



Transformation, Treasures and Time

Mary Lou Rath

CALVARY CHURCH, A GIFT OF FAITH

For over 50 years Calvary has been the center point in the spiritual life of the Rath family. Weddings, baptisms, confirmations, funerals, Christmas, Easter and for more or less “regular” Sunday worship, Calvary has been our home. My husband and I wanted a strong spiritual presence in our family. Calvary provided that. Through the years the worship services, the Sunday School, the “extracurricular” activities and the educational opportunities continue to fulfil, restore and inspire us.

Calvary has grown and changed through the years just as we all have. In that change we collectively and as individuals have reinforced our beliefs and our faith. So often it seems as we pursue our individual “faith journey” we at Calvary also move together as if on a pilgrimage. Separately but together. It is a comfort.

The togetherness over the years has built up a collective memory of joy and sorrow, accomplishment and disappointment that makes our “church life” a large part of our life story.

We revel at remembering the children antics in Sunday school, the barn parties, and bonfires, church suppers and our contribution to the theatre world—the variety shows.

A rather “younger member” remarked recently that he had seen some of the pictures and asked if it was me dressed as a poodle.

Ahhhh---a great memory. Yes. I was a dancing poodle. We were good but the dancing soup cans stole the show.

Those moments are frozen in time. How fortunate we are to share them.

From the beginning I have always felt an energy at Calvary that supports and leads it.

It is naturally led by clergy, augmented and fueled by the ongoing service of the wardens and vestry and a host of dedicated volunteers.

I served on the vestry in the 1970's and continue to be in awe of their dedicated service to Calvary.

The old saying "you can't pay people to do that much work" comes to mind.

Words pale at the task when trying to capture something as elusive as what Calvary means to me.

The building and the symbols of our faith stand as they did 50 years ago. Ever strong, ever available, ever inspiring. But beyond, I sense what I call "an ether" in the sanctuary. It grows as generations have brought their joys and sadness, hopes and dreams and offered their related prayers. Just kneeling quietly I feel the power of their presence... It is a blessing to hear the echoes of voices that ring out around me every Sunday. Many have joined the heavenly choir.

It is a lesson to be remembered when a stained glass window is lit by a sunbeam.

It is a comfort when the carillon plays an old familiar hymn.

It is a moment of reflection when the quiet churchyard speaks of loved ones and friends and the joys we shared through the years.

It's always an inspiration when the choir presents via words and music what words alone cannot capture.

Time and space run short now.

I hope you will know that central to Calvary meaning for me, is YOU.

Thank you for your friendship, and support as a fellow pilgrim on our faith journey.