

Listening Hearts



A GATHERING FOR BEREAVED MOMS...

Volume III, Issue 3

May/June 2011



Angel Moms

We have shared our tears and our sorrow,
We have given encouragement to each other,
Given hope for a brighter tomorrow,
We share the title of grieving mother.

Some of us lost older daughters or sons,
Who we watched grow over the years,
Some have lost their babies before their lives begun,
But no matter the age, we cry the same tears.

We understand each others' pain,
The bond we share is very strong,
With each other there is no need to explain,
The path we walk is hard and long.

Our children brought us together,
They didn't want us on this journey alone,
They knew we needed each other,
To survive the pain of them being gone.

So take my hand my friend,
We may stumble and fall along the way,
But we'll get up and try again,
Because together we can make it day by day.

We can give each other hope,
We'll create a place where we belong
Together we will find ways to cope,
Because we are Angel Moms and together we are
strong!

Author Unknown



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Love Gifts

Generous donations make it possible to reach out to other grieving mothers through this newsletter, group sessions and the web site.

Ruby and Mack in loving memory of Wade

Scarlett and Jack in loving memory of Sean

Kate and John in loving memory of Gabriel

Karen and Dana in loving memory of Colt

Reneau in loving memory of Carson

...Thank you!!!

Listening Hearts

May 2011 Listening Hearts Children

These cherished children have birthdays this month:

14th Byron Clay, Jr.	Mom-Janice
14th Heather Turner Lane	Mom-Cindy
15th Clint Reagan	Mom-Debra



These cherished children have anniversary dates this month:

26th Zachary Ryan Griffin	Mom-Deb
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FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

May 2011 Other Beautiful Children

These adored children have birthdays this month:

17th B.J. Outlaw	Mom-Cindy
18th Brian Mazdra	Mom-Terry
19th David Giraud	Mom-Cathy
19th Adam William Hess	Mom-Trudy
23rd Joe Torma	Mom-Linda



These adored children have anniversary dates this month:

7th Austin Ray Chambers	Mom-Lauren
12th Julian Preciado	Mom-Veronica
15th Michael Dionne	Mom-Anne
20th Jim Taylor, II	Mom-Dinah
22nd Damon Fewer	Mom-Kim



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

Listening Hearts

June 2011 Listening Hearts Children

These precious children have birthdays this month:

14th Kelby Lee Akins

Mom-Mitzi



These precious children have anniversary dates this month:

20th Colt Porterfield

Mom-Karen



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

June 2011 Other Beautiful Children

These adored children have birthdays this month:

3rd Jim Coniglo
17th Ryan Griffin

Mom-Lori
Mom-Kim



These adored children have anniversary dates this month:

4th Dustin Carter Kitts
30th Joshua Kenneth Carr

Mom-Debra
Mom-Loretta



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

Listening Hearts

What Moms Are Doing

I am working on my second Masters Degree and currently attending Capella University Online. Capella University is located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I am working toward a Masters in Business Administration with a concentration in Project Management. I am currently pursuing another job opportunity at work and an MBA is exactly what I will need. Please ask everyone to pray for me as I strive to complete this degree.

SPRING

Pam J.
Alan's mom



Pictures of Jarvis, Alan's brother, and Malachi, Alan's precious son.

Thanks to Pam for sharing these pictures.

What Moms Are Doing cont.

- ♥ I am speaking at the end of March about teen prescription abuse. I am sure our boys will stand beside me and help get me through it. I think of you often, Debra, hope your family is well. thanks for sending me the Listening Hearts newsletter every month. I appreciate it and save them in a binder.
- ♥ ((((((())) hugs to you, Tammie, Alex's mom



Tammie,
Alex's mom



Alex Wolf
10/24/1985-8/07/2009

**Maximizing Your Role As a
TEEN INFLUENCER: What YOU
can do to help PREVENT TEEN
PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE**

When? Monday, March 28, 2011
6:30 p.m.

Where? Amboy High School Auditorium
11 East Hawley Street, Amboy, IL

Who? Parents and anyone who has an
influence over youth and teens

Prescription drug abuse is the **fastest growing drug abuse problem in America** for our teens. But there is something you can do about it. **Please attend** this important presentation on preventing prescription drug abuse.

Your presenters will be **Jason Brown**, Sinisissippi Centers' Recovery for Life Coordinator and **Tamara Wolf**, Sinisissippi Centers' Family Resource Developer Coordinator. Jason has 15 years of experience in the field of alcohol and drug counseling and treatment services. Tamara has personally experienced the tragedy of prescription drug abuse through the loss of a family member.

