



**SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT  
November/December 2016**

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

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

**Last Visit:** September 18, 2016

**Next Visit:** January 8, 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Christ Episcopal and San Andres will begin the holiday season with various fundraising activities in preparation for a potential 2017 South to North delegation. Christ Episcopal has invited 6 people from San Andres. Community and committee members are thankful for the opportunity to travel and see their brothers and sisters in the north. The delegation will be centered on bringing new participants from Guatemala and the United States together in fellowship.

**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:** October 11, 2016

**Next Visit:** January 13, 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** The December South to North delegation with three TN1 participants was a great success. Both communities used the delegation travel as a moment to reconnect with their love for Sister Parish and their linkage. Before the trip, delegates expressed their hope to see snow for the first time and they had the pleasure to not only see snow but play in it during their trip. Faith Lutheran participants did an incredible job planning delegation activities.

**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:** October 3, 2016

**Next Visit:** January 14, 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** First United Methodist is in the process of considering a future South to North delegation with UPAVIM. In the coming months both groups will consider the possibilities for a future delegation. UPAVIM is in the middle of a busy season for craft sales. All the women are grateful for chance to continue generating income through craft sales. The Saturday breakfasts have been very challenging for the women of UPAVIM due to the increased craft orders. Hopefully, the beginning of 2017 will give the women more time to dedicate to their linkage organizing efforts.

**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 16-17, 2016

**Next Visit:** February 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** St. Francis is in the process of considering a 2017 summer delegation with Las Margaritas. The Las Margaritas Catholic Community continues its church construction efforts. The project moves along as funding permits. Hopefully, on a future 2017 delegation, the church will be able to continue construction alongside their brothers and sisters from the North. The scholarship students send special thanks for the efforts of St. Francis in 2016 and pray for a successful 2017.

**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:** October 5-6, 2016

**Next Visit:** February 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Chichipate and St. Thomas are looking forward to planning a future delegation, most likely in 2018. Chichipate is overwhelmed with joy following their brothers and sisters' donation to the completed computer lab project. The project was 3 years in the making and is now reality. The project will be open to the student population in January 2017. Chichipate and the Catholic Community of Santo Domingo de Guzman wishes the entire Sister Parish community a prosperous New Year and Merry Christmas.

**Budget for the Visit:** Approximately \$80

**St. Joan of Arc, Minneapolis, MN, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Carrie Stengel

**Last Visit:** December 18, 2016

**Next Visit:** January 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** The two communities are hitting the ground running this year, with a delegation to Guatemala in January and a delegation to Minnesota planned for August, if the delegates receive their visas. Even with all of the technical challenges, bi-monthly Skype calls have proved a good way to keep friendships present amidst all of the planning and discussions of ongoing projects. The TN2 Sister Parish committee held a holiday lunch on December 18 to gather and celebrate another year of their *hermanamiento*, while St. Joan of Arc members joined Sister Parish staff in town for a visit for a dinner over the holiday break.

**Budget for the Visit:** \$18

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Carrie Stengel

**Last Visit:** Meeting December 11, 2016

**Next Visit:** February 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Danville has confirmed a North to South delegation will visit San Antonio during the first week of April 2017. We are excited that there will be both return delegates and new delegates on this delegation. The two communities will soon begin planning the details of the delegation's agenda.

**Budget for the Visit:** Approximately \$5

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** September 2016

**Next Visit:** January 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** United Methodist Church of Wallingford and Guarjila, El Salvador continue to hold a very strong relationship. In November, the Guarjila community was very pleased to receive members of the Sister Parish Open Delegation and members of the Guatemalan and U.S. boards. Also one member of the Sister Parish Committee of Guarjila traveled to Guatemala to participate in the Southern Encounter. On December 12, Guarjila commemorated the XI anniversary of the death of Father John Cortina. Members of the United Methodist Church sent greeting to Guarjila though Facebook and posted photos, stories and memories about Father Cortina.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** September 2016

**Next Visit:** January 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** First Lutheran Church of Duluth and Los Ranchos continue holding a very good and strong relationship. In November, the Los Ranchos community celebrated their annual Corn Festival. This a celebration they organize every year to give thanks to God for the crops and for sharing the abundance of food, especially corn, which is the base of the Salvadoran diet.

**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:** July 2016

**Next Visit:** January 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** United Methodist Church of Decorah, Iowa and Potrerillos continue to have a very strong relationship. November and December have been very busy months for the community of Potrerillos with crops and the community project. In December members of the committee announced the conclusion on the Catholic temple construction. The community is very proud and happy about it. Members of the Potrerillos and Decorah communities shared good wishes and greetings for Christmas and New Year over WhatsApp and Facebook. They have already started talking about and planning the 2017 North to South delegation.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** October 2016

**Next Visit:** January 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Trinity Episcopal Church and San Jose la Montaña continue strengthen their relatively new relationship. During the months of November and December both communities exchanged messages over WhatsApp, including pictures, news about the U.S. elections, and different ways each community celebrates Advent and Christmas.

**Budget for Visit:** \$12

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** October 2016

**Next Visit:** January 2107

**Status of the Relationship:** People of Hope and ACOMUJERZA hold a very strong and loving relationship. On November 27, both communities got together over Skype for their last call of the year. This Skype call was very joyful and dynamic. They shared prayers and bible readings but also greetings and good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. On the call, there was also time for each community to share a Christmas carol. In November, ACOMUJERZA received the members of the Sister Parish Open Delegation, in which board members from the US and Guatemala participated. Members of the northern Board officially welcomed ACOMUJERZA as members of the Sister Parish family.

**Budget for Visit:** \$0

**CCR and CRIPDES, El Salvador**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Meeting Date:** October 29

**Next Meeting Date:** January – February 2017

**Meeting Notes: Budget for Visit:** N/A