

June, 2004



### **June's Meeting**

The Greenville Chapter of *The Compassionate Friends* will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, June 10, 2004 from 7:30 to 9:00 pm at Pelham Rd. Baptist Church, 1108 Pelham Rd., Greenville. This month's meeting will focus on "Favorite Summertime Memories". Bring photos or other items associated with your child's favorite vacation(s). Feel free to share your wishes for what would have been perfect summertime experiences if your child were still alive. Don't miss this opportunity to share your struggles with those who best can understand: your compassionate friends.



### **The Birthday Table**

At each month's meeting, we set up a birthday table to honor our children whose birthdays occur in that particular month. If your child's birthday is in June, then we invite you to bring birthday cake or some of your child's favorite foods. Feel free also to bring pictures of your child or other memorabilia. One of Schuyler Raiford's favorite foods – Cheerios, will appear on that table – Norm says, "just think of them as miniature, heart healthy "Krispy Kreme" donuts!"

### **Memories**

Within each tear that falls  
Is a mirror ... that reflects a special  
moment in our lives. They trickle warmly  
down and land in a puddle in my heart.  
*Tammy Tobac – TCF Pittsburgh, PA*

The following letter was to appear in last month's newsletter. Sorry I didn't get it in for May.

In memory of:  
Victor Lawson  
5/13/92 ~ 7/21/02

### **Grief**

Sometimes grief is a hard word to say but if we remember that it too shall pass. My Preacher just said that if we give our hurts to God he will guide us through our pain. The Bible does not try to explain suffering, but it teaches us how to handle the pain. When you feel sad or angry go to the most wonderful words there are to read – the words of God. When our son passed on, we were sad but there would be no more pain and suffering for him. As for us that were left behind, the pain and suffering only just begun. We all deal with grief in many different ways, but holding on to the pain is not the answer. Just give it to God. You can suppress, rehearse, or even resent your pain, but none of the above will help you truly grieve. One of the best ways I have found to help with the pain of losing a child is to share my experiences with others. I found that talking about my pain to others that are experiencing similar pain in their life is a comfort to me. Giving your testimony is a way to deal with the pain. If you are not a talker, then write it down because it is a comfort to be able to express yourself. Sometimes it is even a comfort to go back and read what you wrote down if you are having an uneasy day. In other words – keep a journal of your feelings. It is easier to take out your frustrations on paper than on your family and friends. I just wanted to share a little of how I have dealt with the pain for almost two years. It has worked for me and I hope it will help you. Thank you to "The Compassionate Friends" for a wonderful way to express our grief triumphs, and victories. Reading these

wonderful stories and poems from people just like me has definitely helped me deal with pain. Having the memories, good and bad is a blessing and nothing can take that away. May God be with each and every one of you.

*Greg and Dawn Durham  
Pickens, SC*

### **When Fathers Weep at Graves**

I see them weep, the fathers at the stones, taking off the brave armor they are forced to wear in the work place; clearing away the debris with gentle fingers. Inhaling the sorrow diminished by anguish, their hearts desiring what they cannot have ~ to walk hand in hand with children no longer held ~

To all the fathers who leave a part of their hearts at the stones – may breezes underneath tree of time, ease your pain, as they receive healing tears...the gift the children give.

*Alice J. Wisler*

### **I Never Believed**

- ♥ I never believed I would see another season change with gladness.
- ♥ I never believed I would see the world again without the haze of tears.
- ♥ I never expected to actually laugh again.
- ♥ I never felt my smile would return and feel natural on my face.
- ♥ I never hoped for another day when I would not want to die.
- ♥ I never envisioned a world that could again be right and full of promise.
- ♥ I believed that all that had passed from me the day he died and went away; never to return . . . . .

But I was wrong and I know that in the fullness of your grieving, you too will come to understand that life goes on... that it can still have meaning ... that even joy can touch your life once more.

