



**SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT**  
**March / April 2018**

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

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

**Last Visit:** April 8, 2018

**Next Visit:** June 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** April 18-26, 2018, five delegates from San Andres Itzapa visited their partner community in Blacksburg, VA. The delegation began with a visit to our nation’s capital. The congregation of Christ Episcopal was more than happy to welcome their sisters and brothers to Blacksburg. The delegation served to reunite delegates with those in Blacksburg and talk to the wider Christ Episcopal Church about the work Sister Parish does. The San Andres delegates also presented letters from their scholarship students and families during the delegation.

**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:** April 26, 2018

**Next Visit:** May 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** Faith Lutheran is still considering a North to South delegation to Tierra Nueva I. Tierra Nueva is busy working year-round with various youth groups throughout the parish and is developing activities to expand the world view of its participants. In the coming months, the Tierra Nueva committee will draft the budget for the 2018 Play Corner vacation school to be reviewed by Faith Lutheran.

**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 16, 2018

**Next Visit:** May 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** UPAVIM is in the beginning stages of considering a project to provide additional support to the on-site medical lab. First United Methodist and UPAVIM have previously brainstormed on ways both communities have support existing or future community projects within the La Esperanza community. First United Methodist and UPAVIM continue to participate in their pen pal program but are always looking for ways to provide additional structure to 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:** January 17, 2018

**Next Visit:** May 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** The Las Margaritas Catholic Community has advanced tremendously on their new church construction project. The church photos can be found on the Las Margaritas and St. Francis [facebook group](#). St. Francis is recruiting for a July 2018 North to South delegation, hoping to attract youth especially.

**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:** March 10-18 delegation

**Next Visit:** July 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** In March, [Chichipate and St. Thomas had a great North to South delegation](#). This delegation was a long-awaited event and gave Chichipate the opportunity to show northern delegates the computer lab project that everyone worked so hard to make a reality. The delegation included a tour of nearby waterfalls, a Mayan ceremony near a communal spring, and plenty of photos. After their delegation, the two communities made a commitment to linking their struggles and successes to be able to communicate more effectively about their linkage to others that are not as well-informed about Sister Parish.

**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:** March 10, 2018

**Next Visit:** May 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** In March, staff visited Tierra Nueva II to celebrate with the three students that graduated in 2017 from the scholarship program supported by St. Joan of Arc and a number of individual donors. The community and current scholarship students joined the celebration of these students' successes. Ten people from St Joan of Arc are confirmed for an August delegation to TN2. Tierra Nueva II is already talking about what activities they want to prioritize during the delegation. There have some unexpected issues with a bank account with project money that has complicated payments, but the committees in Tierra Nueva II and St Joan of Arc are problem-solving to minimize the negative impact until the situation is resolved.

**Budget for the Visit:** \$28

**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:** Communication has been more difficult now that staff visits are temporarily suspended. San Antonio, however, continues to send beautiful photos and updates about the church construction project supported by DCC. The two communities also maintain communication about prayer requests.

**Budget for the Visit:** N/A

**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:** United Methodist Church of Wallingford and Guarjila continue to have a very strong and close relationship, showing solidarity in big and small ways. When the Wallingford community gathered for prayers on the morning of Easter, they prayed for peace and for the strengthening of the their relationship with Guarjila. During Lent and on Easter, Guarjila celebrated the martyrdom and resurrection of St. Oscar Arnulfo Romero. The commemoration included religious and cultural activities.

**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:** San Antonio Los Ranchos and First Lutheran Church of Duluth have a very good relationship. The communication between the two communities has improved in this year. The two communities have renewed their commitment to their joint education project, supporting university students and a day care center in Los Ranchos. Duluth organized a forum on immigration with the objective to raise awareness about migration and highlight the importance of supporting programs to protect the immigrant population in the U.S. In Los Ranchos the new students in the scholarship program have expressed that they are grateful for the solidarity shown by their partner church in Duluth.

**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:** January 28, 2018

**Next Visit:** April 7, 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** First United Methodist Church of Decorah and Potrerillos have a very good relationship, but communication has been challenging in recent months. The upcoming retirement of the leadership at FUMC and the family issues and illnesses that many people are facing in Potrerillos have made communication less frequent. We continue to ask for prayers for Marta de Monge who is dealing with breast cancer. We also ask for prayers for Adilio Rodriguez and his family after his oldest son was killed. We hope all this issues can be overcome soon and we thank everyone for their solidarity in times like these.

**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:** San Jose La Montaña and Trinity Episcopal Church have a very good and strong relationship. The two communities are talking about starting a scholarship program in San Jose La Montaña. As the first joint project, this a big step in the relationship. The conversation about the project started during the last South to

North delegation and we hope the project will become a reality soon. The communication between the two communities has been great, mostly using the smartphone application WhatsApp and Facebook. San Jose La Montaña has had the opportunity to share news from their patron saint festival and Trinity has shared some of their actions to support the immigrant community in the U.S.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACOMUJERZA, Zaragoza, La Libertad, El Salvador &amp; People of Hope Lutheran Church, Rochester, Minnesota</b></p>
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**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** March 3, 2018

**Next Visit:** April 21, 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** People of Hope and ACOMUJERZA have a very strong and good relationship. They have strengthened their prayer partner program, which helps bring the two communities closer together. They have also continued with monthly Skype calls. They have also had conversations about how they can do more work together or start a joint project. ACOMUJERZA shared an idea for organizing an exchange with UPAVIM, a Guatemalan cooperative that is a member of Sister Parish in Guatemala. The idea of this exchange is for ACOMUJERZA to learn from UPAVIM's experiences, particularly in growing their market and exporting crafts. People of Hope is excited about the idea and is open to receiving a more formal proposal for how they can support this exchange.

**Budget for Visit:** \$10.00

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CCR and CRIPDES, El Salvador</b></p>
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**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