



**THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS**
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Fall 2008

Newsletter of the Atlanta Chapter

"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."

Atlanta Area Web Site

www.tcfatlanta.org

TCF Atlanta Newsletter

1364 Sanden Ferry Drive
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The Atlanta Chapter of The Compassionate Friends meets the second Tuesday of each month from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. at the:

**First Christian Church of Atlanta
4532 LaVista Road, Tucker, GA 30084**

**Winter Chapter Meetings:
October 14, November 11 and December 9**

The Atlanta Chapter also offers a Sibling Group at the same time as our regular monthly meeting.

The Compassionate Friends, Inc. is a mutual assistance, self-help organization offering friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved families. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child of any age, from any cause is welcome. Our meetings give parents an opportunity to talk about their child and about their feelings as they go through the grieving process. There is no religious affiliation. There are no membership dues. The purpose of this support group is not to focus on the cause of death or the age of the child, as it is to focus on being a bereaved parent, along with the feelings and issues that evolve around the death experience of a child.

To Our New Members

Coming to the first meeting is the hardest, but you have nothing to lose and everything to gain! Try not to judge your first meeting as to whether or not The Compassionate Friends will work for you. At the next meeting you may find just the right person or just the right words said that will help you in your grief work.

To Our Members Who are Further Down the 'Grief Road'

We need your encouragement and your support. Each meeting we have new parents. THINK BACK – what would it have been like for you at your first meeting if there had not been any TCF "veterans" to welcome you, share your grief, encourage you and tell you, "your pain will not always be this bad, it really does get better!"

**YOU NEED NOT WALK ALONE.
WE ARE THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**



Atlanta (Tucker) Chapter
28th Annual
Candlelight Remembrance Service
Saturday, December 6, 2008
Centerpieces and Poinsettias for Sale

Sponsor a Centerpiece or Poinsettia
"In Memory of Your Child/Sibling/Grandchild"

Please consider sponsoring a centerpiece or poinsettia for our December candlelight service. We will display a sign "In Memory of Your Child/Sibling/Grandchild" next to each sponsored centerpiece or poinsettia. We also will include a photo of your child, if a photo is provided. After the reception, you can take the centerpiece or poinsettia home with you as a special remembrance. If you cannot attend the candlelight service, your centerpiece/poinsettia will be donated to a newly-bereaved family to take home after the reception.

The cost of a centerpiece or poinsettia is \$30.

The net proceeds from this fundraiser will help support our annual candlelight remembrance service.

Your Name (Full Name as you would like it to read on the Memory Card)

Card will read: Sponsored "In Memory of _____"

I want to sponsor a: _____centerpiece _____poinsettia

Please check: _____ \$30 (centerpiece or poinsettia) \$_____ Additional contribution to go toward the candlelight service

If you want to include a picture of your child to be displayed with the centerpiece and Memory Card, please do. The picture will be returned after the service.

Please make your check payable to: "The Compassionate Friends" and mail, along with completed form, to:

The Compassionate Friends
c/o Jayne Newton
808 Brentway Court
Lilburn, GA 30047

The deadline for ordering centerpieces/poinsettias is November 15. If you are ordering more than one centerpiece/poinsettia, please complete a separate form for each Memory Card.

All centerpieces/poinsettias need to be picked up at the end of the reception. If you cannot attend the candlelight service, it will be donated to a newly-bereaved family to take home after the reception.

If you have questions, please call Cindy Durham at 770-938-6511 or e-mail cindy_durham@bellsouth.net

TCF Candlelight Service

Candlelight Service Set for Dec. 6 at First Christian Church of Atlanta

The 28th Annual Candlelight Service honoring the memories of our children and siblings will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. at the First Christian Church of Atlanta. The church is located at 4532 LaVista Road in Tucker.

Our speaker that evening will be Elaine Grier, RN, MS, CCRN. Elaine is an assistant professor of adult nursing at Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University. She teaches nursing students about the experience of grief throughout their baccalaureate curriculum and has developed a nursing course entitled "Caring in Times of Death, Dying and Bereavement."



Elaine also has a very strong connection with our Atlanta Chapter. For seven years, she served as co-chapter leader of our Atlanta Chapter of TCF. She has spoken locally, nationally and internationally about the experience of parental bereavement and has published many written works about the loss of a child.

