

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
Post Office Box 583 Taylors, South Carolina 29687
(864) 288-9820
www.tcfogreenvillesc.org

Monthly Meeting

August 11, 2005

Always the second Thursday of the month

Topic:

“Vacation Memories”

This will include a time for sharing your vacation memories with the group if you'd like to. You may also bring any memento or pictures of your special vacation as well. Also others may want to share things that have helped cope with vacations since the death of your child.

Meeting Time & Location

7:30 P.M.

Pelham Rd. Baptist Church,
Family Life Center
1108 Pelham Rd., Greenville, SC



Lending Library

Our chapter now has a “Lending Library. Please feel free to look through the books at the end of each meeting and see if there are any books that are of interest to you. You may borrow any book(s), but we ask that you try to return them within a 2 month period so that others can have a chance to read them. We also ask that you follow our check-out procedures.

- ✓ Write your name, the date, and your e-mail address on the library card in the back of the book.
- ✓ Put the library card in the little white bin marked “books out”.
- ✓ Take a white index card with the return date stamped on it from the “date due” bin and put it in your book as a reminder

We acknowledge “Love Gifts” with appreciation in memory of:

- **Allan Dobson** ~ *by his mother, Jeannie Dobson*

We hope you find some books that will be helpful to you in your grief journey.

My Loss, Heaven's Gain
By Holden's Mommy
Lisa Gregory

Some ask what Heaven will be like
To stand face to face
With the Lord God Almighty
Creator of the race

They look to it with hope
With no reservation or dismay
I'm not sure they'll want me there
I have a lot to say

Will I shake my fist and cry out
How unfair life was to me?
Or will I see my past own grief
And let God set me free?

Will he place my youngest son
In my waiting arms?
Will I finally understand
Why he had to come to harm?

Can I trust a God who seems
So distant in present and past?
That He let my precious son follow death
Too early and too fast

I yearn for answers daily
By the minute, by the hour
Waiting for You to show me
The awesomeness of Your power

Some say “The end is near!”
Well I say let it come
For on that day we all will play
With my precious little son

I guess I'll have to wait and see
And suffer through the pain.
Of losing Holden to SIDS
My loss, Heaven's gain



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.

*By Laura Rogers
TCF, Northfield, NJ*

**UPCOMING SEMINAR NEXT
MONTH**

“Finding Direction in Your Grief”

Presented by **Bill Hoy,**
Educator, Grief Counselor

Tuesday, September 27, 2005
Palmetto Expo Center
6:45 PM to 9:00 PM
Free to general public

Professional's Program
Wednesday, September 28, 2005
8:45 AM to 12:00 PM
\$25.00 Fee

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**The August newsletter is lovingly
dedicated to the memory of all our
Children . . . gone too soon.**

Our Children Remembered:

Michael Allen – 10/16/94 ~ 8/25/02
Melissa Atkinson – 8/30/75 ~ 5/6/03
Shannon Anderson – 11/14/62 ~ 8/1/01
Kimberly Bennett – 9/12/88 ~ 8/7/89
David Bridges – 8/25/82 ~ 4/7/00
Hunter Calhoun – 10/20/96 ~ 8/7/03
Jonathan Clardy – 6/27/03 ~ 8/15/03
Robert Davis – 3/12/80 ~ 8/3/01
Christopher Deviney – 3/8/80 ~ 8/13/98
Robert Ewing – 8/25/55 ~ 9/4/99
Holden Gregory 8/17/02 ~ 9/14/02
Serenity Kendra – 6/23/04 ~ 8/2/04
Ben Morris – 8/18/76 ~ 11/18/95
Olivia Moser – 8/26/01 ~ 9/27/01
Jacob Nicholson – 1/30/94 ~ 8/29/04
Shane O’Sullivan – 8/2/85 ~ 10/20/03
Angel Parcels – 4/17/76 ~ 8/24/03
Christopher Reeves – 8/18/82 ~ 11/8/02
Jonathan Roberts – 4/24/74 ~ 8/24/02
Lisa Sinclair – 3/20/71 ~ 8/27/00
Monica Sinclair – 1/10/95 ~ 8/27/00
Tommy Strange Jr – 8/13/51 ~ 4/21/86
Matt Taylor – 8/16/86 ~ 12/9/03
Michael VanGieson – 8/16/80 ~ 2/9/04
Eric White – 8/11/57 ~ 2/5/97
Patrick Whitehurst – 6/11/83 ~ 8/19/99

The following letter was received from a bereaved mother who wanted to thank the “dear soul who lovingly mails out the birthday cards” each month. I know we all want to thank Debbie for the very important work she does for the Greenville Chapter of TCF! It is truly appreciated by all!

Dear Compassionate Friends:

Today, exactly on Allan’s birthday a sweet butterfly card came in the mail from TCF! I want to tell you how very much it means that some dear person took time to write the card and to plan that it would arrive exactly on his birthday!

I tossed in bed last night watching the clock. Then 1:33 AM came, the exact time that he entered the world. My little darling, so cute and cuddly and absolutely perfect. He was born in 1975. Back then, the nurses wheeled all the babies to the mothers’ rooms on a schedule. It seemed that just as Allan and I figured out the nursing thing, an aide would come and whisk him away again for another five hours! This is the poem that was in his baby book: “Whenever a little child is born, all night a soft wind rocks the corn, and one more buttercup wakes to the morn – somewhere, somewhere.”

The time that my child entered the world and the time he departed – both will always be sacred and personal and mystical - - I know that you understand, you members of our brave, sad little club. Thanks to Compassionate Friends for honoring the arrival and departure dates of our children gone too soon.

Thank you, thank you!

*Jeannie Dobson
Allan’s mother*



A Place in My Heart

It was as though I woke up from a dream. You were still gone, but I too had been away. Out of touch with reality, away from my friends and family. I was so busy looking for you...hoping against hope that you would magically reappear...that I was lost in a fog of grief. Looking back, I should not have allowed grief to steal my life for so long. I should have lived my life fully, if not for me, for your sake...for you truly loved life.

Shortly after you left, I asked my friend how I would survive without you. He said, “Put Greg in a special place in your heart, so that you will carry him always. Remember, he is never away from you.” I should have listened to this advice, so that the fog of grief could lift, so that the beauty of your smile, and all the wonderful memories could shine through. Fifteen sad and lonely years I have grieved, not realizing that you have been with me all along...within me. When I place my hand on my heart, I can feel your heart beat with mine, just as it did before you were born. The fog of grief still rolls in, as it always will, but the moment I touch my hand to my heart, your sunshine breaks through and your smile becomes mine.

*For Greg Romero from his Mother
TCF, Phoenix, AZ*