



**SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT
July/August 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 18, 2016

Status of the Relationship: San Andres and Christ Episcopal are beginning to talk about a potential 2017 south to north delegation. Both communities are considering the fall season but have not decided upon a fixed date as of yet. Chay Balam scholarship students are now entering the last months of school and are grateful for the support that Christ Episcopal sends. San Andres is starting to plan for future committee involvement by planning with staff ways they can begin to do outreach to new participants. The 2017 year will be the year that the committee of San Andres begins to make broader call of participation to their own children who have grown up experiencing Sister Parish delegations and others.

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 19, 2016

Status of the Relationship: Tierra Nueva has received funding for Vacation Bible School for the 2016 year and is in the planning and budgeting process. Vacation Bible school will begin in the month of November. Faith Lutheran is grateful that they are able to assist the community in its operation of Vacation Bible School, which served more than 70 youth in 2015. Tierra Nueva is in the process of soliciting for a second time visa interviews that will hopefully take place in the month of September. We ask that you keep their visa interview process in your prayers.

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 19, 2016

Status of the Relationship: First United is in first stages of thinking about a future delegation with UPAVIM and will continue to consider the best time that fits both communities. UPAVIM recently received a member of First United as a volunteer in their pharmacy and medicine dispensary section. The UPAVIM community was very emotional when they had to say their goodbyes. If other would like to volunteer at UPAVIM, Sister Parish would be more than glad to assist in setting up the initial request.

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: August 2, 2016

Next Visit: September 20-21, 2016

Status of the Relationship: St. Francis completed a south to north delegation the month of August with five delegates. The delegation was packed with various activities such as; Semuc Champey, Lake Lachua, working on church construction, and a volcano hike. The LM2 community was overwhelmed with joy seeing their sisters and brothers return to Guatemala. The community invited members from St. Francis to participate in their church construction project, carrying cement and preparing columns. The delegation was a opportunity for scholarship students to participate actively in planning and execution of events.

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 21-22, 2016

Status of the Relationship: Chichipate recently completed the renovation of its computer lab space. The project is now in the phase of buying and installing the computer lab equipment. The community is very excited to be in the final stages of execution of a project that has been in the planning stage for more than 4 years. St. Thomas is considering a north to south delegation in the coming year. Hopefully, St. Thomas will be able to be present to witness the excitement of Santo Guzman and the community of Chichipate.

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: August 14, 2016

Next Visit: October 2016

Status of the Relationship: The two communities are planning two delegations for 2017, one north to south and one south to north. Tierra Nueva II is also busy making the crafts that St. Joan of Arc will distribute at their church as a way to help raise money for delegations and projects. This year was the first year that St. Joan of Arc held a contest for designs for greeting cards to sell at their craft sale. Scholarship students and other youth in Tierra Nueva II submitted drawings and paintings and St. Joan of Arc chose 3 winning designs that will be printed on the greeting cards that will be sold at their sale this year.

Budget for the Visit: \$18

**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: September 2016

Status of the Relationship: The summer months have been busy ones for members of both communities. The delegates that traveled to Guatemala in March continue to brainstorm ways to involve more people in their congregation, share the delegation experience with others, and deepen the relationship with San Antonio. With fall approaching, both committees look forward to working on ongoing communication and joint plans for 2017, which will hopefully include a delegation to Guatemala.

Budget for the Visit: Approximately \$27

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit:

Next Visit: September 2016

Status of the Relationship: Guarjila and United Methodist Church of Wallingford hold a very strong, close relationship. The two communities increasingly keep in touch through a Facebook group, which has become a very useful tool for exchanging prayers, thoughts and special dates for their two communities.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: July 5, 2016

Next Visit: First week of September, 2016

Status of the Relationship: Los Ranchos and Duluth are working together for the upcoming South to North delegation. On July 14, the delegates from Los Ranchos had their visa interview. Only two of them received a visa. Although only two people got visas for this specific delegation, one other person from the Los Ranchos who has a visa will travel as part of the group in September-October. The Duluth community is happy to receive these three delegates and they are busily preparing home stays and activities with the wider church community.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: May 2016

Next Visit: Not yet scheduled

Status of the Relationship: Potrerillos and United Methodist Church of Decorah, Iowa have been connected in recent months and in good communication. Both communities have exchanged prayers and messages for members of their respective communities that have been sick and others who have passed away during the last couple of months. In August, Potrerillos celebrated the first corn harvest. This year's crops were very good compared to last year since the raining season was more stable.

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: First week of July

Status of the Relationship: This is a very strong relationship. On June 27, a group of 6 people from San José La Montaña had a visa interview for the delegation to Trinity planned for October. There have been a lot of planning meetings for this process. Only one of the six applicants received a visa for this delegation. But two other members of the community will be available to travel with prior visas. At Trinity, the committee is working on organizing the delegation visit.

The northern community is happy and excited to receive a South to North delegation for the first time in their home town this autumn.

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: August 2016

Next Visit: November 2016

Status of the Relationship: ACOMUJERZA and People of Hope have a very strong and growing relationship. They have had very good and effective communication. Every month both communities get together over Skype to have a Bible study and share news from their respective communities. People of Hope is finalizing the organizing of a prayer partners program as well. This is another way to keep brothers and sister in the southern and northern communities connected

Budget for Visit: \$0