Elaine is the mother of four sons: Adam, Philip (deceased), Roman and Sam. She is also the proud "Ya Ya" of baby Jackson Philip Grier, who shares his uncle's name. She lives in the Tucker community.

Her presentation at our Candlelight Service will be **"These Things I Know for Sure: Reflections on the Holiday Season."**

Our sibling speaker for this year has not been determined yet. If there is a sibling from our chapter who would like to share with our chapter that evening or if there is someone you would like to suggest that our planning committee consider inviting, please contact Cindy Durham – cindy_durham@bellsouth.net. We hope to have our sibling speaker determined soon and will post this information on our chapter's web site as soon as possible.

Decatur Civic Chorus

We feel honored to announce that about 50 members from the Decatur Civic Chorus, one of the oldest continuing Choral groups in the Southeast, will sing at this year's Candlelight Service. The choir includes Joe Hobbs, one of our chapter's co-leaders.

Civic is in the name of the choir for a reason, as the Chorus is organized to not only bring quality concerts to the public, but to also provide benefit concerts for groups such as The

American Cancer Society, Red Cross, Scottish Rite Childrens' Hospital, etc.

The DCC has been recognized on state, national and international levels. Commended for its service to the State of Georgia by Gov. Zell Miller and the Georgia Senate and House of Representatives, the Chorus also has been recognized by the U.S. House of Representatives. The President of the United States also has praised the Chorus for its gifts of time and talent to the community.

The Chorus has been heard throughout Southeastern U.S. in churches and hospitals, and has appeared in concerts at Disney World, World's Fairs in Knoxville and New Orleans, Spoleto in Charleston, and in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. One of the Chorus' concert highlights was appearing with the Mexican National Symphony in the Palace of Fine Arts in Mexico City, Mexico.

The Chorus is a very unique Choral group – not only because of its 60 years of quality concerts, but also because it brings to the community the true sense of volunteerism – the giving of time and talent. Mary Anne Sharp is director and Evelyn Arnn is accompanist.



Visit the Decatur Civic Chorus Web site for more information: <http://www.decaturcivicchorus.org>.

Candles to be Provided

In addition to guest speakers and special music, a memorial candlelight ceremony will be held. Candles will be provided for all adults at the service. A reception and slideshow featuring our children/siblings will follow the service.

Reception and Memorial Video

After the service, we will have refreshments and a memorial video presentation of our children and siblings in the Fellowship Hall.

We need your help to ensure your child or sibling is included. Please send your child's picture as soon as possible to Dan Bryl. Even if you are unsure you are attending the service, please send your child's picture, so we will have it for future candlelight services. (The deadline to submit your child's picture is Nov. 17.)

Photo Tips:

The photo displayed on the slide will only be as good as the photo you send. If the photo is a quality color copy or a quality reproduction, there should be no problem.

Please include with the photo:

- Your child's name (how you want the name written under the picture on the slide). *Please print carefully.*
- Birthday and Angel date
- Your name and phone number

If you sent a picture in previous years, you do not need to send a photo. Photos should be scanned and sent to Dan by e-mail at jessicalyn@roadrunner.com. Or, mail your photo to:

Dan Bryl
112 Union Cemetery Rd., # 411
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926

Your photo will be returned to you unharmed.

A Time to Remember

2008 Memory Tree to be Displayed Dec. 6-7 at Cobb County Civic Center

By Jayne Newton, Mickey Crawford and Denisia Boyd

It is that time again. We are beginning to plan for the 2008 Memory Tree. It will be displayed during the Cobb's Holiday of Trees to be held at the Cobb County Civic Center, Marietta, Ga., Dec. 6-7.

The Festival of Trees will not return to Atlanta so this will be Cobb County's first Holiday of Trees to support the March of Dimes and Georgia Special Olympics. To learn more about this event, visit

<http://www.cobbsholidayoftrees.org>

The tree will be decorated on Thursday, Dec. 4, and ready for public display during a two-day festival beginning on Saturday, Dec. 6. There will be a silent auction for all trees and wreaths on display.

Our theme this year is "A Time to Remember." The tree will be decorated in clocks (including photos).

If you want to include your child or sibling in the 2008 Memory Tree, please complete the form on the next page and mail back as soon as possible.

