



## **Transformation, Treasures, and Time**

Guy Whalen

The most meaningful transformation in my life occurred 23 years ago when Tricia and I got married in Calvary Episcopal Church, September 3, 1994. It was a beginning of transformation to hopefully become a more patient, compassionate and wiser person, thanks to the church and my wife. Looking back, I treasure the memory of having our friends and family participate in the wedding. We were especially appreciative that Calvary welcomed the priest from Tricia's Catholic Church, Father Merrick to participate in the service.

My connection with Calvary Church goes back further than that however, back to a time before I was born. My mother, Hazel was searching for a place to attend church when she was in high school in the early 1940s. Her experience here led her to continue as a parishioner and raise our family at Calvary. I have been very blessed in my life thanks to the upbringing my mother gave me. She taught me an appreciation of music which is why I treasure the choir and music at Calvary. It is unrivaled by any other churches I have visited. I treasure our clergy who challenge me to continue to work on being a better person every week with their inspirational sermons. I am especially thankful of their time visiting our family, giving comfort and compassion as a young boy when I lost my father and more recently during my mother's stay at Fox Run as well as at the time of her passing. I am thankful to all the parishioners who shared memories of my mother at her memorial service. I am proud that we could give back by having her photographs on display at Calvary and at the Family Justice Center. Hopefully, they lend a small measure of peace and beauty.

My mother continues to be a role model for me today, as she was very generous with her time as a volunteer at Calvary and many other organizations. I am proud to be led by her example by giving my time to the church. Calvary presents easy opportunities to dedicate time and energy, whether it is spending time shopping for gifts for the mitten tree, ushering at Sunday service or helping with fundraising events, in particular "Come Dance with Me". Tricia and I support Calvary financially because giving to Calvary is reciprocal. By supporting the church, great opportunities arise for us to transform the lives of others and in turn we are inspired and enriched as well as helped in our time of need.