



**SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT
January/February 2017**

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Brian "Alejandro" Tyler

Last Visit: February 19, 2017

Next Visit: April 2017

Status of the Relationship: San Andres and Christ Episcopal are beginning the new year by preparing for their 2017 south to north delegation. Six potential delegates have been invited and will be soliciting their passports and visas in the coming months. San Andres and Sister Parish continue to deal with the loss of Juan Iscaya and his loving spirit. Sister Parish asks that all pray for the Iscaya family and all those who are mourning his loss. The Chay Balam Scholarship Program this year is attempting to connect more recipients to their sponsors. They hope to accomplish this by having regular picture and letter exchanges between the two communities.

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 2, 2017

Next Visit: April 2017

Status of the Relationship: Tierra Nueva 1 is in the process of reorganizing efforts to reach more community members to participate in their linkage. The parish priests of TN1 have committed to assisting the TN1 committee in all of their efforts. TN1 and Sister Parish suffered the great loss of Rhina Cabrera, who recently passed away after a heart attack. During their December south to north delegation, Faith Lutheran and TN1 reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the linkage.

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: January 14, 2017

Next Visit: April 2017

Status of the Relationship: On March 4, UPAVIM will host Sister Parish's Guatemala Representatives Meeting. The women of UPAVIM are excited to host their fellow Sister Parish members. If you would like more information please see the Sister Parish website. UPAVIM and First United Methodist are currently planning to have a south to north delegation with 5 delegates. The two communities are seeking ways to improve communication by starting a letter exchange program.

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 21, 2017

Next Visit: April 2017

Status of the Relationship: Las Margaritas 2 continues to work on the church construction project. St. Francis has been a partner, providing moral support and some donations to help with fundraising goals. The community of LM2 has raised the majority of the funds needed for the church by planting and selling a portion of their corn harvest that is planted on communal land. St. Francis is working toward a north to south delegation this year. The scholarship program works with students to become more involved in the church activities and improve ecumenical relations between people of different denominations in LM2.

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 20, 2017

Next Visit: April 2017

Status of the Relationship: St. Thomas and Chichipate are considering a 2018 north to south delegation. Chichipate recently inaugurated their Computer Lab Project, which serves as a resource for the student population that is required to take a computer course before they graduate from 6th grade. The lab has contracted a teacher and has an enrollment of around 70 students. Chichipate is also working to find more funding through the municipal government to sustain the project long-term.

Budget for the Visit: Approximately \$80

St. Joan of Arc, Minneapolis, MN, USA

Sister Parish Coordinator: Carrie Stengel

Last Visit: Delegation January 27-February 6, 2017

Next Visit: March 12, 2017

Status of the Relationship: A group from St. Joan of Arc visited Tierra Nueva II during a delegation from January 27-February 6, 2017. While in TNII, the group was able to share in a variety of spiritual and inter-cultural activities that strengthened the relationship. You can see photos from the visit and a reflection message delivered during mass on our blog. The two communities are now preparing for a possible South to North delegation planned for August 11-21, 2017 if the delegates from Tierra Nueva II are granted visas to travel.

Budget for the Visit: \$18

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Carrie Stengel

Last Visit: February 26, 2017

Next Visit: March 19, 2017

Status of the Relationship: The two communities are busy planning for a delegation for March 30-April 8, 2017. Seven delegates from DCC will visit San Antonio. The committee in San Antonio is looking forward to the visit and is starting to plan activities, including a prayer service, a language learning exchange (Maya Quiché and English), and a visit to the nearby town of Nebaj to visit the market there.

Budget for the Visit: Approximately \$5

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: February 18, 2017

Next Visit: March 12, 2017

Status of the Relationship: Guarjila and the United Methodist Church of Wallingford have a very strong relationship. This year both the southern and northern community are very excited to start visa preparations for the South to North delegation visit this September. Wallingford continues to organize fundraising activities to support the delegation visa process and the delegation, while in Guarjila has chosen the delegates who will participate. Also on February 19 Guarjila celebrated the Patron Saint feast day in honor of San Francisco de Asis. The day was very festive; there was a big dance, horse races, a parade, and games for children.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: January 29, 2017

Next Visit: March 18, 2017

Status of the Relationship: Los Ranchos and First Lutheran Church of Duluth MN, continue to hold a very strong relationship. In January both communities shared how they celebrated Christmas and New Years. They exchange greetings and information about the scholarship program through letters. Los Ranchos also shared a little bit about the celebration of the XXV anniversary of the signing of the El Salvador Peace Accords.

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: September 2016

Next Visit: March 18, 2017

Status of the Relationship: United Methodist Church of Decorah, Iowa and Potrerillos have an ongoing and good relationship. The communities have been in touch more and more through WhatsApp. Everyone is very excited about the upcoming delegation visit when delegate from Decorah will visit Potrerillos. Both of the communities have started preparations. Also on February 14 the community of Potrerillos celebrated their Patron Saint Festival, the celebration this year was very special since the community also inaugurated the new church building. Congratulations to Potrerillos!!

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: January 28, 2017

Next Visit: March 19, 2017

Status of the Relationship: San Jose La Montana and Trinity Episcopal Church keep a very strong and ongoing relationship that was strengthened significantly after the last South to North delegation visit in October 2016. Both of the committees are looking for ways to continue strengthening their communication by doing monthly or bi-monthly Skype calls, as well as a more regular joint bible study.

Budget for Visit: \$12

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: February 4, 2017

Next Visit: March 11, 2017

Status of the Relationship: ACOMUJERZA and People of Hope continue to have monthly Skype calls and bible reflections. They also have a prayer partners program that has been very successful. The members in both communities are very happy with the way this relationship is growing, since it has created a strong sense of fellowship, sisterhood and solidarity despite the physical distance between the two communities. ACOMUJERZA recently moved their office and the cooperative is now operating in a new location. There have been some challenges involved with the move, the members are hopeful and happy about the positive aspects of the move.

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