

Pulling An Albert

When I was growing up my father had a good friend named Albert. Albert and my father had worked together and often enjoyed fishing vacations up north. When my father was out in the boat fishing and he would find a good spot where there were fish, Albert would then move his boat over and “steal” my father’s fish. In other words, he was catching the fish in my father’s spot that my father had found. This became known as, “pulling an Albert.” Albert and my father never let their disputes about fishing spots spoil their friendship nor did it deter Albert from joining in at the fishing spot. Their friendship was strong, and they were there for each other through the death of my brother and through the death of Albert’s daughter killed in an automobile accident. Albert was out fishing when the State Police came to tell him of his daughter’s death and the task of telling him fell to my father. Their differences were minor compared to what united them. True friends are not forgotten. Albert’s wife had rules she followed. Such as “It is okay to pull in front of trucks because they are required by law to have good brakes.” I still find humor in that one. Evidently the rule did not apply to her because she rear-ended a rubbish truck. I remember a friend from our church showing up upon my return home from the hospital after breast cancer surgery with an English Tea because I had been invited to attend the tea for the volunteers for the Blood Drive at church but was hospitalized. I told her that I had been paid to be there and therefore did not qualify as a volunteer, but she had found out that I had requested to be there. I sat on the couch in the living room in my pajamas and bathrobe and was served tea from a beautiful tea pot with China cups and scones and other goodies. I have never forgotten that kind gesture and although she moved away years ago, we still communicate with each other. Another dear friend recently passed away and I remember her getting me involved with a Women’s Circle and what joy she brought to my life with her joy of living and her deep faith. These friends teach us that being together for the things that change our lives helps us to be in community for all the day-to-day things. Jesus calls us to be in community with each other.

1 Corinthians 13-4-7 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Lord, we thank you for this day and all our days. We ask your forgiveness when we are less than you want us to be. Be with us so we may show others the love and forgiveness you have given us. Be with those who are ill, those who are grieving, those who are hurting, those who are in hurtful relationships. Give them all your strength and peace. Be with our church, may we be a warm and welcoming place for all people who come seeking you. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and be with him as he travels, grant him safety, guidance for his days and rest for his nights and bring him back safely to us. Be with our staff and leaders, give them assurance and lead them in all they do. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson