

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
Post Office Box 583 Taylors, South Carolina 29687
www.tcfogreenvillesc.org

April, 2004

We Need Your Help!!

We need volunteers to help with our monthly meetings. If you are willing to help for a particular month, please contact Norm Raiford or Julia Muirhead, or meet at the church educational building at 7:05 pm. We need assistance with the following:

- ~ Setting up chairs & display tables
- ~ Bringing flowers for display & birthday tables
- ~ Serve as a greeter at the door
- ~ Taking down tables & chairs at the end of the meeting.

April's Meeting

The Greenville Chapter of *The Compassionate Friends* will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2004 from 7:30 to 8:30 pm in the "Educational Building" of Pelham Rd. Baptist Church, 1108 Pelham Rd., Greenville. This month's meeting will be **"Ways to Honor Your Child's Memory."** After a brief presentation, we will break into small groups for sharing time.

THANK YOU



Thanks to everyone at last month's meeting who participated in our "Ask-It-Basket". Each was asked to write down either a question that they had regarding their grief journey, or a topic that they would like to see our group cover. We received a variety of questions and topics. In fact April's meeting will address one of those questions – "Ways to honor our child's memory". We promise to address each and every request during one of our monthly meetings!

The following is submitted in loving memory of Patrick K. Poole by his Mother, Sadie Poole. Patrick died 1/19/98. He was 38 years old:

"As long as you live and remember – your loved one lives in your heart. May tender memories soften your grief. May fond recollections bring you relief and may you find comfort and peace in the thought of the joy that knowing your loved one brought. For time and space can never divide or keep your loved one from your side. When memory paints in color true – the happy hours that belonged to you." We love and miss you so much!

Mama, Brother, Roger & Steve

Feelings

- ~ We feel sad, for what we have lost.
- ~ We feel happy, for what we have had.
- ~ We feel poor, for the empty spaces.
- ~ We feel rich, for we have each other.
- ~ We will cry, for what we can't have.
- ~ We will laugh, for our memories abound.
- ~ We will hurt, for the love we can't have.
- ~ We will rejoice, for the love we have received.
- ~ We will be restless, for our lives are not whole.
- ~ We will be peaceful, for we know it is Not forever.

Memories



Memories are flowers growing in the heart, flowers picked on happy days that time arranges in bouquets to warm the heart in tender ways by feelings they impart... Memories are pictures taken through the years, pictures of a smiling face, a happy time, a favorite place... These pleasures time cannot erase, they are kept as souvenirs.

*Laura Rogers
TCF, Northfield, NJ*

Remembrance

Judy O. Chapman-TCF, Greenville, SC

There is a journey called remembrance,
I take from time to time.
Its pathway winds through my heart
And sweet memories I always find.

Yes, memory is a journey,
Our minds can travel through.
Its pathway leads into my heart,
When I am missing you.

If you travel far inside,
You'll walk down memory lane;
It's filled with precious moments,
Some of pleasure, some of pain.

Years can't destroy the beauty,
As long as memory lives.
Time can't erase the pleasure,
That our memory gives.

Yes, memory paints a picture,
Of time I shared with you;
A journey called remembrance,
I'll travel my whole life through.



Special Event at May's Meeting

Mark your calendar! At our May 13th monthly meeting, we will continue our program of "Ways of honoring our children's memory" by having a "Balloon Release". The past Balloon Releases have been such a beautiful and meaningful experience for all who participated. Balloons will be provided. Following a slide show presentation of our children and the balloon release, we will have a sharing time. If you would like to have your child's picture(s) in our slide show, please submit them to me either at April's meeting, or by e-mail at: Janisgow@msn.com, or mail to: Janis Gow, 520 Dean Rd., Greer, SC 29651. All photos will be returned. Please include written consent giving us permission to use it.

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**OUR CHILDREN LOVED, MISSED,
 AND REMEMBERED**
 “As long as we live, they too shall
 live...for they are a part of us as we
 remember them”

Our Children Remembered:

- Ashley Brackett – 4/26/76 ~ 4/8/98
- David Bridges – 8/25/82 ~ 4/7/00
- Jimmy Burns – 1/5/83 ~ 4/4/96
- Stephanie Corder – 9/19/56 ~ 4/25/61
- Adam Cox – 4/15/85 ~ 3/31/00
- Caleb Dromm – 3/31/03 ~ 4/1/03
- Eric Scott Gow – 4/6/71 ~ 11/4/91
- Charlie Guthrie – 6/27/97 ~ 4/16/02
- Misty Dugan-Hunter – 11/17/67 ~ 4/4/03
- Mark Jones – 4/20/67 ~ 6/27/99
- Eli Labbe – 12/31/85 ~ 4/14/02
- Joseph Mills – 4/17/82 ~ 9/29/02
- Angel Parcels – 4/17/76 ~ 8/24/03
- Jonathan Roberts – 4/24/74 ~ 8/24/02
- Austin Shealy – 2/1/93 ~ 4/10/02
- Molly Sheridan – 4/21/89 ~ 9/7/02
- Desmond Sinclair – 9/12/91 ~ 4/23/96
- Jeffery Sloan – 4/9/84 ~ 4/8/03
- Holly Stephens – 4/11/85 ~ 1/2/04
- Tommy Strange Jr. – 8/13/51 ~ 4/21/86
- Elizabeth Warner – 9/24/93 ~ 4/4/01
- Chad Withered – 4/13/79 ~ 12/30/94

We acknowledge the following gifts with sincere gratitude and deep appreciation in Memory of:

- **Schuyler Raiford** ~ by Norm and Alice Raiford
- **Kirby Walser**
~by Richard and Nona Walser
- **Eric Scott Gow**
~by Tom and Janis Gow
- **Jeremy McIntyre**
~by David and Barbara McIntyre
- **Billy Smith**
~by Bill and Jewel Smith


from the winter of my grief. Life has dared to go on around me. As I recover from the insult of Life’s continuance; I readjust my focus to include recovery and growth as a possibility in my future. Give me strength to break out of the cocoon of my grief. But may I never forget it as the place where I grew my wings, becoming a new person because of my loss.

Janice Heil – TCF/Vancouver

A Compassionate Cup of Water

As we discussed at last month’s meeting, the winding “Road Called Grief” is filled with u-turns, hairpin curves, circles, detours, ditches, ruts, and potholes. It’s a scary road. No one should have to “go it alone” on that raunchy road. So along the way, look for the TCF rest stops where your Compassionate Friends await you with a cup of water – the water of understanding, encouragement, and hope. Sit awhile and share your fears with your TCF friends. They will listen, and they will accompany you on this rough road of grief. Remember, your Compassionate Friends are never far away. They are always there to help when you feel lost and alone.

-Norm Raiford



A “Love Offering” basket with pre-addressed envelopes is available at our monthly meetings for your gifts in honor of your child. All gifts are tax deductible and support the work of our Greenville chapter.

Prayer for Spring

Like springtime, let me unfold and grow fresh and new from this cocoon of grief that has been spun around me. Help me face the harsh reality of sunshine and renewed life as my bones still creak

Greenville TCF Steering Committee Members:

Chapter Leader.....Julia Muirhead
 Newsletter Editor.....Janis Gow
 Program/Facilitator Coordinator.....Norm Raiford
 Treasurer.....Julia Muirhead
 Webmaster.....Johnny Williams
 Follow-up Coordinator.....Jill Schmidt
 Hospitality Coordinator.....Debbie Etherington

Ad hoc members: Nona Walser, Dick and Margaret Renner, Alice Raiford and Judy Lackey.

Contact us at: <http://www.tcfogreenvillesc.org/>