Registration also is available online:

<http://www.tcfatlanta.org/memorytreedonationdataform.html>

You also can e-mail pictures to Jayne@tcfatlanta.org.

The Memory Tree 2008 Web site is:

<http://www.tcfatlanta.org/2008MemoryTree.html>

Reception and Centerpieces

We also want to ask everyone who attends the Candlelight Service to bring something to share at the reception after the service. We look forward to seeing everyone and sharing this special evening with you and your child.

Chapter members also have the option of sponsoring a centerpiece or poinsettia to be used in the decorating for the Candlelight Service.

If you would like to order a centerpiece/poinsettia to be displayed at the Candlelight Service in memory of your child, sibling or grandchild, please return the order form included with this newsletter by Nov. 15.

The order form also will be available on the Web site.

We are also trying something different this year. We have set up a group on Facebook specifically for the 2008 Memory Tree Participants. We are hoping all our families will join and share their children and their stories.

As participants join our 2008 Memory Tree, we will send you an invitation to join our Facebook group "2008 Memory Tree." This way we only allow our members online. You will need a "Facebook" account to join but they are super easy to do. Go to <http://www.facebook.com> to set up your own account.

Also, as we receive your completed forms and information, we will post your child on the above Web site.

Thank you again for your support.

Special note: Last year 2007 Memory Tree participants each received (or will receive) a Remembrance Card on their child's birthday and angel date. The cards started mid-December and will continue through that period. If you haven't received a remembrance card on your child's birthday or angel date it is probably because those dates fall between mid-September and mid-December...but you will receive a card.

A special thank you goes to Carol Hawley for lovingly creating these cards in memory of her son Billy Hawley.

Another special thank you goes to all the moms who sent requested stickers and supplies to Carol to help create the cards.

We always want to have our child remembered....

The Compassionate Friends of Atlanta 8th Annual Memory Tree

Our 8th Annual Memory Tree "In Memory of our Children and Siblings" for the 1st Annual Cobb's Holiday of Trees is underway. Our tree will be displayed at the Cobb County Civic Center, Marietta, Georgia from December 6-7, 2008. For more information about the event visit www.cobbsholidayoftrees.org

Proceeds from donated trees will benefit March of Dimes and Special Olympics Georgia – Cobb.

The theme for the Memory Tree is "A Time to Remember." The tree will be decorated in greens, browns, creams, cranberry and copper. The ornaments will represent "clocks" and include our children's photos. Our children and sibling's names will be inscribed in a book next to the tree.

A sign will be displayed by our tree :

"A Time to Remember"
The Compassionate Friends
"In Memory of Our Children and Siblings"
<http://www.tcfatlanta.org/2008MemoryTree.html>

If you wish to participate in the 2008 Memory Tree Project and include your child's photo with the Memory Tree, please complete the following information: (Deadline Nov. 1st)

Name(s): _____ Relationship to Child: _____

Address: _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____ Email _____

Child's Full Name (Both "First" Name and "Last" Name) _____

Child's Date of Birth: _____ Child's Date of Death: _____

Mail Form, picture and check payable to "The Compassionate Friends" to:

The Compassionate Friends
c/o Jayne Newton
808 Brentway Court
Lilburn, GA 30047

Donation Amount \$ _____

You can also email pictures to Jayne@tcfatlanta.org.

Registration is available online <http://www.tcfatlanta.org/memorytreedonationdataform.html>

If you have questions, please feel free to call, Jayne Newton (H) 770-923-5356 (C) 678-520-2442

Thank you for your support

October, November and December Birthdays

(On the advice of the TCF national office, we are only including the month and date
– not year – of birthdays and angel dates.)

<u>Child's Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>	<u>Angel Date</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Family</u>
Azariah Suvari Anderson	Oct. 2	Nov. 17	daughter	Michelle Stewart Anderson
Richard Alan Cartin	Oct. 2	Jan. 16	son	Nancy Murphy
Kaxon Harris	Oct. 3	June 10	son	Karen Harris
Stephen Ledford	Oct. 4	Feb. 8	son	Luella and Mike Ledford
Maeve Elizabeth Fintak	Oct. 5	May 13	daughter	Steve and Brigid Fintak
John Thomas Arnold	Oct. 6	Jan. 22	son	Donna Arnold
Connor Brown	Oct. 6	May 4	grandson	Kaye Hyde
Lane Veteto	Oct. 7	June 11	son	Margaret Bear
Jamaal Addison	Oct. 7	March 23	son	Patricia Roberts
Meleia Warren Willis-Starbuck	Oct. 10	July 7	daughter	John and Kimberly Starbuck
Philip E. Walsh	Oct. 15	April 21	son	Ruth Simmons
Candi Gaye Marshall	Oct. 16	March 16	daughter	Gena and John Ivester
Scott Wiseman	Oct. 19	Feb. 3	son	Lynn Wiseman
Sallie Scanlon	Oct. 20	May 31	daughter	Jane R. Scanlon
Dilia Plummer	Oct. 25	Dec. 22	daughter	Dijon Plummer
Jacob Miller	Oct. 26	March 7	son	Sandra and Richard Miller
Michelle Reeves	Oct. 28	Sept. 26	daughter	Jim and BJ Reeves
Marcellus Montez Richardson	Oct. 29	Sept. 26	son	Paulette Perry
Amelia Sutterthwaite Ward	Oct. 29	Jan. 29	daughter	Lisa and Greg Ward
Ronnie Keith Batchelor	Oct. 30	Aug. 14	son	Ron and Judy Batchelor
Tyreek Seivwright	Nov. 1	May 12	son	Donna Attridge
Latoya Peart	Nov. 1	Jan. 1	daughter	Alvin and Patsy Dorman
Michelle Elizabeth Place	Nov. 2	Jan. 28	sister	Lisa Place
Al Bath Wilson	Nov. 2	May 8	son	Susan Wilson
Jameka Deshon Holmes	Nov. 4	April 14	daughter	Charlotte Hamm
Autumn DuBose	Nov. 5	July 19	daughter	John and Faye DuBose
Mark Cozine	Nov. 6	Sept. 14	son	Anne Franzen
J. Daniel Smith	Nov. 6	Aug. 26	son	Judith Smith
Matthew Luke Davis	Nov. 7	Nov. 2	son	Lena L. Price
Jennifer Marie Dailey	Nov. 9	March 12	daughter	Joanne and Bob Dailey
George E. Williams III	Nov. 11	July 2	son	Deborah Denise Williams
Carlos Ramone Weaver	Nov. 12	Oct. 27	son	Carlos Weaver
Amanda Christine Warnock	Nov. 13	May 6	daughter	Amy Osier
Keith Perry	Nov. 14	June 11	son	Oveta Perry
Zekia M Rhodes	Nov. 15	July 17	granddaughter	Beverly Ricks
Carter Martin	Nov. 20	Sept. 12	son	Scott and Leigh Ann Martin
Kameron Rutherford	Nov. 21	May 11	son	Judy and Khristopher Rutherford
Robert A. Lind, Jr.	Nov. 29	June 10	son	Bette and Bob Lind
Clayton Olvey	Nov. 30	Jan. 12	son	June Smith
Brandon Burke	Dec. 2	May 10	son	Charlene and Johnny Burke
Ashley Craig	Dec. 2	Sept. 27	son	La Tangie Craig
Brandon Burke	Dec. 2	May 10	grandson	Shirley A. Kendrick
Connor Dunn Devine	Dec. 3	Dec. 16	son	Kathleen Devine
James Anthony Durham	Dec. 3	July 22	son	Cindy Durham
James Anthony Durham	Dec. 3	July 22	brother	Katie Durham
Joshua Polain	Dec. 3	June 1	son	Kimberly Polain
David James Teddlie	Dec. 5	March 22	son	Anne and Don Teddlie
Averil Brown	Dec. 7	June 15	son	Carolyn Brown

Clarissa Cuningham	Dec. 8	Aug. 20	daughter	Winston and Judy Cunningham
Lauren Zauche	Dec. 10	Jan. 10	daughter	David and Claudette Zauche
Katherine Arthur-Chillman	Dec. 17	Jan. 26	daughter	Abigail Arthur-Chillman
Amanda Kay Rose	Dec. 17	Aug. 15	daughter	Barbara Rose
Meseret Debru	Dec. 18	Nov. 23	son	Kila Gebru
Victor Alfonso Cruz	Dec. 19	Sept. 16	son	Ana Maria Godinez
Chamica Hardaway	Dec. 21	March 3	daughter	Albert and Florence Daniels
Steve Inman Jr.	Dec. 22	Dec. 26	son	Steve and Linda Inman
Tim Allmon	Dec. 23	Dec. 8	son	Ann and Jackie Allmon
Dianne Martha Shlevin	Dec. 27	March 26	daughter	Barbara Shlevin
Jacob Martin Drollinger	Dec. 28	June 29	son	John and Virginia Drollinger
J'Muar Taylor	Dec. 30	Aug. 4	son	Cheryl A. Taylor
Christopher Hobbs	Dec. 31	Dec. 27	son	Joseph and Gwendolyn Hobbs

Gospel Concert Honors the Memory of Clinton Ron Walker

On Oct. 4 at Greenbriar Mall, some of the top gospel artists from all over the world including as far away as Malaysia, hit the stage to raise funds for The Clinton Ron Walker Scholarship Fund.

Candace Walker says that day was “a culmination of so many things for my family and I.” In addition to celebrating the life of her son, the concert raised more than \$1,000 in scholarship money for deserving Georgia students.

She said the event also provided an opportunity “to educate so many of our youth on heart issues and how to keep their hearts healthy. Most importantly, it may save others from the heartache we experienced when we lost Clinton to an undiagnosed heart defect. Through music, fun and education, it is our hope that the youth of Georgia and all who attend will leave knowing what to do to stay healthy and how to apply for one of the most attainable scholarships on the scene.”

The Clinton Ron Walker Scholarship Fund Inc. offers students in the Georgia area two monetary scholarships totaling between \$250 and \$1,000 each. Students interested in the scholarships should complete the scholarship application, write a biography about themselves and write a poem or essay on friendship. “Friendship,” Candace says, “was one of the most important things to Clinton.”

In an e-mail to our TCF Chapter following the concert, Candace wrote:

“The Youth 4 Healthy Hearts Gospel Concert was phenomenal! We had well over 300 people in attendance (in spite of the Sweet Auburn Festival and October Fest going on at the same time. Not to mention Tyler Perry opened his studios only a few blocks away.) Most importantly we raised over \$1,000!

“All the acts were awesome and the ministry flowed from each person. Suffice it to say that if you missed it, you missed one wonderful concert. The highlight for us all was the performance of Patrick Leong’s song dedicated in memory of Clinton. His voice is pure beauty and the anointing that flowed from his performance was so powerful that there wasn’t a dry eye in the place. I couldn’t keep the tears in check and my heart was so full at that moment.

“He sold all of his CD’s and we are now pre-ordering them from my church bookstore. If you want one the cost is \$10. Just e-mail me and I will give you more details.”
(*Candace plans to bring the CD to the Oct. 14 TCF meeting to play the song for our chapter.*)

“We had a party in every way from James Jackson’s ‘Thrilling’ performance to Canton’s war cry. My personal peeps...Carmen Bonner, Regina Jimison and Joseph Westbrook opened things up and it was so good to see them up front and center for a change! I had never heard Platinum Souls perform before but they were hot! I plan to have them at my church for a youth concert real soon! I will keep you posted on how that turns out!

“For those of you who missed it...no worries we have pictures and plan to create a DVD of the event for purchase. (Always looking for ways to add to that scholarship money)

“Finally we are taking orders for the Youth 4 Healthy Hearts T-shirts. Let me know if you want one...they are \$10 and for each purchase we will give you a gift...while supplies last. Again, e-mail me and we will work it out.”

Love to You All!

Candace Walker – cawa719@yahoo.com

October, November and December Angel Dates

(On the advice of the TCF national office, we are only including the month and date – not year – of birthdays and angel dates.)