INFORMATION
815-625-0013

 **SINISSIPPI CENTERS**
Preventing pain, offering hope



Listening Hearts

In Loving Memory of Jim Coniglio

A letter to Jim:

6/03/1983 – 3/06/2009

Jim it has been a little over 2 years that you've been gone. Your birthday is coming up, you would be 28. I wonder what you would be doing now, how you might have grown.

You struggled so much in the last years of your life, I'm thankful that you are no longer struggling or suffering to overcome your addictions, yet I also struggle with the sorrow and the guilt that it couldn't turn out different. That maybe there wasn't something out there that could have helped you so that you could go on to live a happy fulfilled life.

Missing you so much, so many reminders of you, yet you are also fading away. I long to hear your voice and your laugh. To hear you play your music, your witty sayings and sense of humor.

I wish your nieces and new nephew (and now a nephew yet to be born) could know you and remember you. They are missing out on knowing a very loving and fun young man. I ache that they won't know that.

Until we meet again my son, you are in my heart. We will be sending you 28 balloons for your birthday and they will be filled with love.

Love, Mom and Dad



Jim

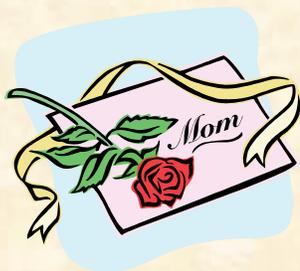
Precious Memories

Perhaps they are not stars, but rather openings in Heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know they are happy.

Eskimo Proverb

Submitted by Reneau in memory of Carson

Carson



Brian Mazdra
5/18/1987-7/22/2008



Brian

Listening Hearts

Cherished Memories of Tony

When Tony was little he used to say, "We're just a family" whenever we were out together. It meant that he was happy to have a family. Tony was in his early 20's and wanted to tell my husband what a great father he was. We never used the term "step-father" in our house, but my children always called him by his name, Mike. For a Christmas gift for my husband, who has been his father since he was 4 years old, he gave him a CD of the country music artist, Brad Paisley, who's song said everything he wanted to say to the man who was the best father he has ever known. On a note inside the card he wrote, "play the song, "He didn't have to be". When he played it on his stereo, it was about a son who had a step-father who didn't have to be there for him but WAS there for him every time he needed him to be. My husband was so proud that the boy he raised felt the love he always wanted him to feel. They always were close but the words came hard to say for him. Now that our son has passed, the treasure he gave means even more than it did before.

Pamela Quade
Proud mother of Paul "Tony" Kovacs
April 20, 2011



Tony



Submitted in Memory of Byron Clay, Jr.

Special little Children

Our special children
Who are not very old ?
Our children that we miss a lot
And long to love and hold

Our special dear sweet children
We think of heaven, where you are
We wish that we could be with you
That it did not seem so far

Although the years be many
That will keep us, far apart
You're always really close you know
You're locked here in our hearts

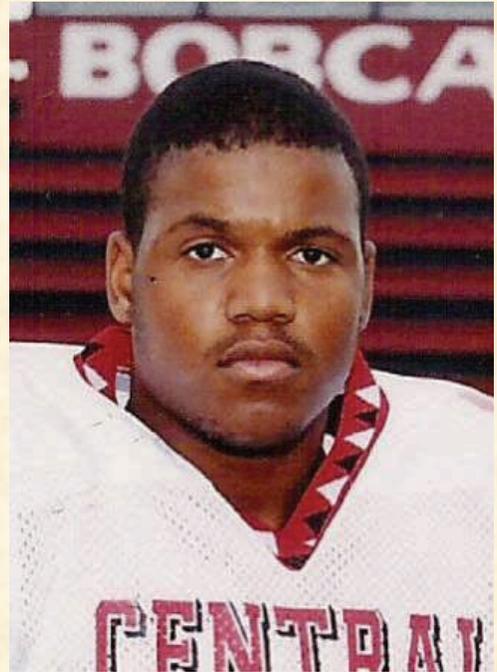
Our special little children
To us, you will always be
And one day, when we're older
We will be with you, you'll see

We know by then, we can start afresh
And talk and talk and talk
We can tell each other many things
Of daily past life, and its walk

We can then live though sunshine
No more dark clouds, nor rain
Our special little children
May time heal all and any pain?

Poem written by Joan Slater

submitted by Janice Clay in memory of Byron



Byron Clay, Jr.
5/14/1983-9/20/2006

Byron Clay, Jr.
Byron Clay, Jr.



