



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS Newsletter

MEMPHIS, TN

MAY/JUNE 2008

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.

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*The Memphis Chapter of The
Compassionate Friends conducts meetings
on the first Thursday of each month from
7-9 p.m. at St. Louis Church located at
203 S. White Station at Shady Grove.*

*Be sure to bring a picture of your child to
the meeting. We have a table set up for the
placement of pictures of our children.*

Happy Mother's Day and Father's Day

For the newly bereaved, your first Mother's Day and Father's Day is one of the saddest holidays you will experience. As this day brings precious memories to you of your child, know that the warmth of their love will fill your heart once again; their life and memory will be never ending and nothing can take your love away. Our children will always be with us, because they will always be in our hearts.

Memphis Chapter TCF Steering Committee

TCF Meeting Topic for May – "The first gift you gave your child was their name; we will discuss how we decided on our Children's names"
Refreshments will be provided by Clint & Teresa Norwood
Jennifer Brown

TCF Meeting for June – "What's Bothering Me – Unresolved Issues"
Refreshments will be provided by Bob & Shelia Foust

TCF Memphis Has A New Web Site

Clinton Norwood has graciously accepted the position as the Web Master for the Memphis TCF Web Site. Clint and Teresa joined the Memphis Chapter in 2007 after their two year old son, Spenser passed away. Information about the Chapter can be found at tcfmemphis.org. If you would like to add your child's picture and biography please email Clint at dahrius1@yahoo.com.

Attending your first TCF Meeting can be difficult; feelings can be overwhelming. We have all experienced them and know how important it is to take the first step. We ask that you try to attend three or four meetings before deciding if TCF is right for you. TCF is an international, non-denominational group, offering support and information to bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings.

Memphis Chapter TCF Steering Committee

Next Meetings:

May 1st

June 5th



Announcements

TCF National Conference for 2008

The 31st National Conference of The Compassionate Friends will be held July 18th through July 20th in Nashville, TN. The theme for this year's conference is "Volunteers for Healing – Friends for the Future." The 2008 Conference will have special guest speakers and entertainers, more than 100 workshops covering most aspects of grief following the death of a child, and many more activities including the ninth annual two-mile "Walk to Remember" at 8am on Sunday July 20th. A pre-conference day for professionals will be held Thursday July 17th. Among the keynote speakers will be Dr. Frank R. Lewis, a surviving sibling, speaker, author and pastor who led the sibling support group of The Compassionate Friends of Las Vegas for ten years; Bruce Murakami, who bonded and teamed up in the name of safety and saving lives, with the drag racing teen who ended the life of his wife and daughter, a story that was made into the Hallmark Hall of Fame movie "Crossroads: A Story of Forgiveness"; Darrell Scott whose daughter was the first to be killed at Columbine High and started "Rachel's Challenge" in her memory, a program presented at more than a thousand high schools to inspire students to pass along kindness and compassion; and Ann Hood, bereaved parent and award winning author of nine novels including *Comfort: My Journey Through Grief*, and has been published in *Redbook*, *Parents*, *Ladies Home Journal*, and a number of other magazines. To allow everyone to be a part of the 2008 conference, the Conference Committee plans to decorate the Conference Area with 7 inch vinyl records with pictures of our TCF children. The "Sponsor a Record" program is similar to programs available in previous conferences. For a nominal charge, to help defray the cost of the conference, you can have a picture of your children, siblings, grandchildren, or loved ones pressed onto a record. The records will decorate the Registration Area and Hospitality Rooms. To participate, complete the enclosed "Sponsor a Record" order form and follow the easy instructions. Whether or not you are able to attend the conference, a child, grandchild, sibling, or loved one can still be remembered. Those attending the conference will be able to carry their record home and those unable to attend can have their record mailed to them. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Music City Hotel. Special room rates will be available for guests attending the TCF conference. Check TCF's national website for the latest information.

New Parents

The Memphis TCF Chapter has a website with information about TCF and what is happening in the Memphis Chapter. We also have a page where we have pictures and personal comments and stories about our children. If you would like to have your child's picture added to our website you will need to sign a release form which is required by our Webmaster and the National Chapter. Bring the picture and the written verbiage to our next meeting. The written verbiage needs to be prepared in WORD and saved on a disk. You can view our website at www.tcfmemphis.org. Click on "Our Children", and then click on a specific child's name.

Birthday Table

Each month we provide a Birthday Table for the parents whose children would be celebrating a birthday. We invite you to bring pictures, scrapbooks and other mementos that belonged to your child to share with your Compassionate Friends.

TCF Library

We have an extensive TCF Library that is a valuable resource for our Chapter and new parents. We ask that you check the books or tapes out by completing the check-out card in the front of the book/tape and return what you have checked out in a few months. If you have any books you would like to donate to our Library, contact Pri Morden at 274-9338.

Grief Materials

The Compassionate Friends has joined with Centering Corporation to provide resources at conferences and to our chapters. Centering Corporation is North America's oldest and largest bereavement resource company and carries more than 400 resources for grieving families and caregivers. If you would like to receive a catalog, contact Centering Corporation at PO Box 4600, Omaha, NE 68104; phone 402-553-1200 or visit their Web site at www.centering.org.

Refreshment Schedule for 2008

May – Clint & Teresa Norwood & Jennifer Brown
June - Bob & Shelia Foust
July – Joe & Rosemary Burns
August – Dianne Rhea
September – Jack & Peggy U'Ren & Ron & Wanda Gray
October – Sue Ann Duffy
November – Oliver & Claudia Ellison & Michelle Juelfs

If you would like to sign up to bring refreshments for the 2008 Meetings, contact Sue Ann Duffy, our Refreshment Chairperson at 276-4134.

Welcome To Our Meetings

Some of you who have been receiving our newsletter have never attended a meeting. We are sure your reasons are varied. Perhaps some of your reasons are fear or misconceptions. Possibility you've thought:

- I could not bear to breakdown in front of strangers. You may not know us, but we have buried a child also, we understand your tears.
- The group might be only for parents who have lost their babies, young children or teenagers. OR my child could be 27 or 35 or 40, we have no age limit and parents come who have lost children of all ages.
- My child has been dead for years, it's probably only for parents whose children have recently died. There is no time limit on bereavement; we're here for as long as you need support.
- They probably would expect me to talk about losing my child, and I do not feel comfortable talking about it. There is absolutely no pressure to talk about your child's death, We make sure your are not uncomfortable in anyway. Perhaps you just want to listen. Most of us have felt that way at one time or another.
- What would they think if they knew my child died by a drug overdose or suicide or my carelessness? We are here to support, not judge or condemn. Death carries with it feelings of guilt which all of us struggle with, it does not make any difference how your child died, we are all bereaved parents.
- I'd like to go, but I know my husband/wife will not go with me. People grieve in different ways and may have a need of a different support group. We have parents whose spouses do not attend meetings as well as single parents. You are always welcome to bring a friend.

Memphis Chapter TCF Steering Committee

We Don't Get Over the Death of a Child; We Integrate It

We don't "get over" the death of our child, we integrate it. Webster says to integrate means to "take into a whole, to unify." We make the experience of our child's death an integral part of the whole of our lives. When I was a kid I loved to swing. There was a park not too far from our home, and whenever I could, I'd go there and swing for hours. At this moment I can almost feel the exhilaration of swinging in the air. I can visualize how the sky looked through the tree on the upward flight, the thrill of the downward arc and the sight of how far off the ground I was when the swing took me high on the other side. I never "got over" the thrill of swinging. I integrated it. Today, the sight of a swing brings back this part of my childhood. There have been other experiences in my life, both happy and sad, that are brought back to me by similar experience. This is what it means to integrate our child's death into our lives. Though the joy of swinging as a small child will never be as great as it was when I was ten, the sight of a swing will always affect me. And though the pain of my son's death is not as great after these many years, for the rest of my life many things will remind me that he died. Before our child died, when we heard of the death of a child, we felt sorry for a time, but we were affected very little by it because we had no personal experience with a child's death to add to this knowledge. But now, when we hear of a child's death, we are immediately brought back to the pain we felt. We do not remain in that pain for any length of time, but