<u>Child's Name</u>	<u>Angel Date</u>	<u>Birthday</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Family</u>
James A. Bunch Jr.	Oct. 3	March 21	son	Margie Shippey
David Brown	Oct. 7	May 13	son	Keith and Ann Brown
Vernon Philipe Battle	Oct. 18	July 17	son	Barbara Knox
Vernon Philipe Battle	Oct. 18	July 17	brother	Glorqua Tarantine
Bo Tuggle	Oct. 22	April 12	son	Connie and Johnny Tuggle
Derric Burgess	Oct. 25	July 21	son	Angel and Robert Burgess
Carlos Ramone Weaver	Oct. 27	Nov. 12	son	Carlos Weaver
Kathleen Dirr	Oct. 28	Feb. 24	daughter	Jim Dirr
David Ferguson	Oct. 30	April 20	son	Christina and David Ferguson
Marc William Waidner	Oct. 30	May 19	son	Mary Alice Wood
Matthew Luke Davis	Nov. 2	Nov. 7	son	Lena L. Price
Brayden Michael Eanes	Nov. 3	Aug. 28	son	Kelly Eanes
Brayden Michael Eanes	Nov. 3	Aug. 27	grandson	Al and Jan Pittman
Amber Gilstrap	Nov. 7	July 3	daughter	Kathleen Cornog
Leanna Piver	Nov. 7	Jan. 16	daughter	David and Janet Piver
Timothy E. Dixon	Nov. 9	Jan. 7	son	Georgia Ware-Dixon
Michael Hill	Nov. 10	Sept. 10	son	Linda Hill
Serenity Emani Watson	Nov. 10	July 31	daughter	Keri Watson
Azariah Suvari Anderson	Nov. 17	Oct. 2	daughter	Michelle Stewart Anderson
Meseret Debru	Nov. 23	Dec. 18	son	Kila Gebru
Kay Cee Herring	Dec. 1	July 7	daughter	David and Ginny Herring
Arnessa Darlene Royster	Dec. 3	July 31	daughter	Carolyn Gordon
Victoria Fields	Dec. 4	April 22	daughter	Tricia Chasse
Christopher Robinson	Dec. 4	Sept. 15	son	Freddie Green
Mashanda Nicole Taylor	Dec. 7	Aug. 13	daughter	Michelle Taylor-Scott
Tim Allmon	Dec. 8	Dec. 23	son	Ann and Jackie Allmon
Vanishia Shantee Jinks	Dec. 13	June 26	daughter	Yuonne Jinks
Connor Dunn Devine	Dec. 16	Dec. 3	son	Kathleen Devine
Carlo R. Williams	Dec. 21	Feb. 11	son	Deborah Denise Williams
Dijon Plummer, Jr.	Dec. 22	Feb. 24	son	Dijon Plummer
Dilia Plummer	Dec. 22	Oct. 25	daughter	Dijon Plummer
Jamie Dalziel	Dec. 24	March 25	son	Martin and Donna Dalziel
Steve Inman Jr.	Dec. 26	Dec. 22	son	Steve and Linda Inman
Jennifer Hower	Dec. 27	June 23	sister	Julie Fischer
Christopher Hobbs	Dec. 27	Dec. 31	son	Joseph and Gwendolyn Hobbs

The Unending Symphony

by Bee Ewing

The sun will surely rise again
 And rivers will run to the sea.
 The ocean waves will crest and roll,
 The eagle will always fly free.
 Just as certainly heaven waits
 For all those who believe.

While God in His infinite mercy
 Sustains all those who grieve.
 In the unending symphony of life,
 You have played such a special part.
 The song of your life will remain for all
 Who have memories of you in their heart.

~submitted by Meg Avery, Sugar Hill, Ga.
 In Memory of Her Son, James Avery
 July 15, 1983 - September 22, 1997

Brother. Sister.

I miss you with the same
Longing as if it
Has been one hundred years.
I know you miss
Me even more.
I can see
The waterfalls pouring
From your sad, brown eyes.

We will never see
Each other again
Not while you live,
For there is dry, packed
Dirt above me, forever
severing
Our being together.

Six feet of land
Separating
Our physical forms.
No, I will never see
Your glowing face
For as long as you
Live.

You will never hear

The loud, hearty laugh I have
The one that sounds like
A happy child
In his youth.
You will never inhale the scent
Of old shirts left
Folded in drawers for far
Too long.

But we will always
Be best buds, two peas
In a pod, like we
Always were.
You and I,
We always wanted
To fly together,
To be birds,
Flying free.

What sick irony it is
That while I fly,
You are caged,
Stuck in a place
You cannot escape.
It isn't fair, is it,
That we couldn't fly together,
That we have to be
In another world

To be truly free.
Though my body is
Six feet under,
I still love you
With the intensity
Of a thousand burning suns.
I know you miss me
So much it hurts,
And I miss you
The same.

Though it is abysmal,
Though things are dark
And gloomy, lonely and
Agonizing, no matter
How broken and
Pathetic you feel,
Take comfort, dear sister,
We will always be
The best of friends.
And when we finally
Meet again,
We will fly,
Together.

