The old adage “things go full circle” has been used to describe many situations over the years, but most recently, it has taken on meaning of being reunited with the classmates of my youth. Fortunately, many of my former classmates have finally caught on to the modern tech of Facebook and texting; in our cases, it has provided a magical way to reunite in ways that would have not been possible before this generation.

Through the technology of Facebook, plus connections with other classmates, it has been possible to track down school friends in all parts of the area, and in all parts of the world, for that matter. Not only has it been possible to find each other, but it has become possible to keep up with each other and share each other’s daily trials, sorrows, joys and observations.

My classmate history flows from the streams of two schools. For the first 15 years of my life, we lived on a small country plot and I attended school at a building in Geneva, Ind., which has now been torn down and is about to be turned into a community park, of sorts.

When I was entering my sophomore year of high school, my parents purchased a home three blocks from my father’s place of employment in Berne, Ind., Geneva’s next door town and biggest rival in sports and community projects.

Somehow, through the magic of high tech, I have been united with both classes and correspond with friends from both schools. Years have swept away the rivalry, memories have merged our hearts and somehow, we have all become like one happy family. Some classmates have passed on, we all have experienced different fortunes over the years and yet, in a sense, we have become each other’s comfort and support as though no time has ever passed.

Oh, we embellish a few stories here and there, quite a few, to be honest. Somehow, we bring the “young child” out of our wrinkling and aging bodies, making as though the sun is still rising rather than taking a major day’s rotation on our lives.

One of the mysteries of it all is the power of “connection.” One word from another on Facebook,

one comment to another in a gathering or one text sparks responses from hearts that have seemingly never been apart, and probably haven't, if the truth were known. Suddenly we are back in the world of working on homecoming floats, cruising, hearing once again the music of the Beach Boys and Four Seasons and even recalling some of the more delicate situations that came up in relationships (but don't matter now).

Special names, connective jokes, long ago discarded expressions and the language of our day quickly returns and we are right there again.

What a gift, these family members who would do anything for each other to help the other along on life's journey. We have all experienced the loss of loved ones, probably parents and family members, financial disappointments and the greatest joys that life has to offer. Sometimes we discuss it, sometimes just "knowing" draws each other closer.

I can remember when I was a child that my dad started attending his class reunion in Antwerp more frequently, and then more frequently started to make special visits to the homes of class members. I always marveled at their stories, their recall of those days and the way their faces would light up when they talked about their youth; what a tonic of joy it brought to their lives.

Now, I am beginning to understand it all, the warmth of an embrace when we meet on the streets, the excitement of seeing "family members" from bygone days and the magical cleansing of talking about people and places and the way things used to be.

Very quickly things have come full circle from my parents' reunions to mine. And it is all happening so quickly. The old adage that "life is like a snowball going down a mountain," is becoming more real all of the time ... things do come full circle.

Thank goodness for the "new old family" waiting in the seasons of life to greet us and draw closer as we are lifted up by their knowledge of the youthful days of our lives, of orneriness, good intentions, people in our lives and the world we can draw from again, thanks to their family vibes.