

2	Aila Amer		
3	Daniel Amoakoh		
7	Charlotte Kaihau		
8	Billie Malin		
9	Ilasa Ilasa		
10	Shawn Putnam		
11	Tuiumi Tuigamala		
15	Mandy Forsgren		
15	Nitokalisi (Nic) Fonua		
15	Levy Woodruff		
18	Russell Rogers		
20	Tiute Apineru		
21	Harrison Patton		
22	Erik Martin		
22	Mafutaga Mata'utia		
25	Joy Hyatt		
26	Jeff Graba		
28	Sinalei Apineru		
29	Kathy Tollett	29	Mary Buckendorf
29	Tuongafasi Halaeua	31	Elleni Alimbali
31	Loto Mafi	31	Michelle Upham



Celebrating 
An Anniversary This Month

15 Tariq Gulzar & Parveen Tariq



**HAVE WE MISSED
YOUR BIRTHDAY
OR ANNIVERSARY?**

IF SO, PLEASE CHECK OUT
THE LISTINGS ON THE
BULLETIN BOARD IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL.

WE'D LOVE TO HELP
CELEBRATE
YOUR SPECIAL DAY!

Youth Group News
*** YOUTH BIBLE STUDY**
 Every Sunday, 9-10:15 AM, grades 7-12
*** YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS**
 Every Sunday, 12:30 PM
Last meeting of the year: December 20
*** YOUTH DANCE**
 Saturday, December 12, 5-8 PM
*** HELP WITH FOOD CO-OP**
 Saturday, December 19, 9-11 AM
*** WINTER PAGEANT & DINNER**
 Saturday, December 19, 5:30-8 PM

All events at First UMC, 203 S. 200 E.
 Please speak with Manaza Akhtar, 801-
 859-3157, if you have questions.

***Want to stay current on what's happening
here at FUMC?
READ YOUR WEEKLY
ANNOUNCEMENT PAGE INSERT!
You can find the insert in your Sunday
worship bulletin or on our website
firstmethodistslc.org***

*Even bad things have
a good side.
The good side of my
recent mishap and
subsequent surgery
were the
heartwarming
expressions of
concern from good
friends at FUMC.
Many thanks for the calls, flowers, cards and
food. They brightened my days!*



- Margaret Warrick

Dear Friends,

A little boy and girl were singing their favorite carol in church the Sunday before Christmas. The boy concluded *Silent Night* with the words, "Sleep in heavenly beans."

"No," his sister corrected, "not beans. Peas."

The story reminds me of all of the wonderful activities of Advent and Christmas in most of our churches: singing carols, lighting an Advent wreath, Christmas sermons, possibly a children's program, and Christmas Eve candle lighting services. I hope you find it a festive and inspirational time of year.

Dave Garroway was, for many years, the host of the Today Show on NBC. Someone once asked him about his understanding of Christmas. He replied, "I've noticed that when people are asked what they want for Christmas, nine times out of ten they answer with something material. That used to be amusing to me, but it's not amusing to me any longer. I happen to be one of those people who can afford anything he wants, but I find what I really want, I can't buy at all. I want peace of mind, peace of soul; the kind of peace you have when you don't really want anything."

What do YOU want for Christmas? For me, what I want cannot be bought or gift wrapped. What I want most can best be summed up in words like "faith" "hope" and "love". **For myself, I want faith.** Faith enough to see God's hand working in even the bleakest of situations. Faith enough to believe that the goodness of God will prevail in the end. Faith enough to trust without reservation. **For my church, I want hope.** Abundant hope. Hope in tomorrow. A hope that believes that better times lie ahead and a hope that empowers us to step out with God. **For my world, I want love.** And I believe that the solutions to most of our biggest problems will only be found when we decide that we are indeed one family. The problems of war, health insurance, crime in American streets and illegal immigration take on a different hue when I am talking about my brothers and sisters whom I love dearly. Do you also want things for Christmas you can't buy? I pray that we will all find those things this year that truly matter.

By the way, Beth Richardson's new book, *The Uncluttered Heart: Making Room for God During Advent and Christmas*, has been recommended as a worthwhile one to read this Advent season. *The Uncluttered Heart* offers four weeks of guided reflection through the weeks of Advent on through Epiphany. You can get the book at your favorite store or pick it up here: <http://tinyurl.com/yzoff3x>. To take the uncluttered season a digital step further, go to www.unclutteredheart.org and sign up for free inspirational Advent telephone text messages or emails from the author.

May God be with you all this holiday season.
 Steve Goodier

(Continued from page 4)

struggling. But in this time of scarcity, giving in most of our churches has been generous. We have turned to one another and experienced the abundance that comes from sharing.

But the Bible tells us that there was enough to feed the people, AND MORE! Won't you dedicate that last 1% of your income for the purposes of God in the world? Won't you entrust it to the church?

As we approach the holy days of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years, together we can do something joyful and amazing. Please share what you have with your church. Not all you have. A little more than you were planning to share. If we gather it up, God will turn it into a blessing.

You are the light of the world!

Elaine J. W. Stanovsky
 Bishop of the Denver Area
 The United Methodist Church