

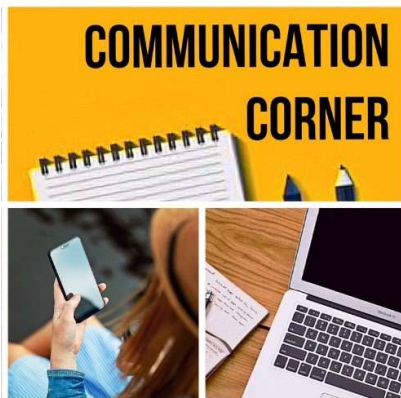
## The Early Birds

During a recent “socially distanced” visit, Betsy Hocker spent some time with Barbara and Blu Lawson. Over fresh, cold watermelon, Barbara shared some favorite memories of Saint John’s Church parishioners she has loved. In a distinctive Texas drawl, Barbara reminisced about getting to know Diane Schooley and Karen Kelly and volunteering with the quilt ministry. She began as a volunteer picking fabrics and making color combinations. And after her daughter loaned her a sewing machine, Barbara progressed to quilt-making. She recalled excitedly the day when the ministry completed the one-thousandth quilt and the party held to celebrate the milestone.

Barbara has been a member of our church since the 1990s and we have Beth Dunkin to thank for that. Both attended the same gym together and within a year Barbara was officially received at Saint John’s. Blu was confirmed shortly thereafter. The couple faithfully attended the 8 a.m. Sunday service (before the pandemic). Blu was always game to have breakfast with a large group of early worshippers and Charlie Fergus, his wife Claire and Velma Swanson often joined in. Later, Judge Joe Morris and his wife Dona became regulars of the “breakfast club.”

When asked what he loves about Saint John’s, Blu is quick to say the liturgy, the Common Room, and the sincerity of the people. He recalled how impressed he was with John Dunkin, who provided the meat for the annual cookouts. John’s generosity won him a seat at “Blu’s table” in the donut shop.

Barbara and Blu look forward to the time they can again shop in the Saint John’s Book Store, engage in fellowship in the Common Room, worship in the nave, and the quilters can sew together for others in need. *(Many thanks to Betsy for journaling her visit with the Lawsons!)*



I don’t know exactly when the imbalance happened: thinking of work every evening, waking up with it on my mind, or sending business emails at 10 p.m. Probably it was around the time I went to work for myself, leaving the office early to grab kids at school knowing fully I’d need to finish deadlines, calls and emails after five o’clock. The tactic became fully ingrained by years in the PR agency world, where clients/vendors/firms/media peeps work 24/7/365.

It snuck in my life (and that of many others) thru that little computer in our pockets. It was masked as efficiency...text on Tuesday night, two emails on Saturday. It became a slippery slope of cultural incivility. And, the remote working paradigm of COVID-19 has amplified an unhealthy societal habit for many. This, in turn, impacts co-workers, parishioners and the stress of anyone trying to leave the office at the office to re-fuel one’s limited energy tanks.

As the communications counsel of this wonderful church, I want to challenge all of you to think on this topic: are you receiving or sending texts and emails during hours that should be reserved for family, me-time, or even God? Please join me, and the whole staff of Saint John’s Church, in loving our colleagues more by interrupting less “after hours” with non-emergency work texts, calls and emails. – *Mary Waller*

## Love Notes

Say “hi” to Huey and Dora Barber, children of Jo Anna Dossett and Chris Barber. Recently, Huey shared that he misses Sunday school and the food at church. Dora misses getting to serve as an acolyte and Sunday school. They both wanted to send their love to family and friends at the parish!

Tell us what you love about Saint John’s Church. Email your “love note” or photo to [dcarter@sjtulsa.org](mailto:dcarter@sjtulsa.org). We might just share your picture or message in a future e-news or newsletter.

