

**Companion Diocese Committee
2009 Report**

**148 Heacock LA
Wyncote, PA 19095-1517**
Tel. 215 376-0173; E-mail rivdav@aol.com

The primary development in the program of the Companion Diocese Committee in 2008-2009 has been the decision to sponsor at the Diocesan level the ongoing work of the Epiphany Medical Mission, 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 and young children. A ceramic filtration device in various sizes has been developed in Guatemala and accomplishes the water purification objective. It is our hope and plan to provide basic health education for wellness together with water filtration units for these communities through fund raising projects.

Our other immediate objective is to introduce a motion to this Diocesan Convention that will authorize the continuation of the Companion Diocese relationship with the Diocese of Guatemala through the years 2011-2013. In the coming year we shall complete our fifteenth year of companionship with Guatemala, and we are aware that by 2013 we shall need to reexamine the program, and the reexamination should take place with the participation of the new Episcopal leadership that is on the horizon.

Meanwhile we continue with a number of programs in place, programs involving roughly fifteen of our own congregations and twenty-six 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 2010. Much can be said for a companionship that is so proximate.

The Committee usually meets on the fourth Monday of the month, except for the summer months, either at St. Martin's-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.

Ms. Sandra Alford, St. Paul's, Doylestown
Ms. May Bell Ball, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Chestnut Hill
Mr. Jerome Buescher, Gloria Dei (Old Swedes')
Ms. Leslie Bullitt, Christ Church, Media
Mr. Terry Champion, St. Peter's, Philadelphia
Ms. Roxane Coleman, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Chestnut Hill
Mr. Terry Clattenburg, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Chestnut Hill
Ms. Julie Daye, Gloria Dei (Old Swedes')
Ms. Barbara Grabias, St. Peter's, Philadelphia
The Rev. Nancy Hauser, Advent, Kennett Square
The Rev. Beth Hixon, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Chestnut Hill
Ms. Susannah Hunter
Ms. Carol Kangas, St. David's, Radnor
Mr. Andrew Kellner, Diocesan Youth
Ms. Christine Kindler, St. Paul's, Chestnut Hill
The Rev. Keith Marsh, Church of the Messiah, Gwynedd
Ms. Cheri McCaslin, St. David's, Radnor

Ms. Joan Mechlin, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Chestnut Hill
Ms. Heather Myers, Gloria Dei (Old Swedes')
Ms. Judy O'Neill, Church of our Saviour, Jenkintown
The Rev. Charles Penniman
Mr. Andrew Powell, Trinity Church, Solebury
The Rev. Judith Rhodes, St. Mary's, Ardmore
The Rev. & Mrs. David Rivers, Holy Trinity, Lansdale
Mr. Steve Rubenstein, St. Paul's, Doylestown
Mr. Paul Schraeder, St. Peter's, Philadelphia
The Rev. Joy Segal, Gloria Dei (Old Swedes')
The Rev. John Sorensen, St. John's, Concord
Ms. Raven Sullivan, St. James, Downingtown
Ms. Martha Thomae, St. Andrew's, West Vincent
Ms. Barbara Tobin, St. Paul's, Doylestown
The Rev. Frank Toia, St. Peter's, Glenside
Ms. Linda Toia, St. Peter's, Glenside
Ms. Diane Louise Wormley, Standing Committee
Ms. Boni Wheaton, Holy Trinity, Lansdale