



**SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT
January / February 2018**

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Brian “Alejandro” Tyler

Last Visit: February 14, 2018

Next Visit: April 2018

Status of the Relationship: San Andrés Iztapa and Christ Episcopal Church are proud to announce that 5 of the 6 delegates for the South to North delegation have been approved for visas. The delegation will take place April 18-26, 2018. The two communities are planning their agenda, hoping to create lasting spiritual relationships between their members. San Andrés is also preparing the Chay Balam Scholarships for the 2018 school year.

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 7, 2018

Next Visit: April 2018

Status of the Relationship: Tierra Nueva I and Faith Lutheran are planning a 2018 North to South delegation. After celebrating a successful Play Corner project, the two communities are awaiting the moment when they can reunite and share updates in person. The Play Corner facilitators organized a retreat for the participants to celebrate all of their successes. Tierra Nueva I has extended the 2-year term for the Sister Parish Tierra Nueva I committee.

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: February 19, 2018

Next Visit: April 2018

Status of the Relationship: In January First United Methodist Church held a Skype call with UPAVIM to discuss updates and future endeavors. UPAVIM was very excited to be able to introduce themselves to various people from First United Methodist that they may not have previously known. The women of UPAVIM are currently working to present a project proposal to the Guatemala Directiva during the April 2018 representatives meeting in Guatemala.

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: January 17, 2018

Next Visit: April 2018

Status of the Relationship: The Catholic Community of Las Margaritas is about 80% done with their church construction project. Las Margaritas has solicited and received funding from different local religious organizations which has supported a good portion of their efforts. St. Francis continues to hold their monthly phone call with Las Margaritas II to receive updates and share news from both communities. Everyone is hoping there will be a 2018 North to South delegation in July.

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 8, 2018

Next Visit: April 2018

Status of the Relationship: Chichipate has opened their computer lab to the students enrolled in 2018. The project administrators are working to better monitor their project accounting in order to have a more sustainable project. Chichipate will welcome their sisters and brothers from St. Thomas Lutheran Church during the delegation from March 10 to March 18. This will be the first North to South delegation in several years. St. Thomas is more than excited to be able to send 5 representatives to Chichipate and learn more about their lives.

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: Delegation February 9-19, 2018

Next Visit: March 2018

Status of the Relationship: Two members of Tierra Nueva II visited St. Joan of Arc on a South to North delegation from February 9 to February 19, 2018 ([see our recap and photos](#)). Five people from Tierra Nueva II had applied for visas, but only two people received them. We found ways to honor the others throughout the delegation week. Despite having only two members and the challenges of delegation-organizing in Minnesota in winter, the delegation was a huge success ([read an interview with the delegates](#)). The two communities are now planning for a North to South delegation and moving forward with their regular projects for 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: April delegation in 2017

Next Visit: Suspended temporarily because of local conditions

Status of the Relationship: The two communities are excited about moving forward on their first joint project. The Catholic Community in San Antonio has finished the basic structure of their new church and submitted a project proposal to Danville Congregational Church for tiling the floor and installing electricity. People in Danville have heard about San Antonio's dream of building a church for so many years now that there was a lot of excitement about being able to support the effort in a concrete way.

Budget for the Visit: \$40

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: January 27, 2018

Next Visit: April 6, 2018

Status of the Relationship: Both communities are looking for ways to improve their communication this year. So far, members have been communicating over WhatsApp and Facebook. In April, we will start up our regular Skype calls again, hopefully including a Bible reflection and a conversation about developing a prayer partners program, something that has been successful for other linkages.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: January 27, 2018

Next Visit: April 6, 2108

Status of the Relationship: First Lutheran Church of Duluth and San Antonio Los Ranchos hold a very good relationship. Both communities are trying to reenergize their relationship by improving communication this year. We are discussing Duluth's continued support for the scholarship program and potentially other educational needs in Los Ranchos. In the coming months, there will be more conversations about how to improve communication.

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: January 28, 2018

Next Visit: April 7, 2018

Status of the Relationship: First United Methodist Church of Decorah and San Jose Potrerillos continue to hold a very strong relationship. Communications has been a challenge over the last year, but they are hoping to improve. At the beginning of this year both communities exchanged letters, greetings, and reflections on the current political and social situation in the U.S. and El Salvador, especially regarding the impact of President Trump's political decisions on immigration.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: January 26, 2018

Next Visit: April 8, 2018

Status of the Relationship: The two communities are talking about when they can start their regular Skype calls and Bible study again. This has been a good way to stay connected and strengthen the relationship when the calls are able to happen. Also after many conversations and follow-up from the last South to North delegation in 2016, Trinity Church and San José La Montaña have agreed to start a new scholarship program that would benefit university students from San José la Montaña.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: March 3, 2018

Next Visit: April 21, 2018

Status of the Relationship: ACOMUJERZA and People of Hope will have their first Skype call of the year on March 3. For this year both committees have exciting plans in the works, such as continuing with the successful prayer partners program that has helped keep the two communities connected. The committees have also been discussing other ways they can support each other. People of Hope is contacting fair trade stores in Minnesota where ACOMUJERZA might be able to sell their crafts. ACOMUJERZA has shared information and testimonies about the impact of deportations from the U.S. and new US immigration policies. This has helped the community at People of Hope to understand and support the advocacy work of their church in Rochester.

Budget for Visit: \$0

CCR and CRIPDES, El Salvador

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Meeting Date: N/A

Next Meeting Date: N/A

Meeting Notes: No meeting to report for Jan-Feb.

Budget for Visit: \$15