

He Showed Them his Hands



On a Sunday afternoon in mid April, in the middle of the blue Caribbean, a lay leader on a cruise ship set the scene for a small group of us at a brief ecumenical service.

For the text of his homily, he chose the above quote from John 20:20. His theme was obviously timely (coming right after Easter) and a thought provoker as well. No other part of the human anatomy is mentioned more often in scriptures. It was a natural and well received.

To our joy, WELCA Sunday 2010, that special time when some of the many works of love prepared by the ladies of the two circles at St. John's, picked up a closely related theme for their display in the narthex: Womens' Hands Doing God's Work. The display was a revelation. Unless you're a member or closely involved, you may not be aware of the many handmade items which are lovingly prepared for folks from infants to seniors.

- Quilts for newly baptized children.
- Lap robes and walker pockets for seniors.
- Smocked dresses for stillborn infants.
- