

It's all too easy to sit back and wait for someone else to make the first move, a friend to call and invite you out to lunch, a surprise to show up in your mailbox—instead of reaching out and doing unto our friends as we'd like them to do to us.

It's all too easy to keep score of who called last, who wrote last, who invited last. But, really, who has time for friendship like that? Let's let each other off the hook and set out to be the kind of friends we'd like to have.

Friends who call with a word of encouragement, friends who drop a note in the mail just to say, "I'm glad you're my friend," friends who laugh with us, friends who drop by when they're in the neighborhood, friends who are there when we need a shoulder to cry on, friends who tell the truth in love, friends who know who we are and love us anyway.

"A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17

K: Kindred spirits

“What kind of friends do you want in your life? Give that question some thought—and then set about to be that kind of friend.”

—from “A Simple Friendship,” *Living Simply*, page 121

If you know me well, you know that I love *Anne of Green Gables*. (Toben has promised me a trip to Prince Edward Island when I turn 40—and now I just can’t wait to get to that birthday!) There’s just something wonderful about friendship—whether real or in a book—that pulls at my heart.

I love having friends. And just like Anne, I’ve often been surprised at the kindred spirits who’ve popped into my life. Have you ever noticed that sometimes you find friends where you least expected them?

I think this saying is true: To have a friend you have to *be* a friend.