



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



# Newsletter

## Volume 39 No. 10 October 2017

**Jackson, MS Chapter:** P.O. Box 1396; Jackson, MS 39215-1396; 601-713-4357

**Web Site:** <http://www.tcfjacksonms.com>

**Facebook Page:** [www.facebook.com/groups/JacksonTCF](http://www.facebook.com/groups/JacksonTCF)

**National Office:** P.O. Box 3696; Oak Brook, IL 60522; 630-990-0010; 877-969-0010

**Web Site:** [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)

**Editor:** Paul A. Broome, [paulabroome427@gmail.com](mailto:paulabroome427@gmail.com)

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**Treasurer:** Virginia Horton [601-500-1851](tel:601-500-1851)

**Children's Memorial Maintenance:** John Kessler

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**Infant Support Coordinator:** Sid Champion 601-925-0242

**Regional Coordinators:** Faye & Rex McCord  
[lanesmemory1998@att.net](mailto:lanesmemory1998@att.net)

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## POSTAGE

**PAUL BROOME in memory of CYNTHIA BROOME  
ED and CAROLYN BUCHANAN in memory of ASHELY BUCHANAN  
JERRY and CINDY WIGGLESWORTH in memory of LEE WIGGLESWORTH**

## SECURITY SERVICE

**WILEY and BETH GREER in memory of BENJAMIN QUIN ( BEN ) GREER**

## LOVE GIFT

**DON and GAYE STANCEL in memory of MARK R. STANCEL (HEAVEN DATE 10/16)  
CHUCK and MARLISE PRESTWOOD in honor of TCF VOLUNTEERS  
JACK and HELEN MAY in memory of BILLY JACK MAY, JR. (BIRTHDAY 10/ 19)  
WILEY and WANDA FISHER in memory of DANIEL MERRITT FISHER (HEAVEN DATE 09/10)  
WILEY and WANDA FISHER in memory of RYAN FISHER KNIGHT (HEAVEN DATE 10/07)  
NANCY MCGHEE in memory of CHARLES (CHICK) MCGHEE  
NANCY MCGHEE in memory of DEAN ALLEN MCGHEE  
RICHARD and CORDIE RODENBAUGH in memory of PARKER RODENBAUGH  
LAUREN MCGRAW in memory of RIVERS MCGRAW**

