

Companion Diocese Committee

Diocese of Pennsylvania

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Annual Report, 2010

The Companion Diocese Committee in 2009-2010 made the decision to support the ongoing work of the Epiphany Medical Mission, now renamed the Epiphany Wellness and Water Filtration Mission because of its incorporation of the Water Filtration Project. The medical missions of 2008 and 2009 found that basic health education was needed in many of the smaller villages and that the lack of a supply of pure water contributed to suffering and high mortality, particularly among infants, young children and the elderly. A ceramic filtration device in various sizes has been developed in Guatemala and accomplishes the water purification objective. It is our hope to provide water filtration units and basic health education for wellness to rural communities through fund raising projects.

The Committee and its member parishes continue a number of Sister Church programs that are in place, programs involving fifteen or more of our own congregations and twenty-six or more Guatemalan congregations. We support and enable programs for food, health, and education. We have aided in producing a Guatemalan hymnal. We have supplied Spanish Prayer Books. We have aided in building churches and houses. We have given support to San Lucas Mission in San Lucas Toliman, a Roman Catholic community that has worked to help peasant farmers become self-sufficient through selling coffee at a fair price (www.juananacoffee.com), and to an urban project that aids women who create and sell native crafts (www.upavim.com). And we have come to know through personal experience the warmth and love and faith of a delightful people. We have visited there. They have visited here. Many of our youth have had an extraordinary opportunity to meet and know Guatemalans, and there is hope that a youth trip will take place once again in the summer of 2011. Much can be said for a companionship program that is so proximate.

The involvement of Diocesan congregations in companion relationships has been initiated or renewed in the course of this year. The experience of young and old with another part of our world is invigorating and inspiring for people here, and enabling and life-changing for people struggling with the consequences of poverty there. Food, clean water, education, health care are often luxuries for the poor. We can and do help.

The Committee usually meets on the fourth Monday of the month, except for the summer months, either at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Chestnut Hill, or at St. David's, Radnor. Elizabeth and David Rivers are the Co-Chairs of the Committee and may be contacted as noted above.

Elizabeth & David Rivers, Co-chairs.

Members:

Ms. Sandra Alford
Ms. May Bell
Ms. Leslie Bullitt
Ms. Roxane Coleman
Mr. Terry Clattenburg
Ms. Julie Daye
Ms. Barbara Grabias
Rev. Nancy Hauser
Rev. Beth Hixon
Ms. Carol Kangas
Mr. Andrew Kellner
Ms. Christine Kindler
Rev. Keith Marsh
Ms. Cheri McCaslin
Ms. Joan Mechlin
Ms. Heather Myers
Ms. Lori O'Connor
Ms. Judy O'Neill
The Rev. Charles Penniman
Mr. Andrew Powell
Rev. Judith Rhodes
Rev. & Mrs. David Rivers
Mr. Steve Rubenstein
Mr. Paul Schraeder
Rev. Joy Segal
Rev. John Sorensen
Ms. Raven Sullivan
Ms. Martha Thomae
Ms. Barbara Tobin
Rev. Frank Toia
Ms. Linda Toia
Ms. Diane Louise
Ms. Boni Wheaton