

# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Post Office Box 25573 Greenville, South Carolina 29616

(864) 288-9820 [www.tcfofgreenville.org](http://www.tcfofgreenville.org)



## Monthly Meeting

November 8, 2007

*Always the second Thursday of the month*

Topic:  
**Open Discussion**

Facilitated by:  
Robb Ellis

## 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:

- **Rachel Marie Schmidt** ~ by her Aunt Lynel, Uncle Dave, Zaria, Asher and Ella
- **Sarah Violet Ellis** ~ by Robb and Jennifer Ellis
- **Russell Baldwin** ~ by Edith Bailey



## **Butterfly Symbol**

Since early times, the butterfly has symbolized renewed life. The caterpillar signifies life here on earth; the cocoon, death, and the butterfly, the emergence of the dead into a new, beautiful and freer existence.

Frequently, the butterfly is seen with the word "Nika", which means victory. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross movingly tells of seeing butterflies drawn all over the walls of the children's dormitories in the World War II concentration camps.

Since Elisabeth believes in the innate intuitiveness of children, she concludes that these children knew their fate and were leaving us a message.

Many members of the Compassionate Friends embrace the butterfly as a symbol

and a sign of hope to them that their children are living in another dimension with greater beauty and freedom which is a comforting thought to many.

## **November Again**

Leaves are turning the shades of autumn,  
Then falling, one by one, to the misted  
ground below.

Summer flowers have faded and died,  
The sun hides behind dark and dreary  
clouds.

It is November again.

Was it so long ago that this month  
brought warm  
Thoughts of THANKSGIVING together?  
The smell of wood burning, walks in the  
nippy air?

This is the month you left us  
And all the warm glow of November went  
with you.

All that remains are the chrysanthemums  
Planted in a special memorial garden for  
you  
Ready to burst into beautiful shades of  
yellow and orange.

They symbolize one more year without  
you

But our love has not diminished.

Pat dodge  
TCF, Sacramento, CA

## **Giving Thanks**

I cannot hold your hands today,  
I cannot see your smile.  
I cannot hear your voices now,  
my children, who are gone

But I recall your faces still,  
The songs, the talks, the sights.  
And story times and winter walks,  
And sharing secret things.

I know you helped my mind to live  
Beyond your time with me.  
You gave me clearer eyes to see,  
You gave me finer ears to hear.

What living means, what dying means,  
My Children, who are gone

So here it is Thanksgiving Day.  
And you are not with me.  
And while I weep a mother's tears,  
I thank you for the gifts you were,  
And all the gifts you gave to me,  
My children, who are gone.

Sascha Wagner

## **To All Parents**

"I'll lend you for a little time a child of  
Mine," He said.  
"For you to love him while he lives, and  
mourn for when I come to claim him.  
It may be six or eight years or twenty-two  
or three.  
But will you, till I call him back, take care  
of him for me?  
He'll bring his charms to gladden you, and  
should his stay be brief,  
You'll have his lovely memories as solace  
for your grief.  
I cannot promise he will stay, since all  
from Earth return,  
But there are lessons taught down there I  
want this child to learn.  
I've looked this wide world over in my  
search for teachers true,  
And from the throngs that crowd life's  
lanes, I have selected you.  
Now will you give him all your love, nor  
think the labor vain,  
Nor hate Me, when I come to call to take  
him back again?"

I fancied that I heard them say, "Dear  
Lord, Thy will be done.  
For all the joy Thy child shall bring, the  
risk of grief we'll run.  
We'll shelter him with tenderness, we'll  
love him while we may,  
And for the happiness we've known,  
forever grateful stay.  
But should the angels call for him, sooner  
than we've planned,  
We'll brave the bitter grief that comes and  
try to understand."

by Edgar Guest

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

**Our Children Remembered:**

Pamela Askew ~ 2/18/82~11/21/00  
Clayton Bagwell ~ 7/18/79 ~ 11/07/02  
Russell Baldwin - 1/27/79 ~ 07/09/05  
Chad Bibb – 11/28/77 ~ 10/10/06  
Lindsey Boehm ~ 4/04/01 ~ 11/07/06  
Deanna Boland – 11/12/63 ~ 07/15/90  
Misty Hunter – 11/17/67 ~ 04/01/03  
Karen – 11/29/64 ~ 06/01/07  
Kyle German ~ 11/21/84 ~ 12/14/06  
Eric Scott Gow ~ 4/09/71 ~ 11/4/91  
Bryan Gregory ~ 5/31/71 ~ 11/25/71  
Matt House ~ 7/20/74 ~ 11/06/92  
Robert Howell – 11/11/91 ~ 10/11/92  
Tremaine Jackson ~ 9/4/83 ~ 11/13/06  
John R. Johnson III – 11/30/61 ~ 11/12/89  
Brian King ~ 5/20/82 ~ 11/10/03  
Kenneth Lay ~ 5/31/85 ~ 11/2/00  
Allison Leslie 11/24/80 ~ 12/18/98  
Collin Lienau – 11/11/05 ~ 11/11/05  
Benjamin Morris ~ 8/18/76 ~ 11/18/95  
Josh Nichols – 11/15/78 ~ 05/03/01  
Jeremy Owens ~ 5/15/75 ~ 11/12/98  
Kristen Posey – 11/15/83 ~ 09/19/02  
Christopher Reeves ~ 8/18/82 ~ 11/8/02  
Terri Thomas ~ 10/22/79 ~ 11/22/04  
Lynn C. Watson 9/8/71 ~ 9/9/95  
Amy Wilkinson ~ 12/3/67 ~ 11/5/00  
Joey Williamson – 9/13/69 ~ 6/20/89

**Some suggestions for Thanksgiving**

Through our lives – expectations of things to come are based upon past experience. If, in the past you had set a glorious table and were the perfect host or hostess it is very possible that friends and family will expect more of the same this year. They may not be aware that you are not looking toward the holidays with a fun and games attitude. They are probably thinking that this year will be different and some sadness will accompany it, but I don't think that they are aware of your anguish, especially if it's been "awhile."

I would like to suggest to you that in fairness to yourself you need to be honest about your feelings and, just as important, you need to communicate these feelings to those around you. I really don't think that it is necessary for you to believe that because you set a tradition, and always made the turkey, and always had the family over, you need to feel obligated to do it again this year. Perhaps you would like to tell everyone that:

- Someone else will have to make dinner this year.
- You want to make dinner in your home but you need lots of help because you don't have the energy to do it alone
- You want to go to the parties but are afraid that you may

- break down and cry and you want them to know in advance that this is really okay.
- You want to tell them that it's okay to talk about your child, "not to" makes it very uncomfortable.

The list goes on, but the point is that to pretend that everything is "just fine" is a lie, and that's not fair to you or to the people who love you.

*Diane Zamkoff  
TCF, Simi Valley, CA*

**Mark Your Calendars  
Dec. 13th**

Our December 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Janisgow@msn.com). Please put "TCF Pictures" in the subject line. You can also mail to: Janis Gow, 520 Dean Rd., Greer, SC 29651. All pictures must be received no later than **Nov 30<sup>th</sup>** in order to be included.

