



**SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT**  
**November / December 2017**

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Brian “Alejandro” Tyler

**Last Visit:** November 2017

**Next Visit:** January 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** San Andres Iztapa and Christ Episcopal Church postponed their 2017 delegation to April 19-26, 2018. Potential delegates will apply for their visa interview in late January or early February. The Chay Balam scholarship program participants are enjoying their summer vacations until their school year starts in January 2018. San Andres Iztapa is planning to host a Sister Parish representatives meeting in April of 2018.

**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 6, 2017

**Next Visit:** January 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** Tierra Nueva I successfully completed their 2017 school break project, Play Corner. The project was a great success thanks to the financial contributions and encouraging words from their sisters and brothers at Faith Lutheran Church. The project was in its first year of redevelopment and the committee in Tierra Nueva I hopes to strengthen its outreach in the coming years. Faith Lutheran is recruiting for a 2018 delegation to Tierra Nueva I.

**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 16, 2017, Delegation to Downers Grove November 8-16, 2017

**Next Visit:** January 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** First United Methodist Church had the pleasure of receiving five of their sisters from UPAVIM in the month of November. The delegation was a time for the two groups to re-center their hopes and goals for their linkage. UPAVIM greatly enjoyed the cold weather of Downers Grove and learning about the struggles and joys of the Downers Grove communities. First United Methodist is considering ways that they can maintain connections through various initiatives with the UPAVIM participants.

**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:** June 13, 2017

**Next Visit:** January 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** St. Francis continues to plan for a 2018 delegation to Las Margaritas II. The Catholic Community of Las Margaritas is working hard to complete the construction of their church, hoping that the St. Francis delegation will be able to help in the construction upon arrival. St. Francis's secondary school donated t-shirts decorated with loving messages to the Catholic Community of Las Margaritas II to further encourage them in their efforts.

**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:** June 14, 2017

**Next Visit:** January 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** Chichipate is preparing to open their computer lab to for the 2018 school year for the youth in Chichipate. The community of Santo Domingo Guzman, Chichipate's Catholic Church, is anxious to show their efforts to the sisters and brothers of St. Thomas. St. Thomas is currently preparing potential delegates for a March delegation to Chichipate through orientation sessions that staff will also participate in.

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

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Tierra Nueva II, Guatemala  
& St. Joan of Arc, Minneapolis, MN, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Carrie Stengel

**Last Visit:** November 5 and November 19, 2017

**Next Visit:** January 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** 2018 will be a busy year for these two communities with two delegations, one North to South and one South to North. Of the five people from Tierra Nueva II that applied for visas to visit Minnesota in February, only two received visas. This is very frustrating and sad, but we are also happy that the delegation can happen. The end of the year is also a busy time with evaluations and proposals for the joint projects, the scholarship program, the women's group and the crafts project. The youth at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church also organized their yearly Christmas party for children in Tierra Nueva II and a toy drive for children in San Juan Sacatepequez. Over 200 children participated in both events, keeping the youth on their toes.

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

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Carrie Stengel

**Last Visit:** April delegation, DCC members visited November 6, 2017

**Next Visit:** January 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** The Catholic Community in San Antonio has finished the construction of their new church. For years, this has been the community's main priority, to have a space of their own where they could worship and plan their activities. We celebrate this huge achievement with them. DCC is also looking forward to supporting the project in other ways after receiving a project proposal from San Antonio for some improvements and finishing touches for the church. Due to some complications in the region, staff has been unable to visit recently, but hope to soon in the new year.

**Budget for the Visit:** \$40

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** December 12, 2017

**Next Visit:** January 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** The relationship between Guarjila and Wallingford United Methodist Church was strengthened and renewed after the South to North delegation from September 21 - October 2, 2017. Since then, communication has improved and been more frequent. On December 12, Guarjila celebrated the XII anniversary of the death of Father Jon Cortina. The memorial included a mass and

candle-light procession. Before and during the celebration there were a lot of pictures and greetings exchanged between Wallingford and Guarjila over Facebook.

**Budget for Visit:** \$12

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** November 24, 2017

**Next Visit:** January 218

**Status of the Relationship:** The two communities continue to have a strong commitment to one another, as they work to improve and adjust the scholarship program to the new realities and needs of young people in Los Ranchos. Los Ranchos has submitted their proposal and are awaiting follow-up from the committee in Duluth. Both are hoping 2018 will be a good and blessed year for all.

**Budget for Visit:** \$12

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** August 27, 2017

**Next Visit:** January 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** Potrerillos and First United Methodist Church of Decorah hold a very good relationship. Community members from the two communities maintain communication through WhatsApp. They share news from time to time and often send greetings to each other. On Christmas and New Years they shared special holiday greetings and messages of peace and love.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** November 25, 2017

**Next Visit:** January 2108

**Status of the Relationship:** San Jose La Montaña and Trinity Episcopal Church maintain a very strong relationship. They are currently looking at how to grow their relationship by starting a joint project, an Education and Cultural Program in San Jose La Montaña. San Jose la Montaña has submitted the proposal and the Sister Parish committee at Trinity will be looking at their support for this program. Hopefully San Jose La Montaña will be able to start the program sometime in 2018.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** December 10, 2017 (Skype call)

**Next Visit:** January 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** In December, People of Hope and ACOMUJERZA had their last Skype call of the year. During the call, the committees shared fellowship, singing Christmas songs and exchanging prayers. They also had the chance to express their good wishes and greetings for Christmas and the New Year. The group offered up special prayers for the sick people in their respective communities. They also shared their hopes and dreams for new hopes in 2108. On December 2, ACOMUJERZA had the honor of hosting the annual El Salvador Solidarity Walk in Zaragoza. The event was held on the anniversary of the 1980 brutal murders of four religious workers from the U.S. Community members from Chalatenango Sister Parish communities traveled to be part of the event, to express solidarity, to honor the martyrs of the armed conflict, and to strengthen the bond between Sister Parish communities.

**Budget for Visit:** \$0

**CCR and CRIPDES, El Salvador**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Meeting Date:** N/A

**Next Meeting Date:** January 2018

**Meeting Notes:** Community representatives that are part of the CCR agreed that they were going to travel with other community members from around the country to the border with Honduras. The trip has been organized in order to show solidarity and support for the Honduran people in the context of their current social and political crisis. Participants have also expressed that they do not accept the fraud committed during the recent elections and they denounce the injustices and repression committed by the Honduran government against the Honduran people that are demanding fair elections and a participatory democracy.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15