Listening Hearts

Loving Memories of Joe Torma

I am attaching a poem, a pictures from our last mothers day together from May 2006 of Joe with his dad Frank, a picture of the Baseball team his dad and he played on every Sunday for years.

During the last several years that Joe was with us, Sunday, including **Mother's Day** was spent together at the baseball field with me, my daughter, grandparents, cousins, and friends. Joe, in his way, brought the family together, and was truly excited to be able to play on the team with his dad. We'd pack for the day, bring plenty of drinks to share, and of course, first aid/ice for players that were injured during the game. Joe had an debilitating injury to his left leg in August 2001 from a motorcycle accident that left him handicapped to a great extent, and playing baseball again was a great accomplishment for him - he could barely walk, and running was not an option, but he persevered, and was at a happy point in his life.

We, our family, followed the baseball tournaments to all locations. It is a wonderful, and warm memory of the days filled with down to earth real happiness, and I will forever miss him, and the wonderful times we spent as a family. **Mother's Day** now is a sad day. I am forever missing a deep part of myself with the loss of Joe - though I keep my sadness to myself in the hope of not making my daughter feel less important or sad herself. She is an amazing young lady. And now that she has a two year old son, I feel that although we don't speak about my loss as a mom, I feel she understands somewhere inside of her.

I will visit Joe's resting place with my husband, prayer, and talk to Joe until I cry. Then I will pick myself up, and celebrate the fact that I loved every minute of raising my children, have dinner with my daughter and her family, and visit my own ailing mother. I will silently ask God to help me through this day, as I do every day. **Mother's Day** Since Joe's passing, what it means to me? It will be five years this September since Joe left us , and since then, to be totally honest, it is a very difficult and sad day for me. I find myself wishing/yearning/longing to see him. Since Joe's passing it is a reminder of what I no longer have that other families do.. both my children by my side.

Loving Memories of Joe Torma, cont.

Poem for my Joe [Torma]

The mention of my child's name
May bring tears to my eyes
But it never fails to bring
Music to my ears.
If you really are my friend
Let me hear the beautiful music
Of his name.
It soothes my broken heart
and sings to my soul.

Joe's Birthday: May 23, 1980



Joe Torma

Listening Hearts

Listening Hearts is a gathering of bereaved moms. We wish every day that there was no need for such a group. Since we can't change things that are out of our control, we work to help ourselves and each other to process this devastating and life altering loss. We work to find ways to carry the loss and love in the same heart.

Our group meets every other month in Knoxville at the Eye Institute Conference Room located at 2020 Kay Street, Knoxville, TN 37920. The dates and times can be found at our website: www.listening-hearts.memory-of.com.

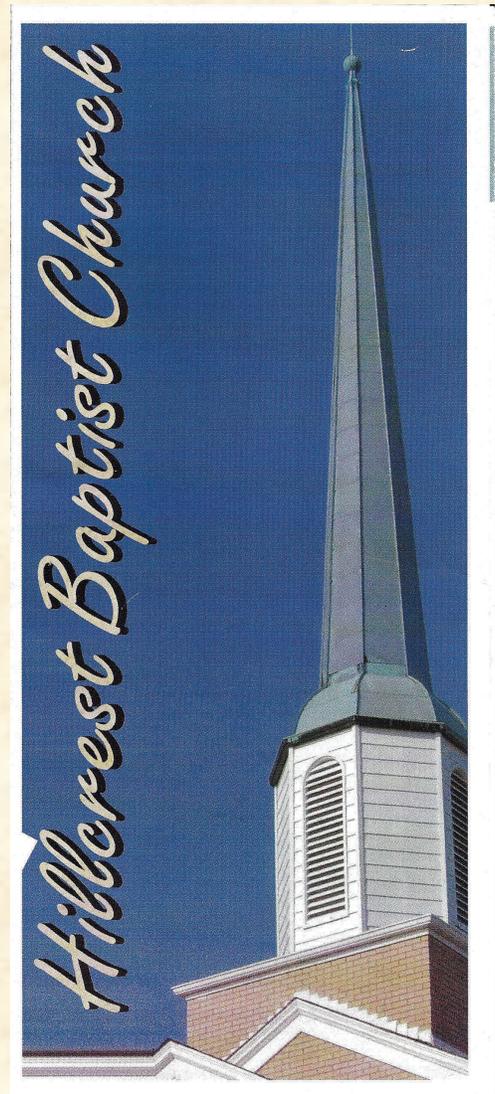
We also have a new second meeting place in Morristown. See below.