because we had this experience in our past, it is part of the whole of our experiences. We are more affected by it than a person who has not had that experience. I think when people talk of "getting over" our child's death, they mean getting over the outward manifestations of grief. Certainly if we have worked through our grief, in the years after our child has died, we will not cry constantly, we will not have the need to express our anger or guilt, we will be able to function as we did before he/she died, but we will not be "over" the feeling that our family is no longer complete. These, and many other thoughts, will stay with us as long as we live. They become a part of the whole of us. The experience of our child's death and the years of grief that follow will be integrated with our other experiences, and just as every other experience we have had will affect our feelings, thoughts and behavior, so will the death of our child.

Margaret Gerner



I Went to a Party

I went to a party, and remembered what you said. You told me not to drink, Mom so I had a Sprite instead. I felt proud of myself, the way you said I would, that I didn't drink and drive, though some friends said I should. I made a healthy choice, and your advice to me was right, the party finally ended, and the kids drove out of sight. I got into my car, sure to get home in one piece, I never knew what was coming, Mom, something I expected least. Now I'm lying on the pavement, and I hear the policeman say, the kid that caused the wreck was drunk, Mom, his voice seems far away. My own blood is all around me, as I try hard not to cry. I can hear the paramedic say, this girl is going to die. I'm sure the guy had no idea, while he was flying high, because he chose to drink and drive; now I would have to die. So why do people do it, Mom, knowing that it ruins lives? And now the pain is cutting me, like a hundred stabbing knives. Tell sister not to be afraid, Mom tell Daddy to be brave, and when I go to heaven, put Daddy's Girl on my grave. Someone should have taught him, that it's wrong to drink and drive. Maybe if his parents had, I'd still be alive. My breath is getting shorter, Mom, I'm getting really scared. These are my final moments, and I am so unprepared. I wish that you could hold me Mom, as I lie here and die. I wish that I could say, "I love you, Mom!" so I love you and good-bye.

Mother's Against Drunk Driving

A life that touches the hearts of others goes on forever.

Some years ago, I was the Senior Chaplain at Huguley Memorial Medical Center in Ft. Worth, Texas. One of my responsibilities was to conduct Grief Recovery classes four times a year. Each class lasted five weeks and met one night a week. One year, there was a woman who attended every session I held. With each new class, she would show up with a different person and would attend with that person for all five sessions. At the next class, she would be back, but would be accompanied by a different person. My curiosity got the best of me so I sought her out after the session one evening. When asked why she kept coming back to the classes, she told me her story. She had three sons; the youngest was about three and very close to her. They did everything together. One of the things they did together was make banana muffins. If she had some bananas that were getting too ripe, she would bake banana muffins and her young son would sit on the counter to “help.” He would crack the eggs without getting eggshells in the mix. He loved baking banana muffins with his mother. One day, this young son was outside playing with his two older brothers when his mother noticed that the bananas were getting extra ripe. She wanted to bake muffins and started to call the young son in to help. However, when she saw how much fun he was having with his older brothers, she decided to make the muffins without him. When he came in from playing and discovered that Mom had made the banana muffins without him, he was very unhappy. He was supposed to help Mom make muffins. Mom apologized and promised that he could help the very next time. It was right after this that the young son was involved in an accident and died. His Mom was devastated! She was inconsolable. As the months passed, she slipped into a dark depression. Eventually, she attended our Grief Recovery class. During the first evening, I told those in attendance that one of the steps to recovery involved “saying goodbye” to the relationship that they once had with the person they are now grieving. We don’t say goodbye to our love or our memories, but to the relationship as it once was. The relationship now exists in our memories and in our love. We must say goodbye to the old relationship and adjust to the new relationship of love and memories only. It is necessary to withdraw the emotional energy we once invested in that relationship and reinvest it elsewhere. We don’t do this all at once. It often happens in stages. I encourage people to begin with a part of the relationship that is less tender and to say goodbye to their loved one in the capacity of the relationship alone. Then, when they are ready, they are to choose another aspect of the relationship. For example, one woman said goodbye to her husband as the man who always took out the garbage. She said goodbye to him as the “garbage man” before she eventually said goodbye to him as her husband, the father of her children, and the grandfather of her grandchildren. When I explained this to the class, this Mom grew upset and angry. In her heart, she felt she could never say goodbye to any part of her relationship with her young son. She left the meeting that evening in greater pain than ever before.

That night, she couldn’t sleep. She got up at two in the morning and walked around the house crying. Eventually, she walked into the kitchen and noticed that the bananas were getting extra ripe. Without realizing what she was doing, she automatically began to make banana muffins. It wasn’t until it was time to break the eggs that it hit her that this was her young son’s job, and she had promised him that he could help the very next time she made the muffins. A very sick feeling came over her, and pain gripped her heart unlike anything she had ever experienced before. In desperation, she decided to try to do as I had instructed. So she looked up at the ceiling, calling her young son’s name, and said, “I love you with all my heart and I always will love you. But on the face of this earth as we now know it, we will never again make banana muffins together. So I must say goodbye to you as my “banana-muffin-making-buddy.” “Goodbye, my son.” She then sat down on the floor of her kitchen and cried for another thirty minutes. However, it was then that she found some relief and was able to go to bed and fall asleep. A few days later, she was able to say goodbye to another aspect of her relationship with her young son, and then another. Eventually, her depression lifted. “Now,” she said, “I have a new ministry. Every time someone in my church or in my neighborhood has a loss, I wait a few days after the funeral and then I bake banana muffins. I put the muffins in a pretty basket and take them to their house and say, This is a gift for you. They are banana muffins and there is a story behind the muffins. When you are ready, I’ll tell you the story.” Then she leaves. Later, as their grief begins to set in, she tells them the story of her young son, and then she brings them with her to Grief Recovery classes. She sits with them through every class and helps them with their grief. This woman took the most horrific loss anyone can ever experience, the loss of a child, and turned it into a blessing for others. She has turned her own experience of loss into an experience of God’s grace for others.

Mike Tucker, Pastor

Faith for Today Television

Article submitted by Dr. & Mrs. Roger Bennett, in memory of their grandson, Andrew Taylor Bennett

Mothers and Fathers

A mother’s love for children is a very special thing, filled with all the many days that motherhood can bring. Days when children misbehave and try your patience; days when they are sweet and kind and let their loving feelings show. A father’s love for children is very strong and pure. There’s no problem that a child may have which a father cannot cure. A parent’s love for child is a never ending thing. It lasts from day to day and year to year, through summer, winter, fall and spring. That special love continues still when someone’s child has died, for the feelings that a parent has are impossible to hide.

Jean Hotopp TCF, Fox Valley, IL

You once did something for me more meaningful than the greatest of deeds; you held me in your arms and let me cry.

Bonnie Jison TCF, Topeka, KS

Twelve Ways to Deal with Your Grief

- **Light a Candle:** A candle can be placed in a window or by a special chair and lit every night. View this as a symbolic form of love's light continuing.
- **Plant a Tree:** Place a tree in your yard or in a favorite place your loved one liked to visit. Planting a tree gives a constant, growing reminder of the continuation of life and it's many circles.
- **Write in a Journal:** Buy a special book for journaling. Express yourself by recording feelings and releasing grief. Journaling is secret, safe and healing.
- **Make a Memory Box:** Take a shoebox or a small box. Decorate it with items that hold memories. Inside the box put things that remind you of your loved one. You might want to add a little note why this item is so special. Keep it for yourself, or pass the memories on to a person that might enjoy them.
- **Plant Flowers:** Planting favorite flowers or plants, either in your own yard or at the burial site, can help heal grief and create beauty. If this is not possible, donate flowers to a park, school, or public place in memory of your loved one.
- **Tell a Story:** On special anniversaries and holidays tell a story about your loved one that had impact and meaning to you. Stories help you treasure the memories and pass on important messages to others of all generations. Love shines through unique tales.
- **Make a Scholarship:** Give money to a local school in the name of your loved one. See the joy it brings as each year a student receives a scholarship in your loved one's name.
- **Sing a Song:** On the anniversary of your loss sing your loved one's favorite song(s) with other family members and friends. Music helps heal pain that normal words can't touch.
- **Give to a Charity:** Each year make a donation to your loved one's favorite charity in their name. If you prefer donate a book to your local library.
- **Celebrate with a Meal:** On the eve of your loved one's birthday make their favorite dinner and invite friends and family over to share. Tell stories about your loved one, or pass around pictures of times you enjoyed together.
- **Sharing with the Children:** After sharing stories or photos with children or grandchildren, ask them to draw a picture about it. Frame the pictures or place them on the refrigerator with magnets. Draw a picture yourself. Let the child come alive.
- **Volunteer your Time:** Do volunteer work on an issue or cause that held special meaning for your loved one and dedicate that service to their memory. Or, do a walk or run for a worthy cause as a memoriam.

Kelly Baltzell, M.A. & Karin Baltzell, Ph.D.



Some Common Thoughts Following the Death of Your Child

- It is not uncommon to feel bitterness or a sense of injustice when one loses a child. So if you find yourself thinking, Why me?, Why my child?, Why our family?, you are in good company.
- Some parents describe “an irrational sense of self-blame” following the death of a child. I never was able to figure out what a rational sense of self-blame might be. But I do know that many of us blame ourselves. We replay the what-ifs of our child's life and death a thousand times a day. Almost always self-blame is misplaced.
- Grief over the loss of a child lasts longer than any other kind. It heals more slowly and causes the most monumental disruption for those who survive. This is because a child is a part of what psychologists call our internal psychological structure, meaning that in a way, part of the parent dies too.
- Most experts believe that loss and helplessness are the greatest tests any human can face. A child's death is off the charts in both categories.
- You may be strong, smart and highly resilient, but nothing can prepare you for the loss of a child.
- One reason the loss feels so enormous is that a child's death violates an implicit generational contract, that our own children will survive us.
- A child's death also challenges the fundamental instinct of parents to protect their child. That is what we are supposed to do, isn't it? To make the world safe? The feeling that we have failed to do so can haunt us, compounding our sadness.
- In an era of medical miracles, we are less culturally conditioned to expect a child's death than in previous generations. On the contrary, the prevailing assumption is that science and technology can and will work wonders.
- Some experts estimate that in the face of a child's death two years is a reasonable grieving period. Others double that figure. The truth is, it takes as long as it takes, sometimes a whole lifetime. But if you are lucky, the grief will transmute. Even its physical properties will transform. Its weighty presence abates. The grief becomes gentler, less terrifying and sometimes paradoxically rather sweet.

*Taken from After the Darkest Hour the Sun Will Shine
Again Elizabeth Mehren*

Memory heals and encourages us to face the future. Memory does not ignore that fact that our loved one is dead; but it does give us a continuing hold on that beloved life. Properly used, memory can lift us above the finality of death.

