All By Yourself but Not Alone
By: Ryland Bruhwiler

Since the Rev. Ann B. Fraser is on maternity leave this summer, we’re using one of Ryland Bruhwiler’s columns which was previously published in The Daily Corinthian, to fill Ann’s usual spot

For once, last Wednesday, I got to church before anyone else. Two or three in our prayer group had other commitments or were out of town. I wasn’t sure anyone else would make it either. So I sat outside on the playground to wait.

It’d been a golden day, beautiful and busy and productive. But car after car hastened along the highway without slowing down and turning into the drive. With a slight quickening of hope, I’d watch them come. They’d pass, and I’d feel a tiny letdown.

The light began to wane, and cars kept passing. I got to thinking, Hmm, maybe no one’s going to come tonight. It must have triggered something from childhood. That vulnerable kind of waiting that children do when parents don’t keep their promises. Or best friends decide they don’t want to play with you today. And just don’t bother to show up. We spend a lifetime filling up that lonely place with our accomplishments and our possessions. Fascinating how quickly they can be lost. Houses burn and stock markets crash. Bodies break down. Reputations fade. And at our deaths, of course, we lose it all. I had a taste of that loss about a year ago when I did some sketching almost every day for several weeks. I realized right away that I couldn’t draw as well as I did as a kid. (“Use it or lose it” isn’t just a catchy phrase.) So one afternoon I went looking for my old portfolio, that big brown folder where I’d kept my high school drawings and the watercolors from my early twenties. Every five or ten years, I’ve pulled them out and shown somebody. I’d puff my little feathers up and preen when they’d open their eyes and say, “You were pretty good!” But the portfolio was empty. How bizarre! I searched high and low and couldn’t find a single piece. I was flabbergasted.

My mouth sagged. My shoulders sagged. I drooped all over. No more proof that I’d once been pretty good. Strange as it was that all my artwork disappeared, it’s stranger still how desolate it made me feel. Reminds me of a sermon Tim Jones gave. He said he’d worked his way through school as an orderly in an English nursing home. He remembers how often people who’d just recently come to live there would show him photographs of their big homes. Or they’d be smiling broadly, standing next to a Prime Minister. That sort of thing. As if to say, you think you’re looking at a feeble old nobody, but here’s the proof that, actually, I’m very important. Which Tim thought they were. Not, however, because they’d owned big houses or been trustees or some Lord Mayor’s assistant. He’d come to the conclusion that it’s not such a lousy thing to end up in a nursing home. It gives us time to disengage from all our Stuff. To realize that what we own has little to do with what we are. “And that what we are,” he said, “is God’s precious children.” (I didn’t enjoy that sermon. Like most folks, I like my Stuff. And I hope--devoutly--that I never end up in an institution--no matter how good it’d be for me.) My friends eventually arrived last Wednesday, and our meeting went just fine. But a touch of that loneliness lingered. I realized--once again--that I need to “practice the presence of God.” I realized--once again--that I need to “practice the presence of God.” People have done so for centuries, of course, in many shapes and forms. By coming together in church or synagogue, mosque or temple. By praying for help at each turn in the road. Or by just standing, wordless, looking up at the sky. But one of the truest ways I know is to repeat a phrase...
throughout the day that’s meaningful and strikes a chord down deep. Open a Bible or book of prayers and you’ll find dozens of beautiful lines. I’ve always loved: *In you we live and move and have our being.* Or that line from the Psalms: *Darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day.* Many thousands have used the “Jesus prayer” and the “Hail, Mary.” Gandhi died with the name of God on his lips. You end up a person *whose heart is stayed on Thee.* No matter what the circumstances. Airport. Hospital. Refugee camp. Or waiting at an empty playground on the edge of town. —Ryland

### Church Family Life

*News and notes about our parish family*

Welcome to the newest members of St. Paul’s, baby **Jacob Rinehart** and his sister **Lauren Rinehart**, who were baptized on Pentecost Sunday. The **Frasers** are settling into their new life as a family of three. **Ann and Andrew** looked like old pros at parenthood with a contented **Susanna** in the pews at the Pentecost service. Congratulations to **Teresa Patrick**, daughter of **Tina Garrett**, who graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in Educational Psychology. Check out **Ed Lucas**’ poems posted on the “What’s Up at St. Paul’s” bulletin board in the hallway. Ed’s poems placed in State competitions! Congratulations, Ed!

