



**SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT
March/April 2016**

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Brian "Alejandro" Tyler

Last Visit: April 29, 2016

Next Visit: June 2016

Status of the Relationship: San Andrés and Christ Episcopal Church are in the process of confirming dates for a 2017 South to North delegation. The San Andrés committee is considering a fall date, in order to experience a season they have never seen in Guatemala, the Land of Eternal Spring. The Chay Balam scholarship program is undergoing changes to their method of selecting scholarship students. In order to give more students a chance to receive the scholarship, they are now rotating out participants who graduate on to middle school.

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: February 9, 2016

Next Visit: May 2016

Status of the Relationship: Tierra Nueva 1 and Faith Lutheran have decided to postpone their South to North delegation to December 1-8, 2016. The Tierra Nueva I committee is now co-coordinating linkage efforts with the Pastoral Group in the Parish of San Marcos Evangelista. This co-coordination is an effort to improve community outreach and overall impact of linkage activities within the community of Tierra Nueva I. Tierra Nueva I is also preparing for its annual Vacation Bible School.

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: February 18, 2016

Next Visit: May 2016

Status of the Relationship: After receiving Sister Parish members from all over Guatemala for the Representatives Meeting, UPAVIM is looking for ways to maintain the synergy from the retreat. The women of UPAVIM continue to work hard in their craft sales and educational center. The children of UPAVIM are very thankful for a donation they received from Downers Grove in January.

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: February 11-12, 2016

Next Visit: May 2016

Status of the Relationship: The people of Las Margaritas II continue to work on their church renovation project. The committee hopes that St. Francis will be able to see the efforts that community members have dedicated to the project. Both groups continue to have their monthly Skype call and continually search for ways to better communicate and plan events together. In July of this year, St. Francis and Las Margaritas will be holding a North to South delegation that will focus on strengthening the relationship and conversations about the impact of service and service learning.

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 10-11, 2016

Next Visit: May 2016

Status of the Relationship: Chichipate and St. Thomas continue to be very excited about the recent approval of the computer lab project. Funds have been received in Guatemala and Chichipate will receive disbursements soon. Ideally, the project will be underway in the month of June, in time to prepare for the 2017 school year. The project will serve over 300 students. It will also be open to the public and we hope it will be certified by the Ministry of Education.

Budget for the Visit: Approximately \$80

**Tierra Nueva II, Chinautla, Guatemala &
St. Joan of Arc, Minneapolis, MN, USA**

Sister Parish Coordinator: Carrie Stengel

Last Visit: April 24, 2016

Next Visit: June 2016

Status of the Relationship: The two communities have decided on dates for their next two delegations – a January 2017 North to South and an August 2017 South to North. As preparations for these two delegations move forward, members are continuing to coordinate on bi-monthly Skype calls, the crafts project, the women’s project, and the scholarship program. The communities have also started a children’s pen pal exchange. There are 12 children 6-13 years old in Tierra Nueva II who are awaiting a response from their future pen pal at St. Joan of Arc. St. Joan of Arc also held their annual Sister Parish retreat in April at which members reflected on the model of solidarity.

Budget for the Visit: \$13

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Carrie Stengel

Last Visit: Delegation March 12-20, 2016

Next Visit: May or June 2016

Status of the Relationship: The two communities had a [North to South delegation](#) in March that went very well. New people from both DCC and San Antonio were able to participate in meaningful ways. DCC delegates have [talked about their experiences in church](#) and are looking at different ways to involve the wider congregation. Some of the most significant experiences were a cooking exchange (turkey soup from start to finish and a cherry-filled cake), and a surprise outing to share *xecas*, a sweet bread served with honey or molasses during Holy Week.

Budget for the Visit: Approximately \$27

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: January 2016

Next Visit: May 2016

Status of the Relationship: Wallingford United Methodist and Guarjila continue to maintain a very strong relationship. The Sister Parish committee at Wallingford is working hard to raise awareness within their congregation of the importance of this relationship with the community of Guarjila; while in Guarjila the committee and the community leadership are both focused on improving their work on the scholarship program.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: April 2016

Next Visit: May 2016

Status of the Relationship: Duluth and Los Ranchos continue to have a strong relationship. At the moment plans for a South to North delegation continue. The visa application process for delegates from Los Ranchos will take place in May. We hope for the best in this process and we hope that enough applicants are granted a visa so that this delegation can take place.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: March 2016

Next Visit: May 2016

Status of the Relationship: Decorah and Potrerillos are coordinating a possible delegation to El Salvador in July of this year. At the time of this report, the communities are discussing the best dates for the visit in July of this year. Both Decorah and Potrerillos are excited about the possibility of this visit.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: March 2016

Next Visit: May 2016

Status of the Relationship: San José La Montaña delegates are making final preparations for their visa application process for a South to North delegation this October. Hopefully they will finish this part of the process in May. Trinity is doing a lot of organizing in their community to support the process.

Budget for Visit: \$12

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: Delegation April 1-9, 2016

Next Visit: May 2016

Status of the Relationship: ACOMUJERZA and People of Hope had a great and successful [first North to South delegation](#). Six members of the congregation visited El Salvador from the 1st to the 9th of April. After the People of Hope delegates returned to Minnesota, the communities followed up with a Skype call to continue organizing Skype Bible Study and Skype Prayer Partner programs.

CCR and CRIPDES, El Salvador

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Meeting Date: N/A

Next Meeting Date: May 2016

Meeting Notes: Staff did not attend a CCR meeting during this time period.

Budget for Visit: N/A