*Don Hackett,  
TCF- Hingham, MA*

**THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**  
 Post Office Box 583 Taylors, South Carolina 29687  
[www.tcfogreenvillesc.org](http://www.tcfogreenvillesc.org)

**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:**

Josh Bryant – 3/27/80 ~ 6/18/01  
 Trent Chapman – 1/10/8 ~ 6/27/94  
 Jonathan Clardy – 6/27/03 ~ 8/15/03  
 Candy Cota – 6/4/87 ~ 2/24/04  
 Allan Dobson – 6/10/75 ~ 9/2/00  
 Alyson Duncan – 6/18/84 ~ 10/16/84  
 Randall Eller – 5/4/84 ~ 6/19/02  
 Baron Garrett – 10/26/67 ~ 6/21/78  
 Stuart Gilliland – 9/13/86 ~ 6/20/02  
 Charlie Guthrie – 6/27/97 ~ 4/16/02  
 Quinn Hall – 7/7/82 ~ 6/22/03  
 Christopher Howard – 6/15/73 ~ 12/19/97  
 Mark A. Jones – 4/20/67 ~ 6/27/99  
 Jeremy Knoke – 6/4/79 ~ 7/5/91  
 Hannah Marie Linder – 6/2/82 ~ 6/9/82  
 Terrance Lomax – 10/30/86 ~ 6/14/99  
 Gary Lowder Jr. – 6/14/75 ~ 6/6/02  
 Brian Martin – 12/13/78 ~ 6/26/01  
 Michael Moyd – 6/24/95 ~ 3/29/96  
 Keith Poole – 6/2/59 ~ 1/19/98  
 Schuyler Raiford – 6/15/97 ~ 5/8/99  
 David Rush – 3/13/75 ~ 6/21/93  
 Clayton Spencer – 5/24/90 ~ 6/13/02  
 Patrick Whitehurst – 6/11/83 ~ 8/19/99  
 Joey Williamson – 9/13/69 ~ 6/20/89

We acknowledge the following love gifts  
 with deep appreciation in Memory of:

- **Christopher Deviney** ~ by  
*Allyson Deviney*
- **Candace Cota** ~ by *Richard and  
 Tonia Gingrass*
- **Schuyler Raiford** ~ by *Norm and  
 Alice Raiford*
- **Timothy Gilbert** ~ by *Betty Hilley*
- **Kevin Adams** ~ *Don and Susan  
 Adams*
- **Gary Lowder Jr.** ~ *Gary and  
 Debbie Lowder, Sr.*
- **Christopher and James L.  
 Howard** ~ *Gale Howard*
- **Charlie Guthrie** ~ *Randy and  
 Lisa Guthrie*

**Father's Day**

As this day approaches I wonder how I  
 will react. Am I still a father? I will  
 sit quietly never allowing family and  
 friends to see how I feel. I will miss my  
 son, but I can't allow myself to "break". I  
 must remain strong and always be the  
 "rock". I wish I could just let someone  
 know how much I miss my little angel.  
 How much I cry and how much I miss  
 hearing "Dad I love you." I am a father,  
 but I wonder, will I just pretend, as

usual, that it doesn't bother me?  
 Remember me, for I hurt too, on this  
 special day. TCF – Tampa, FL



**Graduation Time**

It's June and graduation time again. Your  
 child would have been among those  
 wearing the cap and gown, walking down  
 the aisle to the ever stirring "Pomp and  
 Circumstance". Now there will be a  
 vacant spot in the line. Should you  
 attend? Can you stand the pain? Will  
 people think you're strange? As always,  
 you must follow your heart. So go if  
 you'd like to, and don't hide your tears.  
 It's quite all right to miss your own child  
 while celebrating the achievements of  
 others.

Just remember that your own instincts are  
 the most important one; that no one else  
 can make this decision for you, and that it  
 doesn't really matter what other people  
 think of you. It was your child who  
 died. This is your pain, and you have the  
 right to feel it and deal with it in your own  
 way...and may a bit more healing take  
 place in the doing.

*Peggy Gibson*  
 TCF – Nashville, TN

**Greenville TCF Steering Committee Members:**

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