**Happy Birthday!** Susan Adams, June 15th; Jean Taylor, June 15th; Dr. William Senf, June 16th; Suzanne Hedges, June 18th; Sherry Smith, June 20th; Tom DeFoe, June 25th; Lauren Rinehart, July 8th; Debby Orr, July 13th; Elam Dierks, July 19th; David Rinehart, July 27th

**Happy Anniversary!** Scott and Beth Bauer, July 2nd; Hank and Barbara Barrett, June 9th; David and April Dierks, July 15th

*To add your birthday, anniversary, or news, please call the church office or email Danielle at stpaulscorinth@gmail.com.*

### Fan Drive

June 19, Father’s Day, has been designated as a Fan Drive by the United Way. Please donate new electric fans to those who are less fortunate that have no adequate air conditioning. Distribution will be by the Salvation Army with assistance from the Corinth Welfare Association. For more information, please call the United Way at 286-8662.

### AMEN SUNDAYS

The Outreach Committee has designated the last Sunday of each month as AMEN Sunday. The first one will be June 26. The May St. Paul’s newsletter explained, "...our local food pantry has grown enough to allow AMEN to purchase food at greatly discounted prices from a food bank network. This means that your cash donations make your gift go even further; instead of spending $2 on a jar of peanut butter, donate that $2 and let the food pantry purchase at bulk prices - more like 19 cents for that same jar of PB!" If you prefer, you may continue to donate non-perishable food items. Place them at any time in the basket at the back of the church or in a collection bin just inside the front door of our building.

On AMEN Sunday, put into the collection plate a check to St. Paul’s, notated for AMEN, for the amount you would have spent that month for your AMEN foods. Or if you saved the cash each week, you may put the total into an envelope marked for AMEN and put it into the collection plate on AMEN Sunday. (It is important to keep the AMEN donations separate from our regular church collection.) Let us show that St. Paul’s cares for the needy of the community! —**Barbara Barrett for the Outreach Committee**

### Sharing Hearts

Thanks to our church members, Edie Bland, Barbara Kachmar, Judy Walters, Cissy Molinaro, Beth Bauer, and Marilyn Scheitlin, **SHARING HEARTS** was served a delicious meal on Tuesday, June 7. **SHARING HEARTS** is a daycare program for adults with Alzheimer’s that meets each Tuesday for planned devotionals, music, crafts, lunch, and much more. Volunteers from our community are dedicated to this ministry and the Alzheimer participants are assigned a helper each day to be with that person all day and to provide help when needed. Joy, laughter, and love are recognized the minute one enters the room donated to SH by The First Baptist Church. St. Paul’s members are scheduled to serve another meal on the first Tuesday of December. We need volunteers again to sign up. If you, or anyone you know who might enjoy either volunteering or joining the program, please call Tricia Jobe, 286-0272 or 415-5816. E-mail: **magnolyaa@comcast.net**. Thanks all of you for supporting this mission. —**Tricia Jobe**
Camp Bratton Green: St. Paul’s Campers
David Soltz will be attending Camp Bratton Green as a first-time camper June 13-18th and Emma Hughes will be attending as a first-time camper July 18-23. It’s a BIG DEAL to receive mail at camp, so take a moment to put a letter or postcard in the mail to them, at their attention: Camp Bratton Green, 157 Gray Center Road S., Canton, MS 39046.

Unlock And It Shall Be Open
Until You Re-Lock That Door!
Several times over the past month the kitchen door to the outside has been found unlocked early in the morning even though it was locked when last checked by our church administrator or the office volunteer for the previous day. Numerous folks had been in the building for various chores and meetings. It was probably a case of someone using the kitchen door and exiting through another door, forgetting that they had unlocked the door in the kitchen.
Please, if you unlock any door while at the church during non-worship hours, lock the door behind you even if you think you will return to lock it later.

Stay Tuned....
The August newsletter will have information about Family Bible school and other upcoming St. Paul’s events!

Pictures from St. Paul’s Easter Egg Hunt

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Are you receiving St. Paul’s Weekly E-News? To subscribe, please email stpaulscorinth@gmail.com.

If you cannot get to church and would like to receive Holy Communion or a visit at your residence or the hospital, please call the church at 286-2922.

Forward Day by Day booklets are available in the Narthex.

Did you miss a Sunday? Sermons are posted on our website when available: www.stpaulscorinth.dioms.org/worship/sermons.html

Do you receive The Mississippi Episcopalian? If you would like to receive a subscription to the Mississippi Episcopalian, the monthly newspaper of the Diocese of MS, please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

“And when it rains on your parade, look up rather than down. Without the rain, there would be no rainbow.” G. K. Chesterson

Don’t forget to pick up a copy of the updated directory insert and a phone list in the Narthex.