

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Post Office Box 583 Taylors, South Carolina 29687
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Monthly Meeting

May 11, 2006

Always the second Thursday of the month

Topic:

“Handling Mother’s Day”

At this meeting, Jill will read a short poem/story about Mother’s Day and the many challenges that come with this holiday.

Please join us for a time of sharing and perhaps you can be an inspiration for the newly bereaved who are experiencing this holiday for the first time.

Facilitated by:

Jill Schmidt

Meeting Time & Location

7:30 P.M.

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

candle for the table in memory of your child. We do this to celebrate our children’s lives and to share their special day with others who understand.



Thoughts on the Month of May

The spring flowers on your grave, express the time of year It used to be a busy time...lots of happy days and cheer.

I still have all the Mother’s Day cards made of construction paper and glue. Verses written on a slant that said, “Mom, I love you.”

I’ll make no birthday cake this May, nor see the graduation of your class. The parades, ice cream socials and such are all a part of the past!

And though these weeks bring sadness, when I remember them I have to smile. May was really very special and I’m glad we had it for a while.

*Norma Herzog
TCF - Cincinnati, OH*



Mother’s Day

Since Mother’s Day is approaching there is a lot of talk about, MOTHER’S Day. This is a hard time for bereaved parents. So many ask the question if your only child died, are you still a mother? YES! You are a mother and a very special one. You will always be the mother of your child. You may no longer enjoy their laughter or the dirty finger prints on the walls, but that mother’s love is still there and will always be deep in your heart and soul. Because we loved our children the pain we have now is the price we pay. As bereaved parents we can share our children’s love with others. The love our children gave us will live in our hearts forever. So, yes indeed you are a mother.

Linda Delk - TCF Tampa

Strangers & Friends

Bereaved parents gather monthly and tell their stories again and again. The pain is evident on their faces yet strength comes deep from within. To simply attend these meetings is courageous. We enter as strangers, and we depart as friends. I’ve attended our group meetings for over four years. I never had the honor of meeting these children in life, yet I know them intimately – how each lived and how each died.

Some of us were blessed to have our children several years, and others only a few. Some children lived just a few months, days or minutes – and some never took a breath. Still, our pain and emptiness is universal.

Our grief is universally unique. As individuals our journeys lead us in many directions, yet once a month we come together, to tell our stories again and again. These strangers, these people I call friends.

Kathy Anderson – TCF, Fort Collins CO

Re-Entry Into Life

May of brilliant greens, harbinger of summer, mother of daffodils and tulips, warm my soul in your sun glow!

I am in need of that warmth, ready again to feel alive. For so long I have shut out life, unwilling to see beauty in a world without my child, unable to feel joy or love or laughter, longing only for him. I cared naught for life and would have welcomed death.

It has been a long climb, my re-entry into life. IN that climb I did not lose the pain of separation, but rather learned to assimilate it into my soul as a part of my life. I here...he there. And so I chance life again, mindful of its brevity, welcoming its brilliant colors, the song of birds, the grace of love.

L. Dolan, TCF, Greenland, NH

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

- **Jennifer Hower** ~ by *Floyd and Sharon Hower*
- **Sarah Ellis** ~ by *Rob and Jennifer Ellis*
- **Patrick Whitehurst** ~ by *J. Daniel and Trudy Whitehurst*
- **Chris Parker** ~ *Elaine and FC Frick*
- **Josh Nichols** ~ by *Linda and Douglas Nichols*



Birthday Table

Every month at our meeting, we provide a birthday table. In the month of your child’s birthday, please bring pictures and small mementos of your child to place on the table. You may also bring a favorite cake, cookies, or other snack, flowers or a

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The May newsletter is dedicated to the memory of

Our Children Remembered:

