

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Post Office Box 583 Taylors, South Carolina 29687

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Monthly Meeting

October 12, 2006

Always the second Thursday of the month

Topic:

The topic for this month's meeting is
"Handling the Holidays"

The holidays are coming! How on earth do you face holidays soon after your child has died? Yet, if you have other children, you feel obligated to make holidays special for them, to give them good memories to offset the unhappiness you're all experiencing.

These and other questions will be addressed by some of our veteran bereaved parents who have survived previous holidays. They will share their experiences and give us ideas they have found to be helpful. Please join us. Small sharing groups will follow.

Facilitated by:

Norm Raiford

Meeting Time & Location

7:30 P.M.

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



Trick or Treat

The night is dim and the pumpkins grin, at the children on the porch. The doorbell rings, "Trick or treat" they sing, My heart burn like a torch.

The Dracula's face and a princess in lace are peering in at me. How I'd love to ask "May I lift your mask?" and hiding, there you'd be!

You'd get such a kick from that silly trick, but disguised you must stay. In the wind that blows my heart still knows you're playing October charades.

*Kathi Slief
TCF, Tulsa, OK*



*May the beauty of Fall surround you,
be a source of comfort and healing.*

*May the affirmations remind you
of the joy that your loved one
brought into your life.*

~ A gift that is yours forever.



To Honor You

To honor you, I get up everyday and take a breath and start another day without you in it.

To honor you, I laugh and love with those who knew your smile and the way your eyes twinkled with mischief and secret knowledge.

To honor you, I listen to music you would have liked, and sing at the top of my lungs, with the windows rolled down.

To honor you, I take chances, say what I feel, hold nothing back, risk making a fool of myself, dance every dance.

You were my light, my heart, my gift of love from the very highest source. So everyday, I vow to make a difference, share a smile, live, laugh and love.

Now I live for us both, so all I do to honor you.

~ TCF Atlanta online sharing

"Hope isn't a place or a thing. Hope isn't the absence of pain or sadness or sorrow. Hope is possibility. Hope is the memory of love given and received."

My Cover-Up Mask



I wake in the morning with tears in my eyes. I have to face another day without my child. I prepare to go to work and put on my "cover-up mask" as I go out to face the world.

I get my work done and even chat and sometimes smile at my co-workers. And they say, "My, how well she seems to be handling her loss." If they only knew what I am suffering under my "cover-up mask." My work day is over, and I go home and remove my "cover-up mask," and the tears come again.

I go to bed, as the darkness of night envelopes me and sleep eludes me, the tears come again. I have gotten through another day without my child. I have learned I must take one day at a time for the rest of my life, since it will never be the same again.

*~Joan Watson
TCF, Salisbury, MD*



Missing You

I just can't believe it . . . The sun still rises and sets. The moon and stars still shine. The flowers still bloom. The birds still sing. I expected a change in everything. I just can't believe it . . . It still gets dark and light. The ocean still has waves. The rain still rains. The wind still blows. Is it because they do not know? I just can't believe it . . . I thought the world would stop. When in my house I found an empty chair, a missing smile. I thought it would stop for just awhile. I just can't believe it.

~Gretta Vinney, TCF Austin, TX

The October newsletter is lovingly dedicated to the memory of all our Children . . . gone too soon.

Our Children Remembered:

Michael A. Allen – 10/16/94 ~ 8/25/02
Dewey Barton – 5/24/73 ~ 10/6/01
Kelly Anne Bennett – 9/14/81 ~ 10/28/02
Devin Chumley – 10/4/03 ~ 8/20/04
Little “Ty” Couch – 10/10/96 ~ 5/10/03
Alyson P. Duncan – 6/18/84 ~ 10/16/84
Lisa Etherington – 10/9/80 ~ 2/11/00
Baron Garrett – 10/26/67 ~ 6/21/78
T.C. Gramling – 10/10/81 ~ 4/4/03
Karen M. Hayden – 10/17/69 ~ 1/19/04
Robert J. Howell – 11/11/92 ~ 10/11/93
Bobby Jones – 10/16/86 ~ 12/22/03
Damon Leonard – 10/27/74 ~ 7/27/84
Geoffrey Lowry – 10/29/59 ~ 10/1/87
Tim McKelder – 10/18/76 ~ 7/18/98
Mark Miller, Jr. – 10/4/86 ~ 6/18/98
Shane O’Sullivan – 8/12/85 ~ 10/20/03
Matthew Roper – 10/7/86 ~ 5/21/02
Jantzen Satterfield – 2/8/88 ~ 10/17/97
Rachel M. Schmidt – 1/1/93 ~ 10/25/96
Terri Thomas – 10/22/79 ~ 11/22/04
Cam Turner – 5/6/85 ~ 10/4/02
Daniel Walker – 10/18/80 ~ 9/7/01
Jason Warlick – 10/12/73 ~ 9/14/98



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

- **Matt Renner** ~ by his parents, Dick and Margaret Renner
- **Eric Gow** ~ by his parents, Tom and Janis Gow

Halloween Magic

By Nancy Cassell
TCF, Monmouth, NJ



Halloween has always been a special time. I regret that our son only had a one-time experience at this magical time of year. I remember – as though it was yesterday – the wonder in his face, how he tried to eat the candy through the mask, how he said thank you without coaxing. Then I think of all the parents whose child never had the opportunity and I am grateful for that one time.

It’s hard watching all the children trick-or-treating, and yet there is something special about this season that comforts me. As I watch the trees around me, I am reminded that there is beauty even in their dying leaves. There’s a special aroma, a breathtaking color scheme, and if you listen, a rustling in the air. I believe there is a message in fall. I believe God wants us to know that death is like a change of seasons. That our child now knows far more beauty than we can ever imagine, like the tree that lives on through the barren winter and comes alive again in spring, our children are not gone. They live!

Essence of TCF . . .

“I believe the greatest gift I can conceive of having from anyone is to be seen by them, heard by the, to be understood and touched by them.”

**Mark Your Calendars
Dec. 14th**



Our December 14th Chapter Meeting will include a *Slide Show Presentation* honoring our children. We’ve had these in the past during different times of the year and it’s always been a beautiful and moving experience for all who attend.

If your child’s picture has already been included in our presentation, there is no need to re-submit, however if you are new to Compassionate Friends and would like to have your child’s picture included in the slide show, please submit them by e-mail to: Janisgow@msn.com. Please put “TCF Pictures” in the subject line so I know this is a legitimate e-mail. You can also mail to: Janis Gow, 520 Dean Rd., Greer, SC 29651. All pictures must be received no later than **Nov 30th** in order to be included.

The death of a parent severs you from your past; the death of a spouse from your present; the death of a child from your future. The death of a sibling severs you from all three.

A sibling is part of your past and present, and you expect parents to die because they’re older. A spouse doesn’t enter your life until adulthood. Your children, though borne by you, are part of your adult life. A sibling is a part of your whole life – a sibling is a gift.