

# La Tijera's February Newsletter

## La Tijera United Methodist Church & Center for Children

### From Lyda . . .

As a church, we've been doing a lot of thinking about what it really means to be a follower of Jesus. We've been asking ourselves a lot of questions—"What are we willing to do to follow Jesus? What are we willing to give up to follow Jesus? What demons do we need to cast aside to follow Jesus?"

During our process of becoming a Reconciling Community, our church worked with Rachel Harvey, the Associate Executive Director at Reconciling Ministries Network. Her posting on Facebook this week shared that she found out that because of her work with the Reconciling Ministries Network, there is a group of United Methodists who want to add a new

rule to the United Methodist Book of Discipline (our governing laws and regulations). This proposed rule states: "...No person shall be appointed as deaconess or home missionary to any work that is incompatible with the doctrinal standards or Social Principles of the United Methodist Church." Rationale for this new rule: "Making this explicit law is needed to correct the recent history of violations of this standing including one deaconess currently appointed as Assoc. Executive Director of the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN), whose main goal is overturning the United Methodist Church's biblical stand on sexual morality. Such embarrassing institutional hypocrisy shrinks the

United Methodist Church."

Wow. Deaconess Rachel Harvey's work in trying to bring equality for all within the church, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity, has brought her to the attention of our General Conference. The RMN's work has upset enough people that they actually want to amend the Book of Discipline and restrict where a church leader can work. I find it ironic that this group of people blame those of us who believe that God loves EVERYONE regardless of sexual orientation as the cause for the decline in membership of the United Methodist Church. REALLY?!!!

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Did you know ... La Tijera is working together with the Westside Family Clinic and is hoping to be one of the host sites for their mobile health trucks that would offer reproductive health services, flu shots and HIV testing and counseling? We will find out soon if our church has been chosen!

### Dates to Remember . . .

02/01—Black History Month begins

02/05— The Gathering - An Evening of Sacred Song & Prayer, 6:30 p.m.

02/06— Prayer Exploration Group 7 p.m.

02/07— Health Rhythms Drum Circle, 7:00 p.m.

02/13— Prayer Exploration Group ends

02/14— Cinderella Tea starting at 10:00 a.m.

02/16— Chocolate & Chocolat CMG & Church

Potluck

02/20— President's Day— Center is closed

02/21— Ad Council 6:30 p.m.

02/22— Ash Wednesday

02/23— Center Open House, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

02/26— Communion & 1st Sunday in Lent

02/27— Lenten Study "Final Words" begins 7pm

02/29— Black History Month parade 10:30 a.m.

03/02—Center Closed

## Welcome to the Breakfast Club!

Each Sunday from 7:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., it's the Breakfast Club! Different Breakfast Club Chefs prepare a wonderful breakfast before worship (which starts at 9:30 a.m.). All are welcome—it's good food and good company before gathering together in the sanctuary. This month's featured recipe is **Chef Laverne's Baked French Toast.**

1 loaf cinnamon bread, cubed \*\*  
4 eggs [8]  
4 cups milk [6]  
1/2 cup sugar [3/4]  
1/4 butter [1/3]  
1 tsp cinnamon [1-1/2]

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Lightly toast bread cubes in oven 10-15 minutes (still soft in the middle) Place bread cubes in 2 quart (9x13) pan. Combine all the other ingredients and mix well. Pour over bread cubes and refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes until knife comes out clean. Let stand 10-15 minutes before serving.

This recipe serves 8 people, with the measure-

ments for 12 people in brackets.

\*\* My loaf was a standard size for 12 servings. Specialty loaves are sometimes smaller and would be the right size for 8 servings.