Eldyn Simons



OUR CHILDREN LOVED AND REMEMBERED

MAY 2008

Amanda "Mandy Taylor Smith
5/6/83 - 9/21/00
Ashley Nicole Bivens
5/23/86 - 8/3/01
Olivia Grace Rogers
3/27/02 - 5/17/02
Aubrey William Brown
12/13/04 - 5/20/05
Devon Trace Callonas
5/22/02 - 7/30/02
David Martin Gurley
12/2/68 - 5/27/03
Charles Edward Woodson
5/12/49 - 1/26/98
Debbie Daniel Stewart
5/23/60 - 9/23/98
Joseph Gerard DePete, III
5/30/81 - 8/3/06
Jamie Elaine Doyle
4/28/76 - 5/5/02
Jackson Reese Dunathan
5/4/04 - 9/19/05
Scott Alan Elrod
5/7/82 - 4/4/00
Raytheon "Ray" D Perry
12/7/92 - 5/19/06
Robert Andrew "Drew" Lawrence
5/25/84 - 10/9/99
David Allen Gregory
5/2/84 - 10/6/02
David Bond Haggard
5/21/90 - 10/8/05
Robert Andrew "Drew" Lawrence
5/25/84 - 10/9/99
Christopher Michael Hamsley
5/11/81 - 10/6/02
Matthew D. Hindman
5/18/96 - 12/30/01
Jeremy Huckaba
11/8/72 - 5/7/02
Jocelynn Sarah Tina Holmes
5/9/02 - 4/26/03
Jordan Lincoln Killen
2/10/81 - 5/19/02
Amy Allison Kirk
5/12/69 - 8/15/87
Robert Andrew "Drew" Lawrence
5/25/84 - 10/9/99
Norris Williamson McGhee, Jr.
5/4/04 - 6/10/06
Arthur Dillin Mackey, IV
5/22/96 - 8/10/96
Lt. Gregory F. Medlin
5/22/72 - 11/2/03
Daniel Alexis Muldrow
3/28/83 - 5/30/00
Andrew Wade Pate
7/15/77 - 5/9/05
Aubrey William Brown
12/13/04 - 5/20/05
Joseph Nathaniel Plescher
12/20/94 - 5/13/95
Eric Gregory Porter
5/12/77 - 7/8/91
Jason David Rhea
8/28/73 - 5/11/07
Lindsey Beth Preston
11/18/79 - 5/21/97
Lauren Elizabeth Tallo
11/29/85 - 5/9/04
Graham Ross Templeton
5/7/96 - 6/14/99
Natalie Emma Elizabeth Thomas
4/17/92 - 5/4/92
Michael Dewayne Simon
10/6/72 - 5/29/03
Andrew Pierce Wells
7/4/96 - 5/26/03
Justin Lee Whirley
5/19/83 - 5/19/85
Kelly Clayton Wilson
5/1/79 - 5/31/03
Stacey Woodall Ward Sullivan
1/16/63 - 5/12/96
Kyle William Kiihnl
3/20/85 - 5/5/02
Julie Anne Young
7/17/80 - 5/2/98

Ronny & Teri Anderson
Gary & Betty Bivens
Jerry & Yvonne Bohnert
Steve & Jennifer Brown
Penny Callonas
Melanie Chase
Judy Craig
Sam & Sylvia Daniel
Colleen DePete
James & Virna Ruth Doyle
Karen Dunathan
Larry & Gwen Elrod
Lenora Faye Eubanks
Bob & Betsy Friedl
Cindy Gregory
Warren & Cindy Haggard
Bob & Betsy Halfacre
Keith & Debra Hamsley
Kathy Hindman
Frankie Huckaba
Karen Johnson
Bill & Martha Killen
Bob Kirk
Ron & Regina Lawrence
Norris & Lauren McGehee
Amy McOwen
Liz Medlin
Toni Muldrow
Brian & Renee Pate
Mary Brown Pearson
Paul & Gloria Plescher
Ron & Dorris Porter
Dianne Rhea
Bob & Dena Stoudt
Richard & Lajuan Tallo
Dale & Linda Templeton
Herbert & Libby Thomas
Larry & Carolyn Watson
Fred & Deb Wells
John & Anne Whirley
Clayton & Susan Wilson
Bettye Woodall
Kathi Wright
Fran Young