**The Compassionate Friends THANK YOU for your donations**

**They are tax deductible and deeply appreciated.**

**Printing of TCF Monthly Newsletter: Courtesy of BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD OF MS**

| TCF JACKSON CHAPTER   | TCF MEETINGS   |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TCF JACKSON CHAPTER NEWS</b></p> <p>We offer appreciation in to those who helped in any way with our Balloon-Lift-Off, especially to Corinne Watts who so lovingly donates her time and energy to planning and coordinating the event every year as well as providing the balloons, helium, and refreshments. Also, thanks to those who were on the program and to all those who came and participated. We will try to have a review of this special event in next month's newsletter.</p> <p>We are entering a busy time for our chapter as well as a hard time with the holidays fast approaching. Please be remembering each other as we approach this challenging time.</p> <p>Newsletter folding: Saturday, October 28th - 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Candle-Lighting Ceremony: Saturday, Dec. 2nd - 7:00 p.m.</b><br/> <b>Decorating &amp; Set-Up - 10:00 a.m.</b><br/> <b>Details in full – p. 6</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MEETING NOTES</b></p> <p>September meeting there was 13 persons present with one new parent. Our chapter leader Marcia Lefteroff welcomed everyone and made announcements. Our birthdays were read and the heaven dates of our children, thanks to everyone that does honor the special days of our children, because they will never be forgotten. Marcia turned the meeting over to Facilitator Albert Hinson and his topic for the evening was: <i>Suicide: those left behind.</i></p> <p>Albert and Shelly's son, Tyler Allen (T-Bug), Hinson died by suicide two years ago at age 14. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the USA. Teens it's the second leading cause of death. Suicide awareness programs in schools will help. Threats of suicide, take them seriously. Seventy-five percent of all suicides give a warning of their intentions to a friend or family member. You know they need help, but sometimes finding social support can be hard, maybe because of finances, or stigma of depression, and mental problems. I have a son that also took his life.</p> <p>Now we, the parents, are left with all the questions: How could we have stopped our children from taking their lives? As well as that most difficult question: Why?</p> <p>If you have someone that you know needs help, do all you can to help them, please. NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE CALL-1-800-273-8255.</p> <p>Thanks to all that attended the meeting tonight, your presence means so much. Also THANKS to everyone for the wonderful food you brought to our meeting. It was delicious.</p> <p><i>Virginia, treasurer</i><br/> <i>TCF/Jackson, MS</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TCF MEETINGS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays monthly at 7:00 p.m.<br/>                 Fondren Presbyterian Church – Fellowship Hall<br/>                 3220 Old Canton Road, Jackson, MS</p> <p>Directions: Take West Lakeland Drive exit off I-55 North until it dead ends into Old Canton Road.<br/>                 Turn right, go to 2<sup>nd</sup> traffic light.<br/>                 Fondren parking lot is on the right.</p> <p>-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meeting: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Topic: "Wedged in a Great Tightness" (from Pooh Bear)<br/>                 Facilitator: Gerry Gray-Lewis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gerry had this to say when asked about her topic.<br/>                 "Pearls of wisdom to accompany all of us as we mourn, miss, and yet find hidden resilience in our children, little or big."</p> <p>Gerry is a twice-bereaved mother, having lost two precious children. Please come listen and learn as she shares from her heart.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p><i>Although our meetings are held in donated church facilities, The Compassionate Friends is not a religious organization, and espouses no religion affiliation or doctrines. Persons of all faiths (or no faith), creeds, color, and race are welcome.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Prenatal Bereavement Support Group</i></u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>*1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday/ Noon</i><br/> <i>UMC Cong. Ctr. Jackson Medical Mall</i><br/> <i>For more information, call</i><br/> <i>Kelly Hinson @ 601-815-7096</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>*If the meeting date falls on a holiday—the following Wednesday</i></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>For Children Grieving the Death of a Loved One</u></b></p> <p>The McClean Fletcher Center–12 Northtown Drive, Jackson, MS offers peer support groups for children ages 4-18. This includes the child's family and meets every other week. For more information call:<br/>                 Jennifer at 601-206-5525</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MS SIDS ALLIANCE INFANT LOSS SUPPORT GROUP</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monthly 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday – 7:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">River Oaks Hospital Lobby Classroom<br/>                 MS SIDS ALLIANCE offers education to the public and professionals on risk reduction of SIDS and bereavement support.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cathy Files - 601 955- 1057<br/>                 Leslie Threadgill – 601-573-1458</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div> |

A lot of our country has recently experienced a terrible disaster by Hurricane Harvey. Many homes and businesses were flooded and lives destroyed by this natural disaster that has caused power outages and economic losses that may never be replaced. Several lives were lost and it is so hard not to question "WHY" during times like this. The following is written in dedication and honor of those who lost loved ones and property in Hurricane Harvey, and in loving memory of all our precious children.

**I DO NOT UNDERSTAND**

Some say there is a reason for things that happen in this land.  
But I have to say when the storms of life hit so hard,  
"I do not understand."

Some say you should not question why God allows pain and destruction to come to man.  
But when the storms cut paths so wide and deep, I have to admit  
"I do not understand."

We find ourselves so vulnerable, feeling helpless and asking,  
"Why?"  
Why would a God of love and mercy send such violent winds and rains from the sky?  
And why would a God who loves me allow my precious child to die?

We may never know the answers to the questions as we cry,  
"I do not understand, Lord, but I can't help but question,  
"Why?"

Then one day when the storm clouds lifted and the sun began to shine,  
It seemed life became more normal for some, but the questions still plagued my mind.  
For those who were not affected by death or the storm, their lives went on as before.  
But as for me, my life was shattered and it seemed I would never be restored.

As I continued to question, "Why" and cry, "I do not understand",  
I knew I had to stop feeling sorry for myself, and leave the questions in God's hands.  
For such a God that created the world and everything in it, Has complete control and can create or destroy in a matter of a few minutes.