Next month, we will feature another fabulous breakfast recipe from one of our Breakfast Club Chefs! Until then—

**Bon Appetite!**



Chef Laverne of the Breakfast Club

## Focus on the Future— with Mission

This year, La Tijera has a vision and a focus on mission. There are many wonderful things in store for us this year, and we are excited to put our efforts into supporting the following mission areas:

**Suicide Prevention & Mental Health**—we are partnering with Didi Hirsch Mental Health Facility to promote mental wellness and suicide prevention. Our goal is to raise \$1,000.00 for Didi Hirsch Mental Health Facilities' Suicide Prevention program by this summer. In 2011, we raised \$600.00 towards that goal! We are off to a great start and look forward to being a sponsor at their annual Suicide Prevention Marathon.

**Epworth Apartments**— The Epworth Apartment Project is a 19 unit apartment complex for transitioned aged youth (kids in foster care who have reached the maximum age within the system) who

are homeless and referred by the Department of Mental Health. There are many opportunities for us to support this wonderful project in our very own Los Angeles District.

**“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” - Anne Frank**

We are proposing that La Tijera provide funds for three \$25.00 gift cards to Food 4 Less or Superior Market per month. These cards would be used to purchase food for the youth living at the Epworth Apartments. There are other ways to support the Epworth Apartment Project and I encourage everyone to visit their website at [www.ummlad.org](http://www.ummlad.org) to learn more.

**Reconciling Ministries Network**—in 2011, La Tijera voted to become a Reconciling Congrega-

tion. As a Reconciling Congregation, we can help support this valuable ministry by mindfully giving to the Reconciling Ministries Network and to sharing our story about becoming a Reconciling Congregation whenever possible.

There are so many exciting things happening this year—come join us in making a change in our lives, our communities, and our world.



Check out the Reconciling Ministries Network on the web—  
[www.rmnetwork.org](http://www.rmnetwork.org)

## E-Giving!

Now available—Electronic giving!

La Tijera is pleased to announce a convenient new way to make your regular offerings. With our new electronic giving program, you can easily set up a recurring giving schedule or make one-time contributions.

We encourage you to set up a schedule of recurring contributions. It's convenient for you and provides much needed consistency for our church. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year. Even when travel, illness

or other circumstances prevent you from attending worship, our church

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**“Take away love, and our earth is a tomb.”**

**Robert Browning**

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will continue to receive your contributions on an uninterrupted basis. You

can E-Give with a credit card (and get those rewards points!) debit card, automatic withdrawals from a checking or savings account, and even with your phone with our smart phone application!

E-Giving—it's E-asy!

Simply visit our webpage and start making a difference through your church just a little bit easier—with a click of a mouse or the touch of your mobile phone.

E-Giving will be available starting February 6th!

## A Lenten Journey

Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, marks the beginning of of Lent. A common Lenten practice is to “give up” something during this holy time before Easter . . .sometimes people give up a favorite food (chocolate!) or decide to give up watching television. There are many things we can choose to “give up” for Lent . . .but perhaps our focus should not only be on “giving something up,” but on mindfully and thoughtfully “giving back.” Finding ways of giving back to God (dedicated prayer time, becoming involved in a worthwhile community project, etc.) Add God and Christ back into our lives, our choices, and our actions.

Ash Wednesday gets its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a sign of mourning and repentance to God. The ashes we will use for the imposition of ashes will be gathered from the palms used from last year's Palm

Sunday celebration.

This year, we will offer a Reflection and Imposition of Ashes in the Chapel from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.; from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. You will be invited to enter into a time of prayer and reflection—to take as much time or as little time as you would like in prayer with a printed guided meditation. Then, as you feel ready, you may come forward for the imposition of ashes.

As part of La Tijera's Lenten journey, we are hosting a Monday evening exploration based on the DVD and book, “Final Words” by Adam Hamilton We will explore Jesus' final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. Each session begins with the biblical account followed by a first-person story as might have been told from

the viewpoint of one of the characters at the cross. Then we will explore the meaning of Jesus' last words for our lives today.

All are welcome on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel Lounge.

“Final Words” will begin on Monday, February 27th and continue through Monday, April 2nd.

Please join us on our Lenten Journey.



