



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

Laura Lohnes

Calvary has always been a part of my life. Some members of Calvary remember by Grandmother, Cleo Wingerter. She definitely had a presence at Calvary and participated in many events and Outreach opportunities, including being a room grandmother at School 17 (now School 30). My parents were married at Calvary back in the 70's in a beautiful candlelight ceremony.

I've only been a member in my own right since 2009, when my husband Jeremiah and I moved back home to Buffalo after spending several years living in New York City after college. In 2011 my son Benjamin was born, making me a mom. Ben was baptized by Father Ethan and became entertainment for those who filled the pews around me on Sunday mornings while Jeremiah shared his talents as a member of our wonderful choir. He would be joined by his side-kick, Elizabeth, in the summer of 2015.

In the fall of 2011 I was asked to join the Calvary Communications Committee as the administrator of our Facebook and Twitter accounts. I was excited to be able to use my knowledge of social media to help support Calvary. While working with the "Comm Comm" I was also able to help work on things like our website, design fliers and posters for events, and I also put together several of our brochures. Being a member of Communications Committee has been a great experience with many opportunities to learn new things about marketing and communications which have gone on to help me in my career.

In the fall of 2012 I was asked if I would be interested in running for vestry. I was hesitant at first, but I realized I would have so much to learn as a member of vestry, and that I would have the opportunity to work with some of our parish leaders to implement positive change at Calvary. I was elected to vestry the following January. Though the three years of my term would be some of the rockiest in Calvary's recent history, I wouldn't have traded the time for anything. The work of the vestry is so important to keeping Calvary on track.

In June of 2013 my little sister died very suddenly and tragically at the age of 21. The love, support, and prayers of my Calvary family, as well as Bonnie and Ethan, truly helped me through the most difficult time in my life. This event changed me in significant ways, making me focus more on what I have to be thankful for, and not getting caught up in negativity. I take nothing for granted and am grateful for everything I have. Calvary was there when I needed to be lifted up. I am only too happy to give to Calvary, whether financially or of my time and talents, to help us continue to grow and support those in need.