Melissa Atkinson – 8/30/75 ~ 5/6/03
Dewey Barton – 5/24/73 ~ 10/6/01
Charlie Bellinger – 1/21/79 ~ 5/22/93
Ashley Brackett – 4/26/76 ~ 4/8/98
Little Ty Couch – 10/10/96 ~ 5/10/03
Kimberly Dacus – 5/7/68 ~ 1/15/05
Jeremy Davis – 12/30/82 ~ 5/14/02
Michael Dorsey – 9/22/81 ~ 5/6/03
Timothy Gilbert – 5/30/64 ~ 9/5/87
Bryan Gregory – 5/31/71 ~ 11/25/71
James Howard II – 5/15/70 ~ 12/19/97
Brian King – 5/20/82 ~ 11/10/03
Victor Lawson – 5/13/91 ~ 7/21/02
Patrick Lay – 5/31/85 ~ 11/2/00
Mindy Massey 12/14/53 ~ 5/31/80
Josh Nichols – 11/15/78 ~ 5/3/01
Jeremy Owens – 5/15/75 ~ 11/12/98
Kim Patterson – 9/17/57 ~ 5/10/99
Amy Pieszchala – 9/2/76 ~ 5/22/01
Schuyler Raiford – 6/15/97 ~ 5/8/99
Matthew Roper – 10/7/86 ~ 5/21/02
Jose Luis Santos – 5/15/72 ~ 4/14/02
Nathan Stein – 5/7/96 ~ 10/1/99
Jonathan Trexler – 8/9/83 ~ 5/26/04
Cam Turner – 5/16/85 ~ 10/4/02
Lucia White – 5/4/79 ~ 1/29/95

card. A card of love for my mother, as this day for her is hard.

There must be some mistake I thought, every card you could imagine, except that I could not find a card, from a child who lives in heaven. She is still a mother too, no matter where I reside. I had to leave, she understands, but oh the tears she's cried.

I thought that if I wrote you, that you would come to know, that though I live in heaven now, I still love my mother so. She talks with me and dreams with me; we still share laughter too. Memories – our way of speaking now, would you see what you could do?

My mother carries me in her heart, her tears she hides from sight. She writes poems to honor me, sometimes far into the night. She plants flowers in my garden, there my living memory dwells. She writes to other grieving parents, trying to ease their pain as well.

So you see, Mr. Hallmark®, though I no longer live on earth, I must find a way to remind her of her wondrous worth. She needs to be honored, and remembered too, just as the children of earth will do.

Thank you Mr. Hallmark®, I know you'll do your best. I have done all I can do; to you I'll leave the rest. Find a way to tell her, how much she means to me, until I can do it myself, when she joins me in eternity.

*Happy Mother's Day to All the Mothers
Anne-Marie*

Prayer for Spring



Like springtime, let me unfold and grow fresh and new from this cocoon of grief that has been spun around me. Help me face the harsh reality of sunshine and renewed life as my bones still creak from the winter of my grief. Life has dared to go on around me as I recover from the insult of life's continuance. I readjust my focus to include recovery and growth as a possibility in my future. Give me strength to break out of the cocoon of my grief. But may I never forget it as the place where I grew my wings, becoming a new person because of my loss.

Janice Heil - TCF – Vancouver, Canada

A BEREAVED MOTHER IS

A Bereaved Mother is... someone who stands at a grave wondering how she is going to live the rest of her life without this child.

A Bereaved Mother is... someone who thinks she will spend the rest of her life with this horrendous feeling inside.

A Bereaved Mother is... someone who has learned how to live all over again.

A Bereaved Mother is... someone who wishes they would take Mother's Day out of the calendar.

A Bereaved Mother is... someone who has to learn to accept the loss of her beloved child and uses what she has learned to help others.

A Bereaved Mother is... someone who can again learn to smile, to look forward to the future and get excited again because her Compassionate Friends were there when she needed them.

Dear Mr. Hallmark®



I am writing to you from heaven, and though it must appear, a rather strange idea, I see everything from here. I just popped in to visit your stores to find a