## Mayola's Corner

We have gone through some changes the past month. Mrs. Mary has moved to the preschool as our Transitional Preschool Teacher and Mrs. Lynnette is now our Arts, Crafts and Language Specialist. Watch for some fabulous designs.

Parents are asked to **re-register** their children for 2012-2013 year beginning March 1st. Siblings of our currently enrolled students can also register and receive priority enrollment privileges.

**Open House** will take place on Friday, February 1st from 8:30 a.m.–9:45 a.m. Parents will be invited to the classrooms to see what's happening in the school lives of their children. Informa-

tion regarding our curriculum and schedules will be available at the Open House.

All parents are invited to our coffee & doughnut parent meetings. Meetings will take place in the office from 5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m. The meetings are an opportunity to join the teachers and other parents to focus on informative topics. The first topic in our series is "Lunches & Good Nutrition." In addition to coffee and doughnuts, juice will also be provided for the chil-

dren.

Moms, grandmothers and friends are invited to our **Cinderella Valentine Tea** on Tuesday, February 14th. The performances will begin at 10:00 a.m. with Mrs. Lynnette telling the story of Cinderella. Please look for an invitation with performance times. Watch for sign-ups for pastries.

We are looking forward to a great 2012-2013 school year. Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm!



Happy Valentine's Day!

## News from Stage I

Wow! Lots 'o babies in Stage I! We'd like to welcome newcomers Zack, Giada, Alexis, Grayson, and Teddy to the Center—and more are coming!

This month we celebrate Black History Month, Valentine's Day, Ground Hog Day, Ash Wednesday, and President's Day!

In January, we had fun painting snowflakes and stars and we have more fun activities planned for this

**I don't understand why Cupid was chosen to represent Valentine's Day. When I think about romance, the last thing on my mind is a short, chubby toddler coming at me with a weapon.**

month. The babies love doing their finger paintings!

Warm happy birthday wishes to Teacher Kris! Have a wonderful month everyone!

With love—

Kris, Janet, Shay & Melanie

## Stage II

Welcome Year of the Dragon!

Happy Black History Month, Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day!

We would like to welcome our new friends to our classroom: Lucas, Larkin and Gia, and also our wonderful arts & crafts teacher, Mrs. Lynnette.

Special thanks to Joaquin's mom (Dionne) for donating sippy cups to our classroom.

A quick reminder—parents, please label all your child's items and update clothing items in cubbies.

We will continue taking the children outside for playtime (as the weather permits!) Please bring sweaters, jackets, shoes & beanies or hats.

We are looking forward to

a wonderful month!

Thank you—

Stage II Teachers



Room 3 Lines Up!

## Stage III

This month promises to be lovely. Our little angels will be very busy loving and caring for their peers. We are looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day!

Curriculum for this month: Vocabulary: furniture, President's Day, Valentine's Day, love, self, and others. Letters: M, N, O. Number: 5 Color: Red. Shape: Heart.

Our angels will be practicing completing simple puzzles, blowing their noses, unzipping zippers, putting on and taking off lids, lacing, and walking on tip toe and walking up and down steps.

Thank you to our wonderful parents for their continued support! Happy Valentine's Day— Ms. Claudia

## Room 5

Our children are growing big and every one of them is potty trained! They are all doing very well in their classroom. I request that all my parents please try to spend time in helping the children improve their writing skills during these early stages, as well as read with them, and practice spelling words and their names. Your child will get homework every Friday. Please return it the following Thursday. I wish all my parents a Happy Valentine's Day and also happy birthday wishes to Sanjna, Na-

## Room 3

Greetings to all! This month, our class will celebrate Valentine's Day with a lunch party. They will decorate Valentine cookies and then eat them for dessert. Children will still bring their own lunches—we will only need the ingredients for the cookies and decorations. I will post a sign up sheet listing the needed items.

