



**SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT
May/June 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: September 2016

Status of the Relationship: San Andres and Christ Episcopal are currently engaging in talks of planning a future south to north delegation. Christ Episcopal is currently in the process of raising funds to facilitate a future delegation. The Chay Balam school is thankful for the scholarships given by Christ Episcopal. The committee of San Andres is continually trying to improve the participation of youth within the scholarship program.

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: May 16, 2016

Next Visit: September 2016

Status of the Relationship: Tierra Nueva I is in the second round of the visa application process, preparing for a south to north delegation that was rescheduled for December 1-8, 2016. There are five potential delegates. They ask that the wider Sister Parish community pray for their application process. In the coming months, leaders will begin planning for the Vacation Bible School 2016 session. Last year the Vacation Bible School had more than 70 participants and leaders are hoping to be able to reach more kids 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: May 16, 2016

Next Visit: September 2016

Status of the Relationship: UPAVIM recently hosted a volunteer from First United Methodist for a second time. This volunteer spent six weeks helping out in the school and the health clinic at UPAVIM. The volunteer [wrote a blog](#) and met with the UPAVIM Sister Parish committee to search for ways to better organize its participants. UPAVIM and First United look forward to organizing a delegation in the near future. We ask that the Sister Parish community pray for UPAVIM members who have recently lost loved ones due to health problems.

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: July 2016

Next Visit: September 2016

Status of the Relationship: The two communities are looking forward to a July north to south delegation. Among other activities, the delegates will help with the construction of the new church in Las Margaritas II and will spend a number of days with the scholarship students supported by St. Francis. The hope is that this delegation will help strengthen the linkage and bring new people on board.

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: May 16, 2016

Next Visit: September 2016

Status of the Relationship: Over the past few months Chichipate has furthered organized their computer lab project and plans to celebrate its inauguration in the coming month. St. Thomas has supported Chichipate through the process with both moral and more recently financial support. St. Thomas is hoping to organize a north to south delegation for the coming year. The committee in Chichipate continues to run the Santo Guzman store and typing school in addition to the new computer lab project.

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: June 26, 2016

Next Visit: August 2016

Status of the Relationship: The two communities are working toward the two delegations planned for 2017. They continue to hold Skype calls more or less once every two months. Although this does present some technical challenges, the two groups enjoy seeing familiar faces between delegations. The two communities take turns planning a theme and agenda for the call. In Tierra Nueva II, the women's group continues to organize exercise classes and crafts workshops. The craft committee has also started working on the crafts they will send to St. Joan of Arc for the end-of-year donation drive.

Budget for the Visit: \$18.50

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Carrie Stengel

Last Visit: June 12-13, 2016

Next Visit: July or August 2016

Status of the Relationship: San Antonio recently celebrated the feast day of their patron saint, St. Anthony of Padua. The festivities included live music, a *convite* traditional dance by the youth, games, food stands, and a mass with multiple baptisms and first communions. At DCC, the recently returned delegates presented on their experiences during a service shortly after a delegation and they have also gathered with the Sister Parish committee and former delegates to share stories and updates about the community of San Antonio.

Budget for the Visit: Approximately \$27

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: May 2016

Next Visit: July or August 2016

Status of the Relationship: Wallingford United Methodist and Guarjila continue to maintain a very strong relationship. Guarjila has a new water system in the community and they feel very proud of it, in part because it was a community-wide effort. The Guarjila and Wallingford Sister Parish committees are more united now through the use of social media. They are sharing special news as one whole community via the WhatsApp smart phone application. If technology

is expanding as a significant part of our lives, we can also find ways to use it to strengthen human relationships.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: June 2016

Next Visit: July 2016

Status of the Relationship: Duluth and Los Ranchos continue to have a strong relationship. Plans for a fall south to north delegation continue. The delegates from Los Ranchos are now working on requesting visa interviews at the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador. We hope for the best for this part of the process and we hope that enough applicants are granted visas so that this delegation can take place.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: May 2016

Next Visit: July or August 2016

Status of the Relationship: Decorah and Potreriillos were not able to do a north to south delegation this July as they had hoped. Schedules were a bit difficult to coordinate and all agreed that it would be better to postpone the delegation given the timeline we were working with this year. Both communities have now agreed to reschedule for summer 2017. These two communities are also hoping to improve and increase their communication with the use of new technology when possible.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: June 2016

Next Visit: August 2016

Status of the Relationship: San José La Montaña delegates are in final preparations for their visa application process for their first south to north delegation this October. San José La Montaña delegates are waiting to hear when the Embassy will schedule their appointment. We

ask for your prayers for their visa process. At Trinity, the organizing and preparations for the delegation continue. There is a lot of excitement at Trinity about their first south to north delegation.

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 2016

Next Visit: August 2016

Status of the Relationship: ACOMUJERZA and People of Hope have started to work on their mutual plans for growing their sistering relationship. Since their first delegation in April, they have already had two Skype calls. During the call they have shared greetings and they also have had Bible readings and reflections. Now they are organizing a prayer partners program. Community members will choose a partner in their sister community and they will pray for each other.

Budget for Visit: \$0

CCR and CRIPDES, El Salvador

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Meeting Date: N/A

Next Meeting Date: July 2016

Meeting Notes: CCR celebrated its 28 years of work in the area of Chalatenango. It was a very joyful celebration. CCR board members presented the work, achievements and challenges they have faced for the last 28 years. They also presented the current areas of work in each of the communities and the goals for the near future. During the celebration there were dances, theater presentations and music.

Budget for Visit: N/A