I have to ask myself, "What do I do now?", "Where do I go from here?"  
I know I must choose the high road, and trust and know that God is near.  
I can focus on myself, on my questions, grief, and pain, or I can put my trust in God and know that from great loss can come great gain.

So, when the questions come again, and I know they probably will,  
I hope I will remember the words of Christ when He spoke to the storm and said, "Peace, be still."  
But I am just a mere human, and when death and destruction sweep upon our land,  
I cry out to the God I trust, and say,  
"I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND!"

*Faye McCord  
TCF/Jackson, MS*



**Shared Thoughts on Growing Through Sharing**

As I look at the intensity of parental grief in the newly bereaved, I see my past self with all the vivid memories of fresh pain. Hopefully, you can see healing and hope as you look at us, the more seasoned bereaved. Much of this comes from the caring and understanding of other Compassionate Friends, who helped to restore meaning to our lives again.

There will always be some clouds, even though the storm of grief is over. But, that gut-wrenching pain that used to come without warning or mercy has left, and the residue is tolerable. There is life after grief. You can restore love, hope, find a purpose for living, and a measure of peace. Unfortunately, these things lie on the other side of grief. We must first walk in the valley to find them, but we don't have to walk alone.

Sharing can lessen our loneliness, and help remove the feeling of isolation during our grief. A hug, a touch, or a knowing look can give reassurance that we are normal, in our very abnormal situation. Just speaking our loved ones' names and sharing memories gives us a measure of healing. Life can be more bearable if we feel their nearness. One of our concerns is the world may forget our child or sibling. Fresh grief tends to remember the death, but as we heal we concentrate more on the life of our loved ones. The intense pain is caused by the great love we have for them and the love they had for us. At some point, we have to be thankful for the time we had, even though we all agree it was not long enough.

We can find creative ways to memorialize and have our child or sibling live through us. They can not physically be a part of our life, but they can make us even more of who and what we are in this world. Their memories can give us courage and hope to lead a productive life again. It can even cause us to reach out to others in pain and offer comforting words by saying "I know."

September can bring a flood of tears as children return to school. It reiterates that our children will not enter the next year of development. We hope you will come to meetings to share with us. It is the one place we can feel comfortable and a sense of normality. Regardless of what you are feeling, you can be certain someone else in the room has dealt with the same problem. We welcome discussion on both negative and positive subjects. Many times we have to deal with the negative side of grief before it can become positive. Come share with us. We care.

*Marie Hofmockel  
TCF Valley Forge, PA*



**Autumn**

In the fall  
 When amber leaves are shed,  
 Softly—silently  
 Like tears that wait to flow,  
 I watch and grieve.  
 My heart beats sadly in the fall;  
 'Tis then I miss you most of all.

*Lily de Lauder  
 TCF, Van Nuys, CA*

**ONE**

It was only *1* second, *one* thought, *one* decision, *one* action in a lifetime of seconds, and thoughts, and decisions, and actions. It was so fast, so permanent, so irreversible, so hopeless. This moment, this thought, this decision, this action do not define him, do not honor him, do not immortalize him. It is the preceding 946,080,000 seconds, and thoughts, and decisions, and actions that define him, that honor him, that immortalize him.

I remember my brother in all of the other seconds, and thoughts, and decisions, and actions that preceded this *one*. I remember him coming home from the hospital, lip synching in the basement, falling out of the tree, biking across campus, coming home from school, from boot camp, from war... I remember him hiking, and skiing, and running, and laughing, and crying. I remember how safe I always felt when he was around. I knew he would take care, protect, defend.

I don't remember exactly when my brother became an amazing human being – I just looked at him one day and knew he was. I knew that nothing would make him change his mind about me. He was without judgment, without prejudice, without preconception. I knew my brother because we talked and he listened. I respected my brother most for his humanity – for being so sensitive, so vulnerable, so honest. I loved my brother for sharing the load when it was too hard for someone he loved to carry alone. I knew my brother because he left so much of him in me.

