November and it’s time for the Holidays.

This time of year we think about Thanksgiving. You’ve heard the verse, “In all things give thanks.” What does this statement really mean? How can you give thanks during tragedy-trauma-loss? It seems such an unrealistic expectation to be thankful when you are going through such a horrific event in your life.

I believe God knows our hearts and our pain for the loss of our loved one. I believe he wants us to find comfort in knowing we have faith in Him and believing His comfort will see us through to the other side of this darkness.

Our thankfulness should be in that He will always be there to help us through this trying time. Thankful we know who holds the future. Thankful we can ask Him to pick us up when we are too weary to walk on our own.

So we can give thanks in all things.

Shelly Linderman
Embracing the Grinch

While others appear to make it their personal mission to spread good cheer, a furrow begins to deepen across your forehead. Browsing through social media, you feel the tension in your shoulders increase as you scroll past the boastful posts that commit to 30 days of thankfulness. The typically humorous, yet slightly sarcastic, cartoons that you enjoy begin to appear less and less in your news feed and are replaced by pictures of homemade handprint turkeys and a million Pinterest suggestions. One day you decide to catch up on your DVR list. You realize that it’s mid-October and the low for the day was in the 70’s... right before you begin yelling obscenities at the T.V. advertisement for Campbell’s soup showing a snowman melting in fast forward and magically transforming into a small child. The beautiful changing colors of the leaves remind you of what you’ll be doing on your days off and that you have to buy a new rake. When you turn on the radio on November 1st and Christmas carols are playing, instead of singing along, you wonder why no one has written any new Christmas music in the last couple hundred years. At work, your coworkers are already planning the holiday parties and you growl that you might be calling in sick those days. While some may find great comfort in the approaching holidays, your inner Grinch announces his awakening.

What are you supposed to do? You didn’t know you had an inner Grinch. He just showed up. It’s not you that’s been ill tempered and snappy. It’s him! You cannot shame him into behaving. He will not cooperate for the benefit of others. So how does one handle this green furred monstrosity? Gently, tenderly, with love and sincere compassion, embrace your Grinch.

It’s easier to avoid, than to face the dread you may be feeling at having to go through the holidays without your loved one. Crankiness, becoming withdrawn, getting sick or even being oversensitive is just a few signs you may have some feelings to address. Recognize these emotions and behavior for what they are: grief. In order to protect yourself from the tidal waves of emotions accompanying the next few months, your grief may disguise itself in many ways. So, identify your concerns. Are you angry with Aunt Sue because she wants to bring her nasty casserole to Your dinner, or is it the pain of knowing it was someone’s favorite Thanksgiving dish and they aren’t going to be there to have any? What can you change to make these concerns easier to handle? For the traditions and events that are still too difficult for you to deal with- avoid them. You won’t have to always miss out, but only you will know when you’re ready to take that next step. Don’t be afraid to ask for help. The holidays are about family and friends. You don’t have to get through them alone.

And as always, we’re here if you need us.

September Group

On September 16, 2015 we joined Robert and Pam Floyd to celebrate the birthday of the grandson they raised, Matthew Tice. After discussing it with group members, we decided instead of meeting at Angel House, we would meet with Pam and her family to offer our support on this special day. A big thank you to the group members that were able to attend, to those that have kept this wonderful family in your prayers....
National Day of Remembrance

On September 25th we commemorated the victim’s in the Wiregrass who have been taken from their families and friends at the hands of another. This day was to bring honor and remembrance to those victims. Several different events took place to assure these victims were remembered. A special thank you to Chief Steve Parrish of the Dothan Police Department for addressing the crowd and assuring families they are not alone and that law enforcement do care about them at the time of the murder and long after. A victim’s memorial slide show as well as the unveiling of the memory quilt to individual loved ones was unveiled. By the volume of families represented it is clear there are so many who are pleased there is at least one day a year set aside for those who have been taken way too soon.

