

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Post Office Box 25573 Greenville, South Carolina 29616

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THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS

Monthly Meeting

May 10, 2007

Always the second Thursday of the month

Topic:
“Open Discussions”

Facilitated by:
Norm Raiford

Meeting Time & Location
7:30 P.M.
Pelham Rd. Baptist Church,
Family Life Center
1108 Pelham Rd., Greenville, SC

New Address:



The Greenville Chapter of the
Compassionate Friends has a new P.O.
Box. Please make note of it!

**The Compassionate Friends
Greenville Chapter
P.O. Box 25573
Greenville, SC 29616**



Mother's Day

Mother's Day will soon be upon us and we mothers will be remembering our children who are absent but yet so much a part of us, filling our hearts and renewing memories. I wish for each of you a peaceful day. Yes, it will be very poignant and for the recently bereaved, more painful, but believe me, it does get better. We remember them with gratitude for having given us that most precious of all gifts – their love.

*Helen Prokop
TCF, Bridgeport, CT*

Grandparents are a Special Gift

Author unknown

Grandparents are a special gift...
God gives them to each child.
Their love outshines the brightest star ...
Their love can never be defiled.

Oh, but when a child becomes an angel,
Grandparents feel the pain and sorrow.
Beyond any pain they've known in life,
Or will ever come to know tomorrow.

For a grandparent holds a special love
For the child their child has had.
And to lose what they hold dear ...
Leaves them heartbroken and sad.

Their legacy is their grandchildren ...
So how can they learn to survive?
Will the dreams of their tomorrows
Somehow be kept alive?

Yes, a grandparent is a survivor ...
And life has taught them how to be.

Forever Together

A day will never pass when we don't
think fond thoughts of you.
We lost a son, we lost a friend, and
without you we're lost too.

You had the greatest laughter and who
could forget that smile. We feel so very
honored that God chose you as our child.

A phone call never ended, without an "I
love you". So when you're looking down
on us, remember we still do!

*Mom and Dad (Freddy Weller)
TCF - Nashville, TN*



Far beyond the clouds above
A special garden grows with love.
Special flowers of many blends
Are the children of The Compassionate
Friends.

~Sam Rosenberg

We acknowledge the following "Love Gift" with appreciation in memory of:

- **Timothy Gilbert** ~ by *Betty Hilley*



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 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.

Grief

GRIEF cannot be conquered like and enemy....

GRIEF can only be changed from pain, to hope ~ from hope to a deeper life.

Sascha

Looking Ahead

Thomas McAfee Annual Grief
Seminar
September 4, 2007, 6:45 PM
Carolina First Center
(formerly Palmetto Expo Center)
Speaker: Thomas Wolfelt, PhD

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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
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
Randall Eller – 5/4/84 ~ 6/19/02
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
Terry Reagin, Jr. – 5/3/81 ~ 5/22/06
Matthew Roper – 10/7/86 ~ 5/21/02
Jose Luis Santos – 5/15/72 ~ 4/14/02
Jason Smith – 12/16/89 ~ 5/25/06
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



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
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

For Childless Parents

I know there are many of you out there
who have no surviving children. I feel
almost apologetic for mentioning
Mother's Day or Father's Day in the May
or June newsletters, but those who have
surviving children need to have the
feelings that accompany their loss
addressed. I do want those of you who
are now childless to know we are aware of
the pain these special days bring as you
struggle to find reasons to go on. I hope
you will use the friends you have to help
you through these times. Though your
child has died, the memories of him or her
didn't die. Share them with someone who
cares, who may not know exactly how
you feel, but who cares about your pain.
I'm one of them!

*Mary Cleckley
TCF, Atlanta, GA*