



**SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT
May / June 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: September 2018

Status of the Relationship: During [their South to North delegation](#), San Andres and Christ Episcopal decided to chronicle their relationship by collecting photos from past delegations. This will be a great challenge for both communities. Please share any photos you have with Sister Parish staff.
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: September 2018

Status of the Relationship: Faith Lutheran and Tierra Nueva I have postponed their 2018 North to South delegation. The two communities will brainstorm possible dates in the coming months for 2019. On June 3rd the Fuego (Fire) Volcano erupted in Guatemala killing a reported 159 people. The reports are not conclusive for either the number of those killed or the number of families affected because the government had no recent census data for the population living around the edge of the volcano and also called off search and rescue efforts shortly after the eruption. [Affected families believe that the death toll is much higher.](#) Tierra Nueva I and Faith Lutheran have been among a wide network of churches that have responded by [supporting local relief efforts.](#)
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: July 2018

Status of the Relationship: UPAVIM is putting together a project proposal for their clinical lab to be presented during the Sister Parish Representatives Meeting this year for approval. UPAVIM is excited to receive a visit from ACOMUJERZA, a Sister Parish El Salvador southern linkage partner, in August. The encounter will be a time for UPAVIM and ACOMUJERZA to share common practices and knowledge of handmade crafts. At the end of May, UPAVIM helped host the [youth delegation from Fryeburg Academy](#) organized through Sister Parish. The students had a wonderful time visiting UPAVIM and spending time with founders and young people there.

Budget for Visit: Approximately \$15

**Las Margaritas II, Ixcan, El Quiche, Guatemala &
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Raleigh, NC, USA**

Sister Parish Coordinator: Brian “Alejandro” Tyler

Last Visit: January 17, 2018

Next Visit: July 2018

Status of the Relationship: Las Margaritas II and St. Francis are preparing for their July North to South delegation. The community of Las Margaritas II is eagerly waiting for their brothers and sisters to arrive to the community. The delegates from St. Francis plan to have a movie night, make crafts, roast s’mores, and have their regular tea time with the women from Las Margaritas. Plenty of pictures are sure to follow on the Sister Parish website.

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: May 2018

Next Visit: September 2018

Status of the Relationship: St. Thomas has taken an active role in educating its community of some of the social issues that are present in the community of Chichipate. This year, St Thomas and Chichipate are starting a series of interviews with Chichipate community members to discuss various topics. These interviews will be used as a way highlight perspectives of community members.

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: May 19 and June 23, 2018

Next Visit: July 2018

Status of the Relationship: The two communities are planning for the upcoming August North to South delegation. The committees always want to pack a lot into the agenda, carving out time to meet with the main participants, including the Bible study group, the youth group, the scholarship students, the women's group, and institutions working in the area. At the end of May, the youth group and scholarship students helped host a [youth delegation from Fryeburg Academy](#) organized through Sister Parish. The youth had a fun day sharing a little about their lives and teach each other ice breakers.

Budget for the Visit: \$28 each visit

**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 continue to share prayer requests and updates. DCC has hosted multiple activities to raise awareness. In one activity, parishioners wrote messages of congratulations to San Antonio for the completion of the new church construction. Each message was written on "a brick" that then was pasted on the wall in between a photo of DCC and a photo of San Antonio – the many bricks made up a bridge between the two communities. The group used the picture book "[Brick by Brick](#)" to provide a framework for the activity, especially with the young children in the congregation.

Budget for the Visit: \$40

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: April 6, 2018

Next Visit: July 2018

Status of the Relationship: Guarjila and United Methodist Church of Wallingford continue to have a very strong and close relationship. In June Guarjila celebrated a memorial for Sister Ana, a missionary who helped found the health clinic in Guarjila. Members of WUMC joined the memorial by posting prayers, pictures and memories of Sister Ana.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: April 7, 2018

Next Visit: July 2018

Status of the Relationship: San Antonio Los Ranchos and First Lutheran church of Duluth are refreshing their sister relationship by continuing strengthening the scholarship and education programs, recently Duluth approved the uses of funds for supporting the Day care center and the Children with disabilities center. All the community of Los Ranchos is very thankful with First Lutheran Church for this support

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: April 7, 2018

Next Visit: July 2018

Status of the Relationship: Communication has been a challenge in the past month for both of the communities. Potrerillos committee members would like to improve their communication with FUMC in Decorah, however they are also aware that is going through a leadership transition right now. The Potrerillos committee members wish their brothers and sisters all the best through the transition process. They also hope to get to know the new pastor soon.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: April 8, 2018

Next Visit: July 2018

Status of the Relationship: San Jose La Montaña and Trinity Episcopal Church have had frequent communication, though mostly focused on the first joint project. The new scholarship program is starting this year. Trinity will be supporting five university students with scholarships. Some members at Trinity have been busy recently and the two communities have not had a Bible study Skype call, but both communities hope to start these again once people in the U.S. are back from summer vacations and activities.

Budget for Visit: \$15

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

Sister Parish Coordinator: Julieta Borja

Last Visit: April 21, 2018

Next Visit: July 2018

Status of the Relationship: People of Hope and ACOMUJERZA continue having their monthly Bible reflection via Skype and they continue developing the partner prayers program. The two communities have been talking about ways that People of Hope can support ACOMUJERZA's work. People of Hope has agreed to look into sharing ACOMUJERZA's work with groups and fair trade shops in Rochester and nearby cities. People of Hope has also committed to sending financial support for a learning exchange between ACOMUJERZA and UPAVIM, a cooperative that is also a member of Sister Parish in Guatemala. The exchange is planned for August of this year.

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