



My name is Mary Handfelt. In 2002, my husband, Leo, and I began attending Canyon Springs where we quickly became Hospitality Team regulars. I have a heart for seekers and want to make them feel welcomed by all of us and by Jesus. I have also made 4 trips to Uganda with Canyon Springs and currently serve on the Missions Board.

We have two children: Matt is 36, married, and an aeronautical engineer here in San Diego. Our daughter, Katie, is 33, works for an advertising agency in Dubai, and is married to a wonderful Dutch man.

I was raised Catholic and went to Catholic schools. I loved Jesus but it was hard to find Him under all the rules and rituals of Catholicism. When Leo and I found our way to Northstar, a nondenominational Christian Church here in Scripps Ranch, my many questions were welcomed by a kind and Godly congregation, where I was encouraged to read the Bible for the first time.

At Canyon Springs, Leo and I joined a Small Group and, through the years, we have kept that up, meeting weekly with our groups, which have changed over the years. Last September, I began The Bible Recap study through Women's Ministry and have been reading and studying almost daily ever since. Through that, I have come to understand that Jesus came to save all of us, Jews and Gentiles, Christians and non-Christians, church and unchurched. His invitation to us is to JOIN HIM in reaching, serving, and encouraging all people, ESPECIALLY those who are most different from us.

Many years ago, I was asked to join the search team for a new pastor at Northstar Church. Because of that experience, when our church began this process, I prayed and reluctantly reached out. It is a great responsibility; it is also a tremendous opportunity and blessing to serve God in His work.