By Rachael Abraham
In Memory of Her Brother, Paul

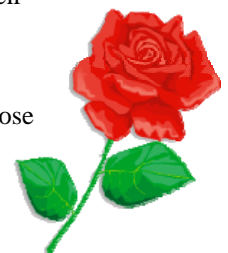
The Love & Peace Rose and Billy Hawley

By Carol Hawley

I love flowers of all types. From the dainty African Violets to chrysanthemums to orchids tooh the list is endless.

Occasionally I received bouquets of roses on my birthdays, Mothers Day and wedding anniversaries. My favorite color of roses is champagne color. The rose is a symbol of love. The ruby red rose is a huge seller during Valentine's Day. It was late spring 2004 in the evening when Billy came home and surprised me with a single long-stem rose. Billy has hit a rough spot in his life and I think that's his way of saying "I am sorry." Mothers are very forgiving creatures especially toward their children. Even though their child has misbehaved and has been a pickle.

I received a rose that has the color of orange and red mixed, but with tinges of yellow. The thing about the rose was the fragrance. It smells fruity like a peach. I quickly trimmed the end of the stem and placed the rose in a coffee cup. I put the rose on my computer desk in the bedroom. I changed the water every day and added a bit of sugar for the rose. The bud opened very slowly and it lasted the longest of all roses I ever received, close to two weeks. Billy checked on the rose every now and then. He even commented "Hey, maybe things will finally work out."



Recently I dug out my collection of flower catalogs and looked for this rose. Eventually I found out that the rose is an AARS winner and the name given is the LOVE & PEACE rose. To quote from the Wayside Gardens catalog: "The rose is a tough and lasting beauty with beautiful dark foliage, highly resistant to blackspot and mildew."

Since it was only late spring in Georgia when Billy gave this rose to me, rose bushes have not bloomed yet and this cut rose is from somewhere else. I also consulted with my friend Charlotte who is an avid gardener and a member of the Master Gardener Club. She says the hot humid weather in Georgia is not ideal for this rose and it is grown elsewhere.

September 27 was four years since our son Billy has passed away. Bill, Alan (Billy's older brother) and I think of Billy often. My tears still flow but less; our pain throbs with less intensity but our longing to see, hug and talk with him is still strong.

I still have the rose and it's encased in a clear acrylic box. It has lost its beauty, splendor and scent. Yet, whenever I look at the rose, it brings back memories of that nice evening when Billy walked in with a smile and holding a rose behind his back – a memory I will treasure. It will be my one and only rose from my son Billy, the LOVE & PEACE rose.

Happiness held is the seed; happiness shared is the flower – anonymous –

Gifts of Love

A love gift is a gift of money to The Compassionate Friends of Atlanta. It is usually in honor of a child who has died, but it can also be from individuals who want to honor a relative or friend who has died, a gift of thanksgiving that their own children are alive and well, or simply a gift from someone who wants to help in the work of our chapters. The following donations are in support of the Atlanta Chapter newsletter, candlelight service, Web site and other outreach.

All chapters within TCF are totally dependent on funds from our families. We DO NOT receive funds from our National Office. Everything we need to operate our local chapters are paid directly from our local resources and our local family contributions. Thank you to all who contribute and support your local chapters. Some people contribute in memory of other's children.....this is a wonderful way for others to say "I am remembering your child." Other "Gifts of Love" are evident by all the compassionate and giving volunteers we have within our TCF Atlanta organization.



Love gifts to the Atlanta Chapter of TCF should be made payable to The Compassionate Friends and mailed to our treasurer: Jayne Newton, 808 Brentway Court, Lilburn, GA 30047.

In Loving Memory of Ashley Craig, from her mother La Tangie Craig, Hampton, GA
In Loving Memory of Katherine A. Chillman, from her mother Abigail J. Arthur-Chillman, Alpharetta, GA
In Loving Memory of Stephanie Weber, from her parents John and Cecilia Weber, Roswell, GA

In Loving Memory of Michael Btembke, from his father Ghakarhi Btembke, Norcross, GA
In Loving Memory of Ryan Jones, from his parents Stephen and Rachel Jones, Cumming, GA
In Loving Memory of J. Daniel Smith, from his mother Judith M. Smith, Tucker, GA

In Loving Memory of Me'Chelle A. Murphy, from her mother, Brenda J. Murphy Decatur, GA
In Loving Memory of Nichelle Yvette "Nikki" Twyman, from her mother Carol McNeal, Stone Mountain, GA
In Loving Memory of Mervyn Lanier "Corky" Twyman, from his mother Carol McNeal, Stone Mountain, GA

News Briefs

Our chapter recently received information about a new free bereavement online support group. You can check out the group at: <http://www.mdjunction.com/bereavement>.

