

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Post Office Box 25573 Greenville, South Carolina 29616

(864) 288-9820 www.tcfogreenvillesc.org



Monthly Meeting

September 13, 2007

Always the second Thursday of the month

Topic: **Open Discussion**

Facilitated by:
Nona Walser

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:

- **Robert Ewing** ~ by Carol Ewing
- **Jeremy Brooks** ~ by Martha and Jacob Brooks
- **Tina Leitke** ~ by James K. Leitke

The Back to School Pressure Cooker

Labor Day can put siblings into their own back to school pressure cooker. Whether this is the first year, or later, our kids may be dealing with questions and comments from peers, teachers, and/or counselors about their brother or sister. Or perhaps no one is talking, because no one knows what to say. Feelings of loneliness, being different, being left out, can surface, and sibling rivalry? Remember if you will, how intense it could get between all your children. What kind of competition existed between them during the school year, or what comparisons were made; athletics, grades, friendships, extra activities?

That kind of emotion is often forgotten when a child dies. But as your children go back to the classroom, to the athletic field, they may see those reminders each

day. When they bring home these feelings, positive and negative, they need a place to express them without being judged, or compared to their sibling.

We want to remember good. But we have to remember that no child was always good! To forget that is to make a martyr of our dead child – possibly at the expense of our living children. Our surviving children need special support at this time of year, too. They need to be reassured that they are still lovable – that they can be forgiven for any anger or resentment they may feel toward their brother or sister...that perfection is not a requirement for loving. They need to be reassured that they are separate, unique individuals, not imperfect replacements for the child who died. They need a safe place to talk, to let out their own concerns and anxieties and fears. They too are grieving and need a lot of support, especially during this back to school rush.

~By Cindy Cooper, TCF St. Louis



School Days

The summer is mellowing as the days grow shorter . . . the green on the trees seem to droop and look a little duller.

The lazy days of summer take on a busy hustle . . . as families shop for school, each gets a new book satchel.

Soon the quiet streets will be filled as children gather waiting . . . the yellow bus to pick them up, oh the anticipating.

Another teachers face that greets upon their arrival . . . but the same old lessons to be learned, to them seems so trivial.

New friends to make, and old ones too, make their days fly past too soon.

But back at home a mother weeps for the child that this year misses . . .no new clothes to buy, no more good-bye hugs and kisses.

For her this joyful time just brings on more heartache . . . another school year starts, another milestone the child cannot make.

So she dries her eyes and tries to go on for the children that remain . . . but each new start, breaks her heart, it's hard to see the gain.

So if the yellow school bus brings on tears for you this year . . . don't forget your Compassionate Friends, we are always standing near.

By: Sheila Simmons, TCF Atlanta



In order for your child's name to appear in our newsletter column - "CHILDREN REMEMBERED", we must have a consent form on file. If you have not filled out one and would like to do so, please visit our website to obtain the consent form.



What Cancer Cannot Do

Cancer is so limited.
It cannot cripple love.
It cannot shatter hope.
It cannot corrode faith.
It cannot destroy peace.
It cannot kill friendship.
It cannot suppress memories.
It cannot silence courage.
It cannot invade the soul.
It cannot steal eternal life.
It cannot conquer the spirit.

*In memory of Steven Baber
by parents, Stan & Sue Baber
TCF Springfield, MO Chapter*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others be supportive

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

Our Children Remembered:

Kelly Bennett - 9/14/81 ~ 10/28/02
Kimberly Bennett - 9/12/88 ~ 8/7/89
Chase Bowen - 9/20/91 ~ 9/7/05
Jeremy Brooks - 3/15/82 ~ 9/9/02
Stephanie Corder - 9/19/56 ~ 4/25/61
Allan Dobson - 6/10/75 ~ 9/2/00
Michael Dorsey - 9/22/81 ~ 5/6/03
Jill Dunlap - 9/24/67 ~ 1/29/86
Christopher Ellison 9/25/78 ~ 1/13/04
Robert Ewing - 8/25/55 ~ 9/4/99
Timothy Gilbert - 5/30/64 ~ 9/5/87
E.J. Gonzalez - 6/16/80 ~ 9/23/00
Holden Gregory - 8/17/02 ~ 9/14/02
Tim Malone - 9/18/60 ~ 2/16/04
Olivia S. Moser - 8/26/01 ~ 9/27/01
Kim Patterson - 9/17/57 ~ 5/10/99
Amy Pieschala - 9/2/76 ~ 5/22/01
Kristen Posey - 11/15/83 ~ 9/19/02
Josh Pritchett - 9/28/84 ~ 7/1/05
Matt Renner - 9/21/72 ~ 1/13/01
Jason Satterfield - 8/2/86 ~ 9/14/04
Molly Sheridan - 4/21/89 ~ 9/7/02
John Turner III - 12/19/76 ~ 9/5/02
Daniel Walker - 10/18/80 ~ 9/7/01
Jason Warlick - 10/12/73 ~ 9/14/98
Brett Warren - 9/23/85 ~ 9/10/2005
Lynn C. Watson 9/8/71 ~ 9/9/95
Joey Williamson - 9/13/69 ~ 6/20/89



Our Many Special Days

The beginning of the school year each fall seems to signal the coming holidays. The commercial market starts stocking school supplies, just

after the 4th of July, shortly thereafter by late summer the school supplies are crowded out by all the paraphernalia of Halloween! A glimpse of Thanksgiving whizzes by and it is an all out affront on the Christmas season. After the death of our child we stumble around each year looking for the appropriate way of handling these seasons that once had so much joy to them.

But the calendar holidays are far from the only “Special Days” that bereaved parents face. Our child’s birthday and death date are especially hard days but also are the days relating to their illness or other events that relate to their death date and funeral or memorial. The most obvious days are not always the only hard days to live with. Rainy days, snowy days, starry nights can all trigger tugging emotions. Tuesday for laundry day may be the hardest day all year long!

No bereaved parent will have the same feeling of a special day or have the same special day because our children were different people to each person. Because of this, like in everything else in our grief work, we have to allow space for each other’s “bad” days.

Each passing year after the death of our child finds us relating to special days differently each year. It is a continuing process never to return to that which used to be. As the years pass and we work hard at our “grief work” we will heal but that does not

mean being like we were or doing the things we used to do. We are an evolving new person learning to live again.

Gerry Hall-TCF, South Central, MO

The Elephant in the Room

~By Terry Kettering

There’s an elephant in the room. It is large and squatting, so it is hard to get around it. Yet we squeeze by with “How are you?” and “I’m fine” ... and a thousand other forms of trivial chatter.

We talk about the weather. We talk about work. We talk about everything else – except the elephant in the room.

There’s an elephant in the room. We all know it is there. We are thinking about the elephant as we talk together. It is constantly on our minds. For, you see, it is a very big elephant. But we do not talk about the elephant in the room.

Oh, please, say my child’s name. Oh, please say her name again. Oh, please, let’s talk about the elephant in the room.

For if we talk about her death, perhaps we can talk about her life.

Can I say “Barbara” to you and not have you look away? For if I cannot, then you are leaving me
Alone
In a room
With an elephant.

