



SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT
September / October 2017

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Brian “Alejandro” Tyler

Last Visit: August 12, 2017

Next Visit: November 2017

Status of the Relationship: Christ Episcopal continues to fundraise for the postponed south to north delegation. The delegation will most likely be in April 2018. Both committees are looking forward to reconnecting and looking at ways to move forward with their common interests. San Andres plans to begin the process of obtaining passports in November or early December. Christ Episcopal, while preparing to close the 2017 year, hosted various fundraising events for the scholarships for Chay Balam School.

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 1 and Faith Lutheran are preparing to end the 2017 year by having a Skype call during which they can give updates on the work they have completed in 2017. Tierra Nueva 1 is working up to their November church project, Play Corner. Play Corner is a school vacation project supported by Faith Lutheran that provides an opportunity for the youth in the community to use their imagination while addressing themes of values, the importance of community, and team-work. Faith Lutheran is recruiting for their 2018 north to south delegation that is set for the month of August.

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

Next Visit: January 2018

Status of the Relationship: First United Methodist and UPAVIM are revving up for their November delegation. The women of UPAVIM plan to share Guatemalan cuisine, sweets, and most importantly quality time with their brothers and sisters in Downers Grove. Downers Grove’s Guatemalan Connection and Mission, Justice, and Community Committee are working together to host the women from UPAVIM in order to show the UPAVIMs the best time possible. If you are looking for a place to do holiday shopping and support a women’s cooperative such as UPAVIM, please browse their crafts and other products at www.upavim.org. Proceeds support the local community with education, health, nutritious food options, and jobs.

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: November 2017

Status of the Relationship: St. Francis is sending more than 30 shirts made by youth in their congregation to the youth of Las Margaritas in order to show solidarity with Las Margaritas 2. Las Margaritas forges on with their church construction project and search for financial support with moral support from St. Francis and its congregation. Photos can be seen on Facebook @Sister.Parish and @iglesias.hermanas.1.

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: St. Thomas Lutheran is preparing for their 2018 north to south by having various information sessions in October, November, and December. Their brothers and sisters in Chichipate are more than excited to be able to show the delegates how the community has changed since their last visit to Guatemala.

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: September 30 and October 1, 2017

Next Visit: November 5 and November 19, 2017

Status of the Relationship: St. Joan of Arc and Tierra Nueva II are preparing for the next South to North planned for February 2018. The delegates hope to have a visa appointment as soon as possible, but the process has been delayed for a number of reasons. The youth group in Guatemala has submitted their proposal to St. Joan of Arc for the annual Christmas party that they organize for more than 200 children. Three of the scholarship students hope to graduate this year. Please keep them in your prayers.

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

Next Visit: November 2017

Status of the Relationship: San Antonio and Danville are resuming communication after a break over the U.S. summer break, while San Antonio was also very busy with their church construction project. San Antonio is nearly finished with the church construction and they hope to organize an inauguration sometime next spring. Danville recently gathered to prepare Christmas cards and photos to send to San Antonio.

Budget for the Visit: \$40

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: October 13, 2017

Next Visit: December 2017

Status of the Relationship: From September 21-October 2, the United Methodist Church of Wallingford in Seattle received a delegation from Guarjila, Chalatenango, El Salvador. The delegation had the opportunity to experience and visit numerous local organizations and the governor's office in Seattle. Delegates got to know different faces of the city of Seattle. For both the northern and southern community this was a growing experience that helped to strengthen and reaffirm their many year of relationship. Back in El Salvador, from October 13-15 the community of Guarjila celebrated the 37th anniversary of the repopulation (when some of the refugees in Honduras returned to El Salvador to re-build their communities). Among the activities during the celebration there was a mass, a play about the repopulation, and a concert with a dance party.

Budget for Visit: \$12

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: June 25, 2017

Next Visit: November 24, 2017

Status of the Relationship: In October Los Ranchos joined to the celebrations in Guarjila for the repopulation anniversary. Over the last three months the municipality has been developing a number of programs to support elders, youth and women's groups in the community. On October 28, Duluth celebrated their annual church festival during which the church talked about ways to support the movement for fair immigration reform. Also in October, the Duluth Sister Parish Committee met to plan for their next actions to strengthen their sistering relationship with Los Ranchos in the coming year. That would include a possible delegation and their ongoing support for the education program in Los Ranchos.

Budget for Visit: \$12

**Potreriillos, 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: Both Decorah and Potrerillos have been very active in their communication via Whatsapp since their last south to north delegation experience. That new tool has been very efficient for keeping the good spirit and energy of the two communities. Potrerillos is planning their participation on the 5th Solidarity Walk organized by the Sister Parish El Salvador advisory board (*Directiva*) that will be held in Zaragoza, La Libertad on December 2.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: June 25, 2017

Next Visit: November 25, 2017

Status of the Relationship: San Jose La Montaña and Trinity Episcopal Church have been communicating through WhatsApp and their Skype and WhatsApp bible reflections have been a good way of maintaining a positive spirit in the relationship. Both of the communities are discussing the idea of starting a joint education project in San Jose La Montaña and also the idea of organizing a north to south delegation 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: October 8, 2017

Next Visit: December 10, 2017 (Skype call)

Status of the Relationship: The prayer partners program is working very well. Through prayer, both communities strengthen their linkage and grow their friendship and sisterhood. Every month People of Hope and ACOMUJERZA get together via Skype to reflect on a bible reading and pray together. In December they are planning to sing Christmas songs to celebrate and share the joy of the season.

Budget for Visit: \$0

CCR and CRIPDES, El Salvador

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Meeting Date: N/A

Next Meeting: To Be Determined

Meeting Notes: CCR celebrated its annual general assembly of communities. In this assembly meeting the new board of directors was elected. Now the CCR has a new board that will continue the work that is planned for all the communities of the CCR.

Budget for Visit: \$15