Our curriculum for this month:

Letters: Kk, Ll, Mm, Nn; Numbers:

## Transition I

Welcome back, great to see you return, and some begin. Hope you are as excited as we are to begin the new year. First, we would like to say "welcome" to our new friends and their families, Anika Namjoshi, Malachi Small, Elysian Sanders, and Kylie Honeybone. We hope you and your families have a great experience. I strive to make each day a positive, productive and memorable experience for you and your child.

In this stage, the main focus are social skills, language skills, introduction and reinforcement of "going to the potty," and safely interacting in our classroom environment. We will also work with the broader spectrum of developmental goals and activities. Our chart is posted

than and Nicholas. Thank you—Ms. Mary

**"Love is a symbol of eternity. It wipes out all sense of time, destroying all memory of a beginning and all fear of an end."**  
**Author Unknown**

6,7,8,9; Colors: Red, Pink & Purple; and a review of shapes. We will discuss friendship, sharing, our space, and caring for others.

Ms. Lupe

in the classroom. The areas displayed are fine and large motor skills, language, social, emotional, and sensory skills, all based on different levels of readiness. Please feel free to address any of the developmental areas you are interested in. We appreciate our parents' input, support and involvement. Parents are an integral part of the learning process, and we enjoy working together with you and your child.

Our Room Parent is teacher Shay, who has been wonderful in supporting our classroom.

Thank you for being a part of our classroom's learning adventures! Kudos— Ms. Chestina

## Remembering Alex

The staff and families of the Church and Center remember Alex Delgado Gonzalez, as this month marks the one year anniversary of her passing. Alex worked in all three of our infant rooms and was a teacher at the Center for eight years.

We miss you Teacher Alex, and you will always be a part of the Center and hold a place in all of our hearts.

## Extended Care

Welcome to a new and exciting month. Kudos to Mrs. Lynnette for our wonderful art projects. In celebration of Black History Month, we will be reading and learning about the contributions made by some very important people. We will also be watching to see if the groundhog will see his shadow (maybe we will have an early spring!) Come join us for our Valentine Party & Dance on the 14th. Mrs. Sharon, Mrs. Suzy, Ms. Bernice

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## La Tijera United Methodist Church

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We are a Reconciling Congregation!

Re-think Church . . .

Re-think Possibilities

“Like” us on Facebook!



We're on the  
web—  
[latijeraumc.org](http://latijeraumc.org)

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## From Lyda . . . (continued from page 1)

Perhaps the United Methodist Church needs to look a little closer to home to figure out why membership is declining. Perhaps their willingness to exclude or put limits on how people can serve God within our denomination might have something to do with it. Kind of reminds me of the scribes and Pharisees complaining about Jesus' message of love and inclusion—what do you think?

We may be a little church, but we have big work ahead of us. Some of the work that needs to be done might get us into a bit of hot water. When we voted to become a Reconciling Congregation, we voted to beard the lion in its den, and speak out against this kind of thing that's happening in the United Methodist

Church. We must speak out against and resist fundamentalism. (As a side note—Jesus never spoke about homosexuality. For further information, I recommend the book, “What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality” by Daniel A. Helminiak, Ph.D., or the DVD “For the Bible Tells Me So” which we have in our church library.)

In our small group prayer experience, we learned the best way to survive if you are struck by lightning. (Put your feet very close together, crouch low to the ground, and of course, pray!) Our call to follow Jesus may take us right in to a lightning storm, and now we are ready!

(And yes, it's a very interesting

prayer class!)

As a United Methodist Church, do we stand by, safe and secure behind a cross with a little red flame, or do we speak up and support the cross surrounded by flames the colors of the rainbow?

God is not finished with this little church yet. God has put it into our hearts to be a reconciling community dedicated to casting out the demons of injustice, intolerance, fear, and exclusion. Being a church is exciting. It can be dangerous. It can cause friction. So cast out a few demons—starve evil—throw open your heart to hear God's Word and call. Get a bit singed by lightning. Follow Jesus.