

" I am left-handed. I have always wanted to learn how to embroider but could never find someone left-handed to teach me. When we joined Holy Cross Church and discovered they had a craft group, I asked if I could join, and they asked what I could do. Well at that time all I could do was cut squares out of donated material to make quilts for the homeless veterans. My father was a veteran in WWII. We still have an MIA marine from the Battle of Tarawa in 1943. I spent the last 10 years of my dental career teaching in a Veterans Administration hospital/medical center, so I thought I could do the squares in memory of them.

While I was cutting out squares a left-handed embroiderer came in and so kindly and patiently taught me how to embroider. The result are all of these tea towels that I have slowly embroidered and have sold at the craft fairs at Holy Cross Church to make some money to support what they do. Finding time to do this has been my challenge.

So you probably have seen me embroidering on the cyber cycle riding the Fruitdale trail because I do not need to steer while pedaling, and also on the seated elliptical. My legs are exercising, and my arms are embroidering. I also sit in the back seat of our vehicle so I can embroider back there while spreading out all of my sewing gear. No, roger is not "driving miss daisy". It is just me using all of my spare time to embroider these tea towels for the craft group at Holy Cross Church, and I still work on the quilts. I have graduated from cutting squares to tying the fifty finished quilts so they can be given away to our homeless veterans every November.

I will end with a brief story of why this is important to me. When I first began I was told about a homeless veteran who was given a Holy Cross quilt. He cuddled in that quilt every night until he died. His last wish was to have his quilt cover his casket and then to have it put inside before his burial. I think about that when I now save material to give to the craft group instead of throwing something away. Just a little 12 by 12-inch piece of cloth saved and sewn together to make a quilt, can make such an important difference in a person's life. Amen."