I trusted and respected my brother's decisions in the preceding 946,080,000 seconds, I have to trust and respect this *one* decision the same. I honor my brother by honoring myself. I do not dwell in that *one* moment, instead I celebrate and cherish all of the others. In that *1* second, *one* thought, *one* decision, *one* action, I found the strength he had given me and I will not let him down. I will not let that *one* moment be the only *one*.

*Michele Mallory*

**WEE SMALL HOURS**

*“In the wee small hours of the morning...”* is a good way to describe the loneliness of grief. When death visits our homes, our families, or our friends, it leaves grief, loneliness, and desolation in its wake. How do we survive? Is continuing worth the pain? How do we face another day, or hour, or minute? Why should this have happened to me? What can I do to stop the pain?

*“In the wee small hours...is the time I miss you most of all.”* During that time no ray of light or relief from grief seems possible. Nothing seems to work right. However, we can find our way into a sunlight both bright and warm, both invigorating and encompassing. The help we so urgently need to find our way out may be the unexpected phone call, the hand reaching out to assist, the letter or card sent in sympathy, or the friend who encourages us to talk and talk some more. We need not question how that help finds us. It is enough that it is there when it is most needed. It is enough that we can reach out and find a compassionate friend. And when we do, we begin to fill the wee small hours...with large and wonderful memories of our loved ones.

*Roy P. Peterson  
 TCF Lexington, KY*



**THE CHILD THAT'S NOT THERE**

The child that's not there  
 Takes up every piece of me  
 The child that's not there  
 Consumes my every thought  
 The child that's not there  
 Makes me feel like I failed  
 The child that's not there  
 Took away a main reason for being  
 But  
 The children that are there  
 Still somehow bring me joy  
 The children that are there  
 Still need my love  
 The children that are there  
 Don't need any more grief  
 The children that are there  
 Force me to go on.

*Tricia Palmer  
 In memory of my son, Gabriel Boyer  
 TCF, Tidewater, VA*



**OUR CHILDREN—LOVED, MISSED & REMEMBERED**

“They may be deceased by a few days or years, but we still miss them so much and still shed our tears.”

| <b>Birth Date</b> | <b>Child’s name</b>    | <b>Parent’s name(s)</b> | <b>Cause</b>        |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 10/08             | Albert Alan Ball, Jr.  | Pamela K. Williams      | Suicide             |
| 10/10             | Shannon C. McNeil      | Bob/Jeanette McNeil     | Murder              |
| 10/15             | Steven B. Cutrer       | Ricky/Brenda Cutrer     | Heart Attack        |
| 10/18             | Eric Dean Dungan       | Gerald/Carolyn Dungan   | Auto Accident       |
| 10/19             | Billy Jack May, Jr.    | Jack/Helene May         | Heart Attack        |
| 10/20             | Gregory Stewart        | Wendall/Lynn Stewart    | Cancer              |
| 10/22             | Aerica (Nikki) Robnett | Brandi Robnett          | Unknown             |
| 10/24             | Britton Grant          | Alma Lewis              | Accidental overdose |
| 10/24             | Jonathan Lazich        | Gary/Cindy Lazich       | Drowning            |
| 10/25             | John Mack Osborne III  | Mack Osborne            | Suicide             |
| 10/26             | Ronald “Brady” Little  | Pat /Tommie Little      | Auto Accident       |
| 10/29             | William Armstead Tate  | Eleanor Tate Crowell    |                     |
| 10/30             | Jennifer Shelby Clark  | Bette Clark             | Auto Accident       |

**CANDLE LIGHTING MEMORIAL CEREMONY  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017 - 7:00 P.M.  
Fondren Presbyterian Church Sanctuary**

We look forward to seeing you at this very special and memorable event sponsored by the TCF Chapter/Jackson, Mississippi. The Candle-Lighting Ceremony highlights our children's lives with music, poetry, and a special visual program that allows us to share our memories with each other.

If you are unable to attend and would like to have a candle lit in memory of your child, please send the following information to: The Compassionate Friends, P. O. Box 1396, Jackson, MS 39215-1396.

