



## **Making New Friends Who Make You Feel At Home**

Dr. Stephan Scoggins, hanging with Jackie Lois

---

As you get older, more of your friends die or stop talking to you for one reason or another and you think you're not likely to ever make new friends and new connections. Family by biology can occasionally work out, but its not a guarantee they can go through changes with you.



It is by indeed serendipity that we are lucky enough to get by with the kindness of strangers and perhaps more magically we meet people on the path who doing nothing but light the way. Making you feel at home as if you have always known them as if they would always be there. When you look back over your shoulder in need they were angels in disguise and are just there to encourage you and help you to see the next step.

When I celebrate home, I look for the helpers, the elves who appear and then quickly disappear as if they were never there. You are shown the way, the next step and feel not so alone.

The Advent season can easily make you want to skip it all together when you are lonely, cranky and just so tired of it all.

Kirstie Alley, a famous actor, died suddenly last week. I didn't immediately know who she was, but when someone sang the Cheers Bar song with the refrain of "*I want to go where everybody /somebody knows my name,*" I had the wave of nostalgia of that wonderful experience of feeling you are truly known. You are cared for, understood , you feel safe and at home. You don't have to explain anything.

I often hope to feel that "at church" or maybe the truth is it feels "like church" when a friend /stranger gifts me in that way. I celebrate the best part of "home," treasuring the moment and so looking forward to that happening again.

**Who encourages you?** Who says 'yes' instantly, without hesitation, allowing God to fill in the details and for sure you will get from Thanksgiving to Christmas in no time for all the good things waiting for you that you can't even begin to see. No one will be harmed in the interim, not even you!

I hope you have a church friend like that. I reached out to many people who have graciously touched my life to write Devotionals for this season. I met Stephan at Founders MCC a ways ways back back. We clicked almost instantly and he happily agreed to send me a devotional when I asked this season so many many years later.

While I was waiting. I "stumbled" on a not so random Facebook post he's made after a visit from his mom. I had been missing my mom terribly that day. She had been dead for many years by then, but grief felt fresh and painful. I knew he was a mama's boy for real and he had a song that he planned to sing with her but she had gone home and he decided to sing it anyway and POST it for the share. I guess that's why he said "Yes"!

How nice to be that person who asks you to go on and do it anyway. [\*\*Check Dr. Scoggins out!\*\*](#) Watch for his second Devotional for you this season. He is very busy, but always makes time for me. No stuttering, no hesitation, just does! Treasure friends who make you

feel at home wherever you are. It's like the best part of the new church.

---

Advent Scripture Reference Lectionary  
[Psalm 146:5-10](#); [Ruth 4:13-17](#); [2 Peter 3:11-18](#)

Advent Hymn Reflection  
“[In the Bleak Midwinter](#)”

text by Christina Rossetti, composed by Gustav Holst, performed by  
Quire Cleveland



---

FOLLOW MCCDC