A special thank you to The Dothan Police Department CID division for the use of their equipment, Mrs. Angela Glover for beautiful wreath she made and donated, Sheila and Tony Luker for their time and energy helping with the quilt squares, and Mr. Chuck Linderman for his countless hours of labor putting the quilt together.
Dale and Geneva County News

A sentencing for the murderer of Debbie Ayres was held September 4th with Judge P.B. McLauchlin. When Judge McLauchlin first began to hand down his sentence to Shawn Adkison, there was a moment that we thought he was going to give him a light sentence. But true to form, making sure justice was served, Judge McLauchlin explained to the defendant that he has done nothing in his life but hurt others and had not ever tried to be a productive member of society. Judge McLauchlin sentenced him to 85 years! Good job your honor!

Chris Finley, the co-defendant, also accused of murdering Debbie Ayres, will stand trial December 7th with (Ret.) Judge P.B. McLauchlin presiding.

Another sentencing was held in Geneva for the murderer of Matthew Tice. Judge William H. Filmore made sure a message was sent to those who murder folks in his county. He sentenced William Williamson to Life without Parole!!

A great job by DA Kirke Adams and ADA Jordan Davis for his awesome job making sure that Matthew wasn’t forgotten!!

A trial began for William Sasser, who was charged with attempted murder, when he decided to take a 9mm and began to shoot into another vehicle riding next to him on highway 84 in Daleville. Why would he do that? In his words, “Now that’s how you kill somebody.” As the trial began to get underway, Sasser must have realized he had no chance against the evidence and prosecution team led by David Emory. He decided to plead guilty. His sentencing is in front of Judge Kimberly Clark November 10th.

A plea deal was reached in a cold case, for the man who murdered Billy Ray Jackson of Midland City in 2005. Frederick Hightower pled guilty to felony murder and was sentence to 20 years split to serve 3. Hightower will be out of prison in May 2017 but will be on probation for the next 17 years.

Donations

| Henry County Pre-Trial |
| Houston County Pre-Trial |
| IBM Employees |
| Wiregrass United Way |

Memorials: Diana Parker

By: Ms. Cynthia Lumpkin
Mr. Ronald Byrd
Ms. Julia Smith
**Houston and Henry County News**

A sentencing was held for one of the killers of Tyric Brown. It’s been a long 2 and half years to see justice served. Although, Tom Brantley tried every trick in the defense attorney handbook, Judge Binford understood the time of sentencing should fit the crime. Gregory Spann was sentenced to 40 years. For the first time the family of Tyric saw some type of punishment for this offender, as he has been out on bond since the night of his arrest. Judge Binford wants those in his circuit to understand a slap on the wrist isn’t happening when you murder someone in Henry County. Another co-defendant accused of murdering Tyric Brown is set for trial November 2nd. Marquis Barwick will stand trial with Judge Moulton presiding over the case.

Motion hearings for accused murderers Michael Tharp and Kenneth McKinnis are set for December 2nd. Kenneth McKinnis’ re-trial is scheduled to begin December 7th in Judge Moulton’s courtroom. He was convicted in 2008 of killing Byron Belser in a Dothan nightclub.

Pre-trial hearing on Nathaniel Dennis is also scheduled for November 2nd.

The trial of the accused murderer Justice Knight has been postponed due to the court delaying the proceedings after District Attorney Doug Valeska decided to try the case in Henry County instead of Houston County. The case will now start over in Henry County. Knight is accused of murdering Jarvis Daffin on the way from Dothan to Headland.

**Barbour and Bullock County News**

The retrial of Willie Dickerson was postponed from November until February of next year. Both sides agreed the timing of the holidays would be too hard to go through this trial until afterwards.

**Court Referral In-Service**

One of our programs at Angel House is teaching court referral classes to those who have received a DUI, which is part of the Mandatory Treatment Act of 1990. These funds are crucial to Angel House continuing to exist and assist victims and their families. Each year as a requirement, our instructors participate in the in-service training through AOC. We have a great team of instructors who believe in the mission of trying to make a difference in student’s lives.
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Taylor Vice, Director
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1.800.591.4217

State inmate parole info.
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Patricia S. DeBortoli
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Dr. Cassie Jones, Director
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Victim Contacts