



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

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Years ago, driving back to Los Angeles from Northern California, my husband Tom and I encountered a windstorm while being stuck in post-Thanksgiving traffic. Powerful gusts scattered enormous tumble-weeds almost as large as my Tercel, blowing them across the road to bounce off immobilized vehicles into the flatlands of Central California. In the years that followed, our lives were like those tumbleweeds, untethered and chasing after wind as we moved from LA to Tucson to Tübingen, Germany, miles away from our families on the East Coast. I grew fond of those places and the people in them, but a sense of belonging eluded me. Since joining Calvary Church in 2000, we have gained an extended family. We joined Calvary to deepen our spirituality and to raise our daughters in a faith that would guide them throughout life. Increasing my involvement in Calvary is helping me become a more grounded and balanced person. Forces beyond my control continue to govern my life, but bonding with Calvary Church has provided me with the friendships, prayers, and grace to endure life's trials and rejoice in life's blessings.

Calvary's congregation and leadership have recently voiced support for rebuilding Calvary's Children and Youth Ministries (CYM), recognizing the valuable role that young people play in the future of our parish. I was a Sunday School teacher for just over a decade and have been involved in CYM for even longer. Teaching religion to adolescents and examining beliefs

and matters of conscience through their honest scrutiny enriched my own faith. It's been inspiring to work alongside CYM members who are dedicated to teaching children to love God, love others, love themselves, and know that they are loved. As with other ministries, CYM continues to evolve with the dynamics of our parish. While Sunday School enrollment is rising again in the younger classes, Calvary's youth program needs to be revitalized. Even as school and outside interests fill their schedules, leaving little time for church, many teenagers still need communal support and spiritual courage to face the pressures and challenges of their adolescent years and beyond. Please consider helping CYM and our new rector develop a youth program that makes Calvary a welcoming, fun, and empowering place for our youth.

*Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also.* The treasures of Calvary Church lie in our people, in the experiences that unite and uplift us, in our beautiful buildings and grounds, and in the good that we strive to do within our church and in the greater community. This realization comes to me as I recall assembling photos and designing layouts for Calvary's parish profile and the first section of our parish directory. At the time, I felt as though I was making a scrapbook of my large and loving family. In these times of turbulence, the world needs communities like Calvary, where we try to find common ground, live out our faith in God, and genuinely care for one another.