

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

Monthly Meeting

March 9, 2006

Always the second Thursday of the month

Topic:

“Masculine Grief: It’s Not Just for Men”.

The above short program will be followed by separate discussion groups for men and women. Men are especially encouraged to attend as we focus on this important and often misunderstood topic.

Facilitated by:

Norm Raiford

Meeting Time & Location

7:30 P.M.

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

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

- **Randall Rainey** ~ by John and Ellie Rainey
- **David S. Rush** ~ Bill and Cecilia Rush
- **Leah Renee Blackstock** ~ Tina Spring
- **Russell Lee Baldwin** ~ by Edith Bailey
- **Kevin Adams** ~ by Don and Susan Adams
- **Josh Bryant** ~ by Larry and Susan Self
- **Billy Smith** ~ by William and Jewel Smith
- **Quinn Hall** ~ by Tommie and Shelvia Nichols
- **Roger Strange** ~ by Pierce and Becky Strange
- **Christopher Michael Deviney** ~ by Allyson Deviney
- **Charlie Guthrie** ~ by Randy and Lisa Guthrie
- **Patrick Keith Poole** ~ by Sadie Poole

REMINDER: Updating Newsletter Database - The process continues of updating our database of recipients of our monthly newsletter. Approx. 90 forms have been returned. Remember, if you want to continue to receive our monthly newsletter in the mail, you must complete the green form that was sent in last month’s letter. We need to be in compliance with the National Compassionate Friends, which require us to have written permission for your child’s name to appear in our “Children Remembered” column. Even if you choose to get your Newsletter via our website, we must have the consent form signed giving us permission to print your child’s name.

April 1, 2006, any forms not received will have their name removed from our newsletter mailing database as we will assume that you no longer wish to receive a mailed copy of our newsletter. You may also complete the consent form on line at: www.tcfogreenvillesc.org



It’s the Music That Bonds the Souls

The room you once lived in - doesn’t look the same. The people who used to call you - never mention your name.

The car you used to drive, they may not make them anymore; and all the things you once treasured are boxed behind closet doors.

The clothes you set the trends by, are surely out of date. The people you owed money to have wiped away the slate.

Things have changed and changed again, since you went away. But some things have remained the same each and every day.

Like this aching in my heart – a scar that just won’t heal – or the way a special song can change the way I feel.

Brother, you must know that the music bonds us and will keep us close; because secretly I know deep in my heart it’s the music you miss the most.

So let the world keep on turning, and time can take its toll. For as long as the music keeps playing, you’ll be alive and dancing in my soul.

*Stacie Gilliam
TCF – Oklahoma City, OK*

Grief is an emotion, not a disease.

There is no timetable for recovery. But there is also no getting around the pain. Each of us has to experience the pain in order to recover from it. Our hopes and dreams may no longer be possible. We may feel hopeless and want to run away. It takes time and effort to regain the ability to function.

We must express our feelings and be patient with ourselves. The Compassionate Friends play an important role in this process. Grief is a process. Recovery is a decision. Readjustment does not come overnight. But each of us can resolve to survive – one moment at a time ----

Excerpted from “A Conversation with Rabi Earl Grollman”



Promises of Rainbows

I promise not to offer rainbows after storms or silver linings beyond the clouds. But, if you have tears of sorrow, I will share them. If you have words of anger, I will hear them. If you have moments of confusion, I will help you through them. Perhaps...your tears of sorrow today will water the seeds of tomorrow’s garden of spiritual growth, of worthy priorities, of loving relationships, and genuine understanding and compassion. My sad friend, your weeping is not fruitless.

By: Nancy Williams, TCF Central NJ

The March newsletter is dedicated to the memory of all our children...gone too soon.

- Our Children Remembered:**
- Kevin Adams – 3/19/82 ~ 3/5/99
 - Steve Bell – 3/30/55 ~ 5/6/78
 - Jeremy Brooks – 3/15/82 ~ 9/6/02
 - Josh Bryant – 3/27/80 ~ 6/18/01
 - Rivers Chandler – 1/22/91 ~ 3/6/00
 - Carey Corder – 3/15/59 ~ 2/27/03
 - Robert Davis – 3/12/80 ~ 8/3/01
 - Bryan Denny – 7/23/55 ~ 3/28/98
 - Christopher Deviney – 3/8/80 ~ 8/13/98
 - Caleb Dromm – 3/31/03 ~ 4/1/03
 - Linda N. Forrester – 3/29/48 ~ 4/28/99
 - Jessica Harris – 3/5/93 ~ 10/5/03
 - John Baron Howell – 3/9/90 ~ 3/9/90
 - Lisa Jackson – 3/20/71 ~ 8/27/00
 - Mark Medina – 1/17/58 ~ 3/24/92
 - Michael Moyd – 6/24/95 ~ 3/29/96
 - Susan Oglesby – 3/31/76 ~ 5/31/91
 - David Rush – 3/13/75 ~ 6/21/93
 - Travis Smith – 5/16/72 ~ 3/5/93
 - Roger Strange – 2/6/61 ~ 3/13/88
 - Donna Wagner – 7/12/61 ~ 3/15/04
 - Kirby Walser – 3/19/78 ~ 3/23/99
 - Timothy Wilson – 2/12/82 ~ 3/25/01



“Good Memories are the perennials that bloom again after the hard winter of grief begins to yield to hope.”

*Sascha Wagner
 TCF, Des Moines, IA*



Little Silver Spoon

Recently I came across a baby spoon, engraved “Kirby Lee Walser”. I held it in my palm, running my fingers over the engraving. Fondly remembering the hungry little boy, taking in every bite he was offered. Always smiling while eating, as squishy food drooled down his chin. My heart ached with the memory, even as I smiled.

I now use this little silver spoon as my special sugar spoon. As I slowly stir coffee in the morning, I remember my child named Kirby Lee Walser. I breathe in the warm aroma of the first cup of coffee, smile, and treasure my memories.

Nona Walser - TCF-Greenville, SC

We Are So Alike

We’re so alike, you and I.
 I lost a daughter.
 You lost a son.
 She was eight months old.
 He was thirty-seven.
 She never spoke.
 He called you every Sunday.
 She died nine years ago.
 He’s been buried two months now.
 I always look at babies.
 You see all the young fathers.
 I miss my daughter.
 You miss your son.
 You see, we’re so alike, you and I.

*By Cathy Deider,
 Algona, IA*



Fingerprints

Grieving is like a fingerprint, an impression on the skin
 No two people are alike or grieve the same within.
 Some express their sorrow through flowers, tears, or song
 It can be a unique approach; there is no right or wrong.
 Grieving has no time frame, symptoms there are many
 It could take days or months before someone feels any.
 Some may like their privacy, while others need to share
 Some may join a counseling group, some find peace in prayer.
 Some may feel more sensitive for a lot of different reasons
 Some will be affected by holidays and changing seasons.
 So if there is a special date, which causes extra sorrow
 Pamper what is felt inside and put it off until tomorrow.
 Grieving is a process that exhausts the mind and soul
 It should be done in baby steps a very gentle goal.
 Grieving is a fingerprint, someone special’s touched your heart
 Your memories are your fingerprints to express while you’re apart.
 ~By Lila Milligan, a bereaved parent

If you would like to have an article, poem, etc. printed in our newsletter, please mail to: TCF, P.O. Box 583, Taylors, SC 29687
Or e-mail to:
Janisgow@msn.com by the 25th of the month prior to the next newsletter’s release.
 (Please be sure to put “newsletter” or “TCF” in the subject line.)