

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
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Monthly Meeting

December 8, 2005

Always the second Thursday of the month

Topic:

“Open Discussion”

Our December meeting will be an open discussion for any topic, any questions that you may have.

Facilitated by:

Dick Renner

Meeting Time & Location

7:30 P.M.

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

Please note that our Chapter’s December meeting will be a regular meeting and will not be the candle light service as in the past. We will be participating in the Worldwide Candle Lighting on Sunday, December 11th at the Thomas McAfee downtown chapel.



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

- **Amanda Williams** ~ by her mother, *Julia Muirhead*
- **Schuyler Raiford** ~ by her grandparents, *Norm and Alice Raiford*
- **Jennifer Hower** ~ by her parents, *Floyd and Sharon Hower*
- **Josh Nichols** ~ by his parents, *Douglas and Judy Nichols*

The following poem was submitted by Julia Muirhead in memory of her daughter, Amanda Williams.

“My Mom is a Survivor”

By Kaye Des’Ormeaux

My Mom is a survivor, or so I’ve heard it said. But I can hear her crying at night when all others are in bed.

I watch her lay awake at night and go to hold her hand. She doesn’t know I’m with her to help her understand.

But like the sands on the beach that never wash away...I watch over my surviving Mom, who thinks of me each day.

She wears a smile for others...a smile of disguise! But through Heaven’s door I see tears flowing from her eyes.

My Mom tries to cope with death to keep my memory alive. But anyone who knows her, knows it is her way to survive.

As I watch over my surviving Mom through Heaven’s open door...I try to tell her that angels protect me forevermore.

I know that doesn’t help her...or ease the burden she bears. So if you get a chance, go visit her...and show her that you care.

For no matter what she says...no matter what she feels. My surviving Mom has a broken heart that time won’t ever heal!

Handling the Holidays

Here are several suggestions for getting the most out of the upcoming holidays. We suggest that you try one or two of them. Even though there may be some emotional pain connected with doing activities like these, we believe there will also be a special kind of healing in them.

1. Give a **SPECIAL GIFT** in memory of your child. Join the gift-giving of the holidays by giving a gift of some kind,

e.g. a flowering plant to a church or nursing home.

2. Give a **GIFT OF MONEY**, if you can afford it to either a cause that was important to your child or to a special organization of your choice.

3. **ENGAGE IN AN ACTIVITY** that you and your child especially enjoyed. You might choose to do this alone, or with other family members. (Fishing, taking a trip to a favorite place, renting a special movie, etc.)

4. During the holidays begin some kind of **NEW TRADITION OR RITUAL** that is meaningful to you. An example of this might be the lighting of a special candle during the holiday season.

5. **HAVE SOME PHOTO ALBUMS OUT**, including pictures of holidays past. Talk with others about the past and about what you are feeling now. This will bring healing and help you to become free to move into the future.

Handle the holidays and remember your child in whatever way is appropriate for you and your family. In memory of all of our special children at this special time of year, I wish peace and love for you this holiday and the coming New Year.

A Christmas Wish

By Lily de Lauder, Hollywood, CA

I’ll miss you at Christmas when laughter’s everywhere. When church bells chime in merry rhyme and frost is in the air...I’ll think of you at Christmas, of when you were with me. Of simple joys and silly toys and days that used to be.

I’ll miss you at Christmas, when children’s faces glow. And gaze in childish wonderment at lights and mistletoe.... I wish a Christmas miracle could bring you back to me. And we could be together for one more Christmas day.