



**SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT  
May/June 2017**

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Brian "Alejandro" Tyler

**Last Visit:** June 11, 2017

**Next Visit:** August 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Christ Episcopal is preparing to have a group of six potential delegates from San Andrés Itzapa visit their community in the spring 2018. The two committees are going to use this delegation as a way to revitalize their relationship and its goals. One of the primary collaborations between the two communities has been the Chay Balam scholarship program. The students continue to express their thankfulness for the opportunity to participate in the program. The committee of San Andrés is working this year to expand their outreach as a Sister Parish linkage and incorporate new members into the linkage.

**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:** June 12, 2017

**Next Visit:** August 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Tierra Nueva 1 has visited surrounding communities to ask for their participation in Sister Parish. The committee is searching to broaden its presence within the St. Mark parish and increase Sister Parish participation within the parish. Their efforts so far have gained great results and the committee is hoping that a future North to South delegation will contribute to these efforts. The Vacation Bible School (November-December) is in the beginning stages of planning for this year. Faith Lutheran is looking forward to continuing their efforts in fundraising and spreading its experiences about Sister Parish in the many events they have planned for this year.

**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:** June 12, 2017

**Next Visit:** August 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** UPAVIM has selected its five potential delegates to visit the lovely community of Downers Grove, IL. The women of UPAVIM are ecstatic about the possibility that this year could include this in-person chance to reconnect the two communities. First United continues to have information sessions and meetings to inform others of Sister Parish and their linkage community. The coming months will be dedicated to the visa application and delegation planning for both communities.

**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:** August 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Las Margaritas 2 forges along its quest to build the new Catholic Church in its community. Both communities are sad that they will not have a 2017 delegation but have begun planning for a potential 2018 summer delegation. Las Margaritas is hoping that some St. Francis delegates will be present at the inauguration of their new church. Hopefully, time will be kind to the two communities and a 2018 North to South delegation can unite the two communities together in celebration. The Las Margaritas scholarship program continues to thrive and numerous students have graduated.

**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:** August 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Chichipate's computer lab continues to be an asset to the youth in the community. Chichipate and other nearby communities continue to deal with recent clashes between the mining company and the local population over pollution, jobs, and mistreatment. St. Thomas is considering dates for a future delegation to Chichipate, possibly in 2018.

**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:** August 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** The two communities are now planning for a February 2018 South to North delegation and will be focusing on the visa application process for the next few months. The Guatemalan delegates are excited about the possibility of in-person fellowship with St. Joan of Arc and seeing snow for the first time.

**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 two communities have done some follow-up on their April delegation. DCC held a [Sister Parish-themed service](#) shortly after the delegation, with special songs, a sermon by delegate Rev. Eric Sherlock and stories by other delegates. DCC is also looking at ways to improve communication between delegations and to support San Antonio's efforts to research wind power options. After years of dreaming about the possibility, the Catholic Community of San Antonio now has the title to the land to build a new church. They are possibly able to get funding through a Guatemalan university for their new church. Please include the community and this effort in your prayers.

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

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** June 25, 2017

**Next Visit:** August 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Guarjila and WUMC are now able to move forward with the fun aspects of planning for a September South to North. Three out of the five visa applicants received visas to participate. Though we are sad that not all of the applicants received visas, we are also pleased that the delegation can move forward with three very committed members. They will be looking at Guarjila delegates' participation in an all-church retreat, worship services throughout the week, and other activities to deepen the relationship.

**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:** August 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** The committee in Los Ranchos had drafted a proposal to send to Duluth regarding some changes to their scholarship program. Now that the school year is drawing to a close, however, they have decided to wait until the end of the year to submit an updated proposal for the 2018 school year. Because the local and national government in El Salvador is now supporting education in more concrete ways, a number of communities in Chalatenango with Sister Parish-supported scholarship programs are looking at alternatives. Supporting education continues to be the priority, but the students' needs have changed in many cases.

**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:** June 24, 2017

**Next Visit:** August 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Seven delegates from Decorah visited Potrerillos during their delegation from July 7-17, 2017. The delegation included a number of youth who greatly impressed all those involved with their openness to new experiences and commitment to relationship. The delegation included both return delegates who have been involved for many years and new delegates visiting for the first time, which is exciting for this linkage.

**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:** August 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** San José La Montaña and Trinity Episcopal Church are holding regular Skype calls with a joint Bible study during the call. San José la Montaña would like to submit a project to support education in the community, but they are still looking at the best way to do that.

**Budget for Visit:** \$12

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** June 10, 2017

**Next Visit:** August 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** ACOMUJERZA and People of Hope have their monthly Skype calls and share prayer requests and news every once in a while through their Facebook group. ACOMUJERZA was able to share news of their move to a new location and the improvements they worked on before re-opening their crafts store in a beautiful new building.

**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