

The Companion Diocese Committee, 2008 Report to the 225th Diocesan Convention

Personal relationships that have developed over the years are the essence of this work, and the proximity of the two countries enables and encourages them. In the course of this last year there have been a number of visits in both directions by clergy and lay people of Guatemala and of our diocese. As of this year —

- * Relationships exist between a number of congregations, most commonly involving support for food, education, and health programs. We have available information as to what has been done in the past and on ways to establish contacts in the future. There are Guatemalan congregations seeking to establish companion relationships.
- * Susannah Hunter and a group of diocesan youth and adults participated in a program with Bishop Guerra and Guatemalan youth in July, 2008.
- * St. David's, Radnor, has sent workers to a Guatemalan project of Habitat for Humanity and expects to do so again in 2009.
- * A medical mission composed of doctors and nurses and others worked with upwards of 600 people in several villages in Guatemala last winter; help is needed; funding support is appreciated for the purchase of medications as the program takes place again in January, 2009.
- * Presently "Potters for Peace" is investigating support for a program that would build and sell clay pottery which can remove most impurities from local water, impurities which are responsible for many major health problems.
- * Support is also given to the sale of coffee grown and processed and sold at fair prices (*world coffee prices are terribly low*), a project of a Roman Catholic mission in San Lucas Toliman, Solala, Guatemala (www.juananacoffee.com).
- * Purchases of the products of Guatemalan hand-woven textiles and other crafts through UPVIM underwrite a community working to empower women in Guatemala City (www.upavim.org).

Resources available: speakers; photos and VCR and DVD pieces; material for Sunday Schools or for Vacation Bible School (*available through the Diocesan Educational Resource Library*); Spanish speakers and translators.

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Members of the Companion Diocese Committee - October, 2008

Ms. Sandra Alford	The Rev. Nancy Hauser	Ms. Joan Mechlin	Ms. Barbara Sullivan
Ms. May Bell Ball	The Rev. Beth Hixon	Ms. Laurie Novo-Chawaga	Ms. Martha Thomae
Ms. Leslie Bullitt	Ms. Susannah Hunter	Ms. Judy O'Neill	Ms. Barbara Tobin
Ms. Roxane Coleman	Ms. Carol Kangas	The Rev. Charles Penniman	The Rev. Frank Toia
Mr. Terry Clattenburg	Ray & Lucette Kiefer	Mr. Andrew Powell	Ms. Linda Toia
Ms. Julie Daye	Ms. Christine Kindler	The Rev. & Mrs. David Rivers	Ms. Boni Wheaton
The Rev. Monique Ellison	Mr. Alan Lindsay	Mr. Steve Rubenstein	
Mr. David Emes	The Rev. Keith Marsh	Mr. Paul Schraeder	
Ms. Barbara Grabias	Ms. Cheri McCaslin	The Rev. John Sorensen	