

**THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**  
Post Office Box 583 Taylors, South Carolina 29687  
(864) 288-8342  
[www.tcfogreenvillesc.org](http://www.tcfogreenvillesc.org)

**November, 2003**

The following letter was received by a bereaved parent from our local area.

“Dear Compassionate Friends:”

“Thank you so much for including my husband and me in your monthly newsletter. We have not attended any meetings, but appreciate your support. Following is a poem I wrote 2 months after our infant son died of SIDS.”

**Forgive Me**

**In loving memory of Clint Garret, who died of SIDS at four months.**

Please forgive me if I seem distant and cold. It's not that I'm ignoring you. I'm painfully aware you're there. You and your five month old. You see, the old me would share in the joy of your baby so dear, but now I look away, wishing to be anywhere but here. Five months is how old he would now be. But how can I explain that to you, so happy and carefree? For most who see a baby, a smile naturally imparts. For me, a source of pain – a knife in my heart. For new moms, the diaper aisle is just another chore of the day. Funny how it's not considered a privilege until it's been taken away. I cannot escape it, the rude reminders are everywhere. Grocery stores, restaurants, playgrounds – It's a burden my heavy heart will have to bear. Do I dare tell you my story? You wouldn't know what to say. Besides, you're happy for the moment. It should stay that way. So, please forgive me if I seem

distant and cold. For behind this seemingly apathetic face is a woman who has suffered untold.  
- Tara Ann Garrett

**Thanksgiving Isn't What It Once Was**

We realize it is so hard for some of us to be “Thankful” for anything when our child has died. But we hope we can all say a prayer of Thanks for the very precious time we were allotted to spend with our child. Because it was the most important time of our lives. Their lives here, gave our lives meaning. If we had not had them at all, we would not have known the true joy of living. They were a precious gift from Heaven, and they had so much to give and blessed our lives. The love between parents and children just goes on and on. **THEY TAUGHT US THAT!** So let us lift up our eyes and our hearts and say, “**THANK YOU**” this Thanksgiving!  
*Lee and Verna Smith  
TCF, Fort Worth, TX*

**The Things I Didn't Say**

If I could sit and talk to you for just a little while.  
To say the things I wish I'd said,  
Like how I loved your smile.  
How much I loved the sight of you,  
Your voice, your eyes, your face.  
To watch you playing basketball  
And see you win a race.  
You were so much a part of me,  
The part that's gone away.  
These memories you left become  
More precious every day.  
I pray that you can hear this and  
God will let you see, The pride, the

joy, the happiness that your life has given me.  
*By Pat Fennel – In memory of her son Jack  
TCF, Montgomery, AL*

**Remember Me**

*Debbie Walters, TCF, Tulsa OK*

To the living, I am gone.  
To the sorrowful, I will never return.  
To the angry, I was cheated.

But to the happy, I am at peace.  
And to the faithful, I have never left.

I cannot speak, But I can listen.  
I cannot be seen, But I can be heard.

So as you stand upon a shore,  
Gazing at a beautiful sea . . . .  
Remember Me.

As you look in awe at a mighty  
Forest and its grand majesty . . .  
Remember Me.

Remember me in your heart,  
Your thoughts and your memories.  
Of the times we loved,  
The times we cried,  
The times we fought,  
The times we laughed.

For if you always think of me.  
I will have never gone.

The death of a child is so painful, both emotionally and spiritually, that I truly wondered if my own heart and spirit would ever heal. I soon learned that I could help myself by helping others. It wasn't until Robin died that I truly threw myself into volunteer work. That precious little girl left our family a great legacy; I know George and I care more for every living person because of her. We learned firsthand the importance of reaching out to help, because others had reached out to us during that crucial time.

**- Barbara Bush  
Former First Lady**

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The November newsletter is lovingly dedicated to the memory of Matt House by his parents, Beverly and Jack.

**OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED**

Shannon Anderson 11/14/62 – 8/1/01  
Devin Baskins 11/29/92 - 1/28/96  
Deanna Boland 11/12/63 – 7/15/90  
Cindy Esterl 11/4/77 – 12/26/88  
Eric Gow 4/6/71 – 11/4/91  
Patrick Lay 5/31/85 – 11/2/00  
Ben Morris 8/18/76 – 11/18/95  
Josh Nichols 11/15/78 – 5/3/01  
Jeremy Owens 5/15/75 – 11/12/98  
Stephanie Penland 10/30/77 – 11/25/99  
Mickey Tinsley 5/2/48 – 11/8/78  
McKala Turner 11/3/99 – 7/21/02

**MONTHLY MEETING**

Thursday, November 13th at 7:30 pm at Pelham Road Baptist Church, 1108 Pelham Road. Norm Raiford will lead this months meeting.



**Reminder:** We are meeting in the Education Building. Enter the end door of the Education Building and the room will be the first room on the left (Room 101). We will have members at this entrance to help you find it.



**A Love Song**

*Nancy Williams, TCF, Central Jersey, NJ*

The mention of my child's name may bring tears to my eyes. But it never fails to bring music to my ears. If you really are my friend, please, don't keep me from hearing the beautiful music. It soothes my broken heart and fills my soul with love.

**2003 Worldwide Candle Lighting**

*December 14, 2003*

The Worldwide Candle Lighting is held every year on the second Sunday in December, at 7:00 PM, in every time zone. As candles burn down in one time zone, they are lighted in the next, creating a 24 hour wave of light that encircles the globe in a virtual 24 hour memorial.



In connection with the Worldwide Candle Lighting, our *Community Candle Lighting* service will be held on Sunday, December 14th at 7 PM at Thomas McAfee's Downtown Chapel, 639 North Main Street, Greenville. Candles will be provided.



**Handling The Holidays**

No matter how completely you explore your alternatives, this holiday season, there will be some pain, some tears and a great deal of emotional "work". Much of the time it is normal to feel as though you are just going through the motions with none of the usual emotions. Everyday responsibilities may seem awkward and forced. But only in trying, in taking responsibilities for ourselves do we find the way from one day to the next. Christmas, Thanksgiving and all the other painful anniversaries throughout the year will indeed arrive on their appointed dates regardless of anything we say or do. We can't move magically from October to January, we can't deny that the holidays exist...and the other painful anniversaries throughout the year...all we can do is try and cope with them as constructively as possible. You can and will survive!

**TCF's December Meeting . . .**

The Greenville Chapter of The Compassionate Friends will hold its annual Candlelight Service in memory of our children during our regular monthly meeting on Thursday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 8:30 pm at Pelham Rd. Baptist Church, 1108 Pelham Rd., Greenville. Light refreshments will be served following the service.