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Created for Community, for Family

My father grew up in a boarding school. When his father died, his mother couldn't take care of him and his two brothers alone. So, the boys were sent to Lawrence Hall, an Episcopalian boarding school in Chicago. He spent most of his childhood there from age 8 to 16.

One day when my Dad and I waited in a Chicago hospital for my mother to have heart surgery, he recalled for me how much he cried when he was first at the school. Later, he said, he learned not to cry. He learned to take care of himself. He was forced into independence at the age of 8. He felt he didn't need anyone. He could go it alone. He felt he didn't really have a family, except for his brothers. The school he attended was formal, ritualized, cold. Dad didn't feel family or roots so he developed callouses on his heart to make his loneliness less painful.

You and I are luckier. We have families that, though they don't always live together, we still feel part of a family. We belong somewhere, somehow to someone. We are not forced into independence. We don't have to develop callouses on our hearts.

This is true for us as a Church, too. We cannot be Christian alone. We are created for community, for family. We are not in isolation. Everything we do affects the whole family. No matter how loudly we say, "It's my own business," we are part of a family. We belong here, to each other. We are not forced into independence. We don't have to develop callouses on our hearts. We need each other, and we are here for each other.

And we can take that togetherness, the family of St. Andrews, out into the world to share our faith with others because our faith, our faith family

matters.

~Written by Rev. Pam Pendexter

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