider Sister Parish community continue to pray for their building project. St. Francis will not travel to Guatemala for a summer 2017 delegation but looks toward the future for a possible delegation next year. The Las Margaritas scholarship students are pleased to be receiving the scholarships from St. Francis and greatly appreciate the effort and time that St. Francis dedicates to the program.

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: February 20, 2017

Next Visit: May 2017

Status of the Relationship: Over the past few months, Chichipate has dedicated a great amount of time and effort to managing their new computer lab project. The project is very popular in town and community members are more than excited to be able to support it. St. Thomas and Chichipate still are considering a 2018 North to South delegation. Both communities are working on potential dates and activities that work best for most participants.

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: May 2017

Status of the Relationship: The two communities continue planning for a South to North delegation, but have decided to postpone the delegation until 2018. Between delegation visits, the communities keep busy with Skype calls, prayer partners, and pen pals. Both communities shared pictures of sawdust carpets and other activities over Easter. Tierra Nueva II also shared pictures from the activities organized to celebrate their parish's patron saint, St. Mark. The women's group in Tierra Nueva II that is supported by St. Joan of Arc participated in the annual march for [International Women's Day on March 8](#).

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: August 2017

Status of the Relationship: Seven delegates from DCC visited San Antonio in April ([see delegation photos](#)). The group enjoyed homestays, a Maya Quiché – English language exchange, a cooking exchange and a visit to nearby Nebaj. The delegation also got to share some of their activities outside of San Antonio with community members that traveled with them. DCC hopes that the next step can be a South to North visit sometime in the next 2-3 years. In the meantime, the two communities will continue to exchange greetings and prayer requests. San Antonio has also asked that DCC connect them to people and organizations that have information about sustainable energy projects, like windmills. They hope to implement a solar power or wind power project to provide electricity at their church someday.

Budget for the Visit: \$40

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: March 12, 2017

Next Visit: June 2017

Status of the Relationship: Guarjila and the WUMC are busy preparing all necessary paperwork for the visa applications for their South to North delegation this September. The delegates from

Guarjila hope to apply for visas within the next month. Wallingford continues to organize fundraising activities for the delegation, including bread sales every Sunday.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: March 11, 2017

Next Visit: June 2017

Status of the Relationship: The two communities are looking at how best to adjust the long-standing scholarship program supported by First Lutheran Church. The committee in Los Ranchos is looking at alternative ways to continue to support the education of their community's youth, now that the municipality provides scholarships. Ideas include providing economic support to rent a house for the students that are studying far from home. The committee in Los Ranchos is working on a proposal with more details to send to the committee in Duluth.

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: March 18, 2017

Next Visit: June 2017

Status of the Relationship: The two communities are preparing for a July 2017 North to South delegation. Decorah has confirmed that a group of 8 people will visit Potrerillos. The committee in Potrerillos will be busy in the coming months preparing the homestays and agenda for the delegation. FUMC recently hosted the Board of Directors of Sister Parish, Inc. for their bi-annual in-person meeting ([see photos](#)). The committee organized a number of activities, including an orientation for the delegates and social gatherings while the Board was in town. Thank you FUMC Decorah for all of your work to host the Board!

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: March 19, 2017

Next Visit: June 2017

Status of the Relationship: San José La Montaña and Trinity Episcopal Church recently held their first joint Bible study over Skype, with a second planned for June. Both communities would like to do this as often as possible. San José la Montaña is also preparing their first project proposal for Trinity. The committee is looking at how to support students from their community in furthering their education and debating the best way to do that, whether through scholarships or a more general educational fund that would support other aspects of the youth's education.

Budget for Visit: \$12

ACOMUJERZA, Zaragoza, La Libertad, El Salvador & People of Hope Lutheran Church, Rochester, Minnesota
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Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: April 8, 2017

Next Visit: June 2017

Status of the Relationship: ACOMUJERZA and People of Hope continue to hold monthly Skype calls to connect. Both communities are looking forward to working on a South to North delegation as the next step within the next few years. People of Hope is looking at possibilities for fundraising, given the significant amount of resources required for a South to North delegation.

Budget for Visit: \$0

CCR and CRIPDES, El Salvador

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Meeting Date: N/A

Next Meeting Date:

Meeting Notes: Budget for Visit: N/A