

My Green Lake Story: Rev. Judith Pratt

My connection to Green Lake is as a guest in attendance at the LISTENING, CARING AND SHARING conference the summer of 1985. During a monthly ABW meeting at my home church in Hudson Falls, New York, a brochure for the convention was placed out on the table. "YOU are supposed to be there." This internal voice was so loud, so distinct, so persuasive and was heard only by me. The only thing I could do was to respond to this unseen VOICE.

After making all the necessary arrangements including riding with five other women in a van provided by ABCNYS, I was on my way.

BUT I had two great and painful challenges before I arrived at the conference. The first came as I fell off a hay wagon while helping my son put hay on the elevator. Nothing was broken; I could go. When we stopped for a rest as I was getting out of the van a door was slammed onto my hand. Nothing was broken. Needless to say I was in pain but so grateful that I could continue on my journey.

Gathered together at the morning session led by Virginia Pipe, we were given a guided imagery exercise in which we were to be running through a meadow as the chimes came to a close. In my mind I saw an image of a man in a white robe coming out from behind the huge pine tree next to my driveway back in NY 1,000 miles away. It was no other than Jesus, coming to see me on my back porch. I thought of only two things. 1) That He was coming to help me with my parenting skills or 2) that He was coming to ask me to help Him.

I did not dream up this image and from that moment on I began to think, discern and understand what had just happened and what it all

meant. Virginia told us that when we have been to a mountaintop be very careful to whom you tell the experience. I chose a very dear Christian friend. As I related my experience of the vision and the two painful accidents she said, "Judy, don't you know that it was the devil trying to prevent you from getting to the conference. BINGO. That made all the sense in the world.

This was my Closer Walk With God. Three years later I was enrolled in the pastoral ministry program at Andover Newton Theological School. For 20 years following graduation (1992) I served churches as a settled pastor and then as interim minister. I retired from active ministry in 2014 at the age of 75. My experience was (and has been) life-changing. God had called me away from my chosen vocation as a registered nurse into leadership in the church of Jesus Christ.

You are supposed to be there, the voice said. I want you to enjoy peace and beauty, new friendships and experiences, look to the new goals I will have for you. Thanks be to God to whom I give all the glory.

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