**IN MEMORY OF:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*PLEASE SEND INFORMATION BY NOVEMBER 10, 2017\*\*\* (We usually have people who send their photos late and we want to accommodate you, but we "MUST" have your photos in by Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> in order to have time to include them in our program. IT TAKES LOTS OF TIME TO DOWNLOAD THEM SO PLEASE SEND THEM IN BY NOV. 10TH. We appreciate your understanding very much!**

**Pictures of our children** will be shown on a power point program and if you had pictures shown last year, you do not have to send them in again. If you did **NOT** have photos of your child shown last year or want **DIFFERENT** photos shown this year, please send **no more than 3 copies** to: Bob Gates.

It is preferred that you send digital copies to the following email address: [guitarbobgates@gmail.com](mailto:guitarbobgates@gmail.com)  
If you cannot send digital copies then you may mail photos to: Bob Gates, [1009 Harding St. Jackson, MS 39202](mailto:1009HardingSt.JacksonMS39202).

**Please send information with your digital photos listing your child's name and your name and phone number and include in the subject line: Pictures for Candle Lighting.**

**Pictures must be received by November 10, 2017 in order to be included in the program. It is preferred that you send them in sooner than that, but they MUST ARRIVE NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 10TH TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR PROGRAM.**

If you send photos in the mail, please **DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS** as they could get lost. **Send only 3 copies** and **print your child's name and your name and phone number on the back of each picture.**

Please mark the date on your calendar and plan on helping if you can. We will meet at Fondren Presbyterian Church at 10:00 A.M. the day of the program to decorate and get set up for the ceremony and you are welcome to come help. There is no need to bring anything. Candles and refreshments will be provided by the Jackson TCF Chapter. Feel free to invite your family and friends as we honor our children.

For more information: Marcia Lefteroff @ [601-937-1940](tel:601-937-1940) or Rex or Faye McCord @ [601-878-9339](tel:601-878-9339)

**OUR CHILDREN—LOVED, MISSED & REMEMBERED**

| Heaven Date | Child's name             | Parent's name(s)         | Cause                    |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 10/03       | Kimberly Breanna Copelan | Stacy Coplan             | Auto Accident            |
| 10/04       | Ethan Lee Davis          | Jim/Sheila Davis         | Suicide                  |
| 10/04       | Henry Flowers            | Temmie Flowers           |                          |
| 10/06       | Aaron Gerald Varner      | Mr. Bill Varner          | Cancer                   |
| 10/07       | Ryan Fisher Knight       | Wiley/Wanda Fisher       | Auto Accident            |
| 10/07       | Jason Lee Moore          | Emmit, Jr./Glenda Moore  | Drunk driver             |
| 10/16       | Mark R. Stancel          | Don/Gaye Stancel         | Brain Tumor              |
| 10/19       | Ronald "Brady" Little    | Pat /Tommie Little       | Auto Accident            |
| 10/22       | Joseph "Daniel" Medina   | Patrick/Kris Medina      | Suicide                  |
| 10/28       | DeMquanarqus Ja Dobson   | Michael Stephenia Dobson | Murdered/Gun             |
| 10/29       | Alan Ebersole            | Bruce/Story Ebersole     |                          |
| 10/30       | Brandon Bailey Bennett   | James/Anita Bennett      | Suicide                  |
| 10/30       | Jason Davis              | Jackie Rutland           | Cancer                   |
| 10/31       | Neil Boyd                | Toni Boyd                | Accidental drug overdose |



**REPLY FORM—IMPORTANT**

It is important for our children to be remembered. Please understand that in order for your child to be on the "special days" list, you must fill out this form, which gives us permission to list this information.

I/We are  bereaved Parents  grandparents  siblings  step-parents  friends  relatives  professional  
 Please  add  remove  keep me on the mailing list.

Remember my  Child  Sibling  Grandchild on Special Days. Please  have someone call me.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_

Age when deceased \_\_\_\_\_ Cause\* \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Heaven Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*You need not list cause of death. We ask this only so that parents whose children have died in similar ways may reach one another.

Optional: Your donations are tax deductible and allow us to reach to other bereaved parents.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ given in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my contribution used to fund: Check one:  Postage  Children's Memorial  Love Gift

Mail to: The Compassionate Friends; P.O. Box 1396; Jackson, Mississippi; 39215-1396