

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Post Office Box 583 Taylors, South Carolina 29687

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Monthly Meeting

July 13, 2006

Always the second Thursday of the month

Topic:

The topic for this month's meeting is "Telling Our Stories." We will break into small groups of 4-6 so that everyone will be able to tell the story of their child if they want to—sharing is purely voluntary. Most of us who have lost children and grandchildren find it really helpful to tell our stories no matter how long it's been since our loved one died or how often we've told it before.

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 great appreciation in memory of:

- **Timothy Gilbert** ~ by Betty Hilley
- **Schuyler Raiford** ~ by Norm and Alice Raiford
- **Tina Collins** ~ by Mr. & Mrs. James Leitke
- **Hannah Linder** ~ by Mr. & Mrs. M.E. Linder
- **Jennifer Hower** ~ by Floyd and Sharon Hower
- **E.J. Gonzales** ~ by Wilbur and Denise Gonzalez
- **Melissa L. Rowland** ~ by Aunt Carolyn Galloway and Mother, Debra Lyday

Footprints

How very softly you tiptoed into my world - almost silently. Only a moment you stayed. But what an imprint your footsteps have left upon the heart.

Thanks!

D. Ferguson - TCF, Pocatello, ID



Would You Like to Support TCF?

If you are a BiLo shopper with a BONUS CARD; you can support TCF by enrolling in the BiLo Booster Club. TCF as a non profit organization qualifies for this program, and can earn up to \$3,000 per year.

- **How do I enroll?** Simply take your enrollment card (the bar code included in this newsletter) to a BiLo & have it scanned with your BONUSCARD. Current BiLo Booster Card Members must enroll again by scanning the bar code enrollment card.
- **When are the enrollment periods?** Enrollment opens on July 1st and closes on April 30th. Therefore, May & June are the only months you can NOT enroll in the program.
- **Do I have to use the enrollment card bar code each time I shop?** No, you only need to use it once every school year.
- **Do I have to shop at the Bio where I enrolled as a member for my purchases to count for TCF?** No. Every BiLo store is a member.
- **Do you have to be a member of TCF to participate in this program?** No. You can give friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. an enrollment card & TCF will still receive the benefits.

In Memory of Justin Hix
From his Mom Theresa Childs

This song was sung at his funeral 3 years ago.

"With Hope"

by Steven Curtis Chapman

This is not at all how we thought it was supposed to be. We had so many plans for you, we had so many dreams. And now you are gone away, and left us with the memories of your smile. And nothing we can say and nothing we can do can take away the pain. The pain of losing you, but.....We can cry with hope, we can say goodbye with hope, 'cause we know our goodbye is not the end, oh no. And we can grieve with hope 'cause we believe with hope (There's a place by God's grace), There's a place where we'll see your face again, we'll see your face again... And never have I known anything so hard to understand, and never have I questioned more the wisdom of God's plan. But through the cloud of tears, I see the Father's smile and say well done. And I imagine you, where you wanted most to be. Seeing all your dreams come true, cause now you're home and now you're free. And we have this hope as an anchor 'cause we believe that everything God promised us is true, so... We wait with hope, we ache with hope, we hold on with hope, we let go with hope.

Compassionate Friends A Safe Place to Talk



There is a need to talk, without trying to give reasons. No reason is going to be acceptable when you hurt so much. A hug, the touch of a hand, expressions of concern, a willing listener were and still are the things that have helped the most...The people who were the greatest help... were not judgmental. It's most helpful when people understand that what is needed is to talk about it and that this is part of the grief process.

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**The July newsletter is lovingly
dedicated to the memory of Amanda
Williams, by her mother Julia
Muirhead**

Our Children Remembered:

Clayton Bagwell – 7/15/79 ~ 11/7/02
Jamie Bagwell – 4/22/79 ~ 7/13/05
Russell Baldwin – 11/27/79 ~ 7/9/05
Deanne Boland – 11/12/63 ~ 7/15/90
Bryan Denny – 7/23/55 ~ 3/28/98
Quinn Hall – 7/7/82 ~ 6/22/03
Justin Hix – 1/9/81 ~ 7/19/03
Matt House – 7/20/74 ~ 11/6/92
Deborah Jolley – 12/27/61 ~ 7/24/99
Jeremy Knoke – 6/4/79 ~ 7/5/91
Victor Lawson – 5/13/91 ~ 7/21/02
Damon Leonard – 10/27/74 ~ 7/27/84
Donnie McCall – 7/22/73 ~ 1/18/04
Jeremy McIntyre – 7/20/72 ~ 1/13/99
Krystal Milwood – 7/12/83 ~ 8/28/04
Tim McKelder – 10/18/76 ~ 7/18/98
Josh Pritchett – 9/28/84 ~ 7/1/05
Melissa Rowland – 7/11/81 ~ 2/10/99
Donny Wilkinson – 8/29/72 ~ 7/5/02
Amanda Williams – 12/4/79 ~ 7/25/99

tragedy of your child's death. You may hesitate to change these plans if they involve other people. I personally, could only be with people who understood my feelings in the beginning. If the other people involved are not sensitive and understanding, you may want to reconsider your plans. Good, warm, caring friends who will allow you to be wherever it is that you are can be a great comfort. Keeping it simple with a back door through which you can escape if necessary, can be the best answer. Going away and coming home can be a problem in the beginning. Know that it is normal.

Whatever it is that you do and wherever it is that you go, I hope you will keep in mind that it won't always be this painful. IT WILL BE BETTER. Be patient. If you can find peace and enjoyment, do it. You deserve it and it doesn't mean you don't care.

*Mary Cleckley
TCF – Atlanta, GA*

parents, are fighting a battle to be free, free of the pain that has become a part of our waking days. We want to be able to enjoy life again. You are one of those proud Americans. Refuse to give up. Fight for your dream. There is peace to be found in freedom!

Still Remembering 

As I sit here at my desk today trying to think of words to say, I don't know what you're going through... I don't know how you feel.

The passing of Amanda still doesn't seem real. I pray for you daily that God will be there to help you and guide you even though it doesn't seem fair.

A life that full of love, kindness and care. The pain that you've gone through is more than a mother should have to bear. But God has her now and she's happy and free and she's probably calling down from Heaven Saying "Don't worry about me".

So if you ever need me or if there's anything that I can do all you have to do is ask and remember, I'm always here for you.

Written By Benny Jones for Ann Eckford, a close friend of Amanda's and Julia's as the 7th anniversary of Amanda's death approaches

Vacations



Vacation time is upon us again. You may be having trouble with that very thought. My only advice is to go where it is most comfortable for you. Large places with many people may not be the answer this year. The family oriented spots may make it more obvious of the one that is missing. It may be that you are locked into plans that were made before the

Fourth of July

TCF – Holmdel, NJ



Each year on the Fourth of July we celebrate the birth of a great nation. A nation of people united in a dream. It was through hope; determination and a bonded strength that the people of America strived to achieve their dream of freedom. To be a free nation. Nothing, however, is achieved without a strong will. We too, as bereaved

"The most wonderful things in life are neither seen nor touched, but are only felt with the heart." -by Helen Keller