JUNE 2008

Kevin Ryan Arnold
8/12/84 - 6/1/03
Jerome Patrick Randolph, Jr.
11/9/93 - 6/17/04
Emily Ann Barbre
7/9/01 - 6/12/02
Cary Kyle Bilderback
6/20/70 - 1/13/89
Rachel Marie Blackard
9/8/83 - 6/12/00
Charles Samuel Bobbitt
6/4/78 - 2/25/04
Kevin Thomas Byrd
6/23/70 - 7/10/02
Eric R. Calvin
6/19/88 - 4/11/01
Thomas Dwyer
12/5/77 - 6/9/93
Justin Michael Davis
11/27/76 - 6/7/06
Brandon Gregory Ermert
6/20/76 - 6/6/96
Cullen Lee Waddell, III
6/29/83 - 4/24/03
Lonnie "Paul" Cofer, Jr.
6/7/68 - 8/9/86
Adrienne Michelle Fryer
6/7/84 - 1/28/01
Nora Garber
10/3/89 - 6/12/97
Jennifer Anne Gafford
4/10/78 - 6/20/99
Jeremy Carlton Gingery
6/14/82 - 3/18/06
Mark Lowrey Haynie
7/14/72 - 6/19/03
Sara Jo Hedrick
8/17/80 - 4/13/01
Ellen Sarah Hyman Rose
6/5/46 - 3/1/96
Jordan Antoine Jarjoura
8/13/80 - 6/22/88
Jordan Zachariah Jones
12/9/94 - 6/3/07
Rebecca Merri Cooper Klyce
6/17/83 - 12/31/00
Neal Andrew Lawson
10/8/78 - 6/26/00
Charles Samuel Bobbitt
6/4/78 - 2/25/04
Brandon Eugene Logan
2/2/76 - 6/29/99
Seth Matthew Rowan
6/11/79 - 8/19/94
Rachel Jill McFarland
6/9/95 - 2/19/98
Norris Williamson McGehee, Jr.
5/4/00 - 6/10/06
Aaron Scott German
6/10/85 - 4/23/04
Caden Nathaniel Myers
6/30/00 - 7/1/00
Calen Seth Myers
6/30/00 - 7/1/00
William "Parker" Page
10/27/77 - 6/9/93
Angel Faith Parks
6/11/02 - 6/11/02
Aaron Scott German
6/10/85 - 4/23/04
Shannon Smith
6/16/00
Tina Spence
7/18/56 - 6/25/98
Graham Ross Templeton
5/7/96 - 6/14/99
Jordan Zachariah Tuggle
12/9/94 - 6/3/07
Cullen Lee Waddell, III
6/29/83 - 4/24/03
Joshua Lee Thorne
6/8/72 - 10/13/00
William Carl Sloan
1/17/69 - 6/17/06
Samantha Williams
7/11/86 - 6/26/01
Eric Flynn Wolf
3/26/70 - 6/14/99
Steven Andre Woodard
6/25/80 - 3-24-02

Richard & Cheryl Arnold
Tabb Ballard
Matthew & Johanna Barbre
Gary & Nancy Bilderback
Randy & Patti Blackard
Mike & Karen Bobbitt
Charlotte Byrd
Teresa Calvin
Ann Dwyer
Oliver & Claudia Ellison
Steve & Sue Ermert
Randy & Kelly Fears
Bob & Shelia Foust
Dwight & Linda Fryer
Lillian Gaber
Lee Anne Gafford
Jean Gingery
Robert Haynie
Mike & Donna Hedrick
Jerry & Estelle Hyman
Peter & Jody Jarjoura
Ernest & Shirley Jones
Brig & Ellen Klyce
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 **LOVE GIFTS** 

Love Gifts are tax-deductible donations to the Chapter in memory of your child, grandchild or sibling or in honor of a loved one or friend. Our Chapter depends on these donations to help us reach out to others by sending the newsletter, purchasing books, brochures, and tapes/videos for our library, educating others about what we do and maintaining our relationship with the TCF National Chapter. Thank you for your support.

<p style="text-align: center;">Joyce Nordan In memory of her son's Birthday James Earl "Jim" Nordan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bob & Betsy Friedl In memory of their son Drew Lawrence Happy 24th Birthday May 25th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Larry & Gwen Elrod Brian & Rebecca Elrod In memory of their son and brother Scott Alan Elrod on his 26th Birthday</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lucy Pennebaker In memory of her son Wade Robinson Pennebaker</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Hyman In memory of their daughter Ellen Rose Death Anniversary 3-1-96</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jere & Jan Ferguson In memory of their daughter Sarah Ferguson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ronny & Teri Anderson Mandy Taylor Smith Birthday 5-16-83 Death Anniversary 9-21-00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Steve, Jennifer & Wesley Brown In memory of their son and brother Aubrey Brown 12-13-04/5-20-05 3rd Birthday to Heaven</p>
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In memory of Scott Alan Elrod
5-7-82 – 4-4-2000

Last night while I was trying to sleep, my son's voice I did hear. I opened my eyes and looked around, but he did not appear. He said, "Mom, you've got to listen, you gotta understand; He didn't take me from you Mom, He only took my hand. When I called out in pain that night, the instant that I died, He reached down and took my hand, and pulled me by His side. He pulled me up and saved me from the misery and pain. My body hurt so badly inside I could never be the same. My search is really over now, I've found happiness within. All the answers to my empty dreams and all that might have been. I love you all and miss you so, and I'll always be nearby. My body's gone forever, but my spirit will never die! And so you must go on now. Don't be mad, just understand, He didn't take me from you Mom, He only took my hand."

Barb Johnson

My Son - Mark Lowrey Haynie
7-14-72 – 6-19-03

A beautiful rose, one of the special roses; a young man whose

pedals fell away too early; but yet, beauty that will last forever.

Robert L. Haynie

A Father's Pain

Should the sweet remembrances of those things which so delighted us when he was alive only afflict us now? Since he gave us so much pleasure when we had him, so we ought to cherish his memory and make that memory a glad rather than a sorrowful one. Because one page of your book is blotted, do not forget all the other leaves whose reading is fair and whose pictures are beautiful. We should not be like the miser who never enjoys what he has, but only bewails what he loses.

Written by Plutarch; a Greek Writer, 46-125 AD, on the death of his son who completed suicide.

In memory of Drew Lawrence
5-25-84 – 10-9-99

Sometimes when just one person is missing the whole world seems so empty.

You may send your Tax-deductible Donation to: **The Compassionate Friends**
P. O. Box 38653
Germantown, TN 38183-0653

Child's Name _____

Parent's/Grandparent's/Friend(s) Name _____

Love Gift (Any Donation Amount) _____

In Memory Of _____

On The Occasion Of _____

Child of Mine

I'll lend you for a little time a child of Mine, He said. For you to love the time he lives and mourn for when he's dead. It may be six or seven 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 shall his stay be brief, You'll have his lovely memories as solace or 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 the wide world over in my search for teachers, true, And from the throngs that crown 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 and take him back again? I fancied that I heard them say: Dear Lord, Thy will be done. For all the joy this 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 shall the angels call for him much sooner than we've planned, we'll brave the bitter grief that comes and try to understand.

Unknown

The Chosen Mothers

Most women become a mother by accident, some by choice and a few by habit. Did you ever wonder how mothers of a child with life threatening illnesses are chosen? Somehow I visualize God hovering over earth selecting his instruments for propagation with great care and deliberation. As He observes, He instructs His angels to make notes in a giant ledger; finally he passes a name to an angel and says, "Give her a child with cancer." The angel is curious; "Why this one, God? She's so happy." "Exactly",

smiles God, "Could I give a child with cancer a mother who does not know laughter? That would be cruel." "But does she have patience?" asks the angel, "I don't want her to have too much patience or she will drown in a sea of self-pity and despair. Once the shock and resentment wears off, she will handle it." "I watched her today," said God. "She has that feeling of self-independence that is so rare and necessary in a mother. You see, the child I'm going to give her has it's own world. She has to make it live in her world and that's not going to be easy." "But Lord, I don't think she believes in you," said the angel. "No matter, I can fix that; this one is perfect, she has just enough selfishness." The angel gasps, "Selfishness! Is that a virtue?" God nods. "If she can't separate herself from the child occasionally, she'll never survive. Yes, here is the woman I will bless with a child less than perfect. She doesn't realize it yet, but she is to be envied. She will never take anything her child does for granted. She will never consider a single step ordinary, I will permit her to see clearly the things I see; ignorance, cruelty, prejudice, and allow her to rise above them." "And what about her patron saint" asks the angel; His pen poised in mid-air. God smiles and says, "A mirror will suffice."

From a Mother at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital



The Compassionate Friends

P.O. Box 38653

Germantown, TN 38183-0653

May/June 2008



Our Next Meetings: May 1st, June 5th

Printing of our newsletter is provided by Paulsen Printing Company, Jim and Judy Paulsen, Owners; In Loving Memory of their son Randy.