***Listening Hearts
A Gathering of Bereaved
Mothers***

***....now has a second meeting
place.....***

***Hillcrest Baptist Church
410 S. Liberty Hill Rd.
Morristown, TN 37813***

***All bereaved moms are
invited.***



Hillcrest Baptist Church
410 S. Liberty Hill Rd.
Morristown, TN 37813

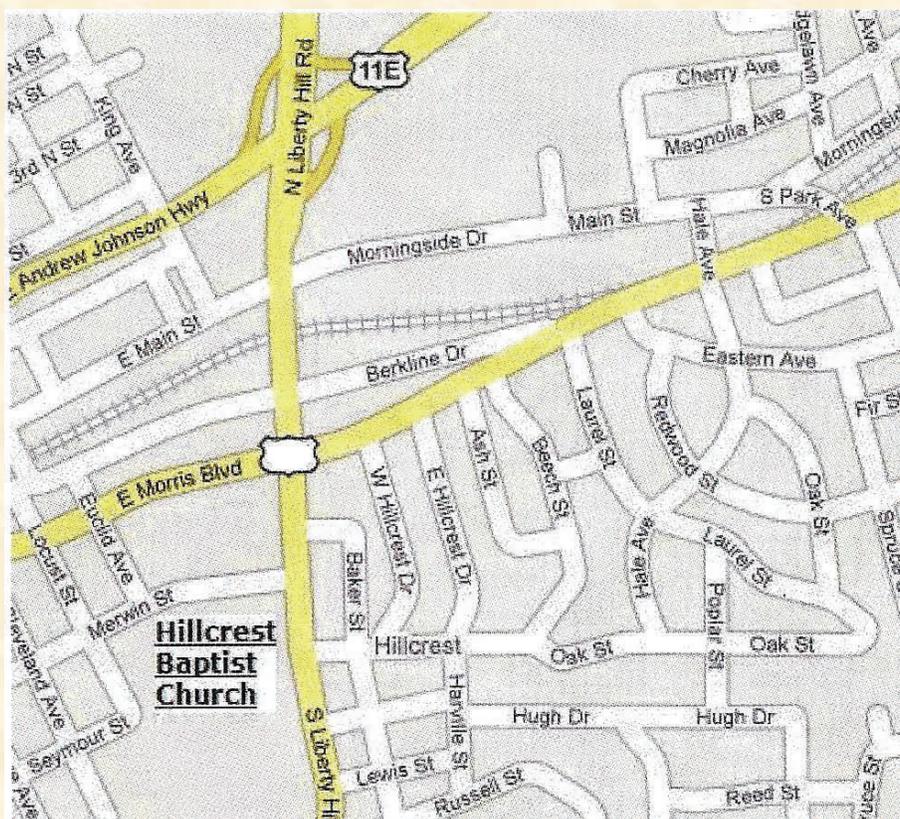
Phone: 423-586-0693

Fax: 423-586-0653

www.hillcrestbaptistchurch.net

E-mail: office@hillcrestbaptistchurch.net

...The Caring Place



Listening Hearts

Notes and Thoughts

2011 Morristown Meeting Dates:

Saturday, May 21st

Saturday, July 30th

Saturday, September 24th

Saturday, November 12th



Meeting Time:

10:00 a.m. to 12 noon



“There is no more ridiculous custom than the one that makes you express sympathy once and for all on given day to a person whose sorrow will endure as long as his life. Such grief, left in such way, is always “present” it is never too late to talk about it, never repetitious to mention it again.”

~ Marcel Proust

LISTENING HEARTS

Donations may be mailed to
Listening Hearts
P.O. Box 51674
Knoxville, TN 37950

E-mail: listeninghearts@live.com

Website:

<http://listeninghearts.net>



We're on

facebook



Listening Hearts, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, is a self-help gathering of bereaved mothers from all walks of life.

It does not matter the age of the child or the cause of death. Nor does it matter the length of time since the child's death.

No one should travel this journey alone. Join us as we help each other find ways to carry the pain of this loss and the joy of the love for our child in the same heart.

Contributors this issue:

Pam Johnson
Tammie Wolf
Lori Coniglio
Reneau Howard
Terry Mazdra
Pam Quade
Janice Clay
Linda Torma

Editors:

Debra Reagan
Heather Reagan

Thank you to everyone. We are honored to share the love and memories of your precious child.

Unless otherwise noted by the contributors, the submissions may also appear on the website.

Listening Hearts Knoxville 2011 Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held on Saturdays

- ♥February 5th
- ♥April 2nd
- ♥June 4th
- ♥August 6th
- ♥October 1st
- ♥December 3rd