The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting® will be held the second Sunday in December – on Dec. 14. Family and friends around the globe light candles for one hour (beginning at 7 p.m. local time) in remembrance of children who have died at any age from any cause.

NEW SUBSCRIPTION - RENEWAL - CHANGE FORM - DONATIONS

If you are receiving our newsletter for the first time...everyone within The Compassionate Friends Organization wants to say We are sorry you have the need for this publication but we are glad you found us and we hope our newsletter will be helpful on your journey. Someone may have lovingly sent you the newsletter...and if so and you find it helpful, please complete the data sheet enclosed and return it so that we may add you to our newsletter database for future mailings. This is to insure that all the information we have is correct and complete. *This is for internal use only.*

Please print, filling in all applicable blanks/boxes:

Your Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone (including area code) _____ E-mail: _____

Do you prefer to receive the newsletter by (check one): Mail E-mail (provide e-mail address above)

Child's Full Name: _____ Male Female

Child's Birth Date: _____ Child's Death Date: _____

Cause of Child's Death (optional): _____

Child's relationship to you (e.g. son, daughter, brother, sister, grandchild) _____

Names and ages of all surviving siblings living with you:

- How did you find out about The Compassionate Friends? Please circle one: (1) Friends (2) Family (3) Hospital (4) Church (5) School (6) Funeral Homes (7) Internet (8) Newspaper (9) Employers (Human Resources) (10) Other _____

Note: **The information you have given above will be confidential (used for internal purposes only) unless you answer "yes" to one or more of the following questions:**

1. Do you want your child's name to appear in the newsletter's "**We Remember You**" section of birth and death dates? Yes ___ No ___
2. Do you want to receive the daily e-newsletter from TCF Atlanta? If so, please include your email _____
2. Do you wish to have your child's name included on the Wall of Memory on our TCF Atlanta Web Site? Yes ___ No ___
3. May we include the above information in the TCF Atlanta Chapter directory? Yes _____ No _____

Voluntary donations are TCF Atlanta's only source of income. The Compassionate Friends needs to be here for the families who do not know today that they will need us tomorrow.

Yes, I want to help with TCF outreach...a donation is enclosed in Memory of _____

- I would like to apply my donation toward the following outreach: (1) _____ newsletter (2) _____ birthday/angel date cards
(3) _____ newly-bereaved packets (4) _____ annual candlelight remembrance service (5) _____ TCF Atlanta Web site
(6) _____ library (7) _____ general expenses

Make Checks Payable to: The Compassionate Friends

Please return to: The Compassionate Friends, c/o Jayne Newton (treasurer), 808 Brentway Court, Lilburn, GA 30047
Or Make Donations Online by Pay Pal <http://www.tcfatlanta.org/donationdataform.html>



®Our Credo...

We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends.

We reach out to each other with love, with understanding, and with hope.

The children we mourn have died at all ages and from many different causes, but our love for them unites us. Your pain becomes my pain, just as your hope becomes my hope.

We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances.

We are a unique family because we represent many races, creeds, and relationships.

We are young, and we are old. Some of us are far along in our grief, but others still feel a grief so fresh and so intensely painful that they feel helpless and see no hope.

Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength, while some of us are struggling to find answers. Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression, while others radiate an inner peace. But whatever pain we bring to this gathering of The Compassionate Friends, it is pain we will share, just as we share with each other our love for the children who have died.

We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves, but we are committed to building a future together. We reach out to each other in love to share the pain as well as the joy, share the anger as well as the peace, share the faith as well as the doubts, and help each other to grieve as well as to grow.

We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends. ©2007



The Compassionate Friends Atlanta Chapter
1364 Sanden Ferry Drive
Decatur, GA 30033

Honoring 28 Years of Support and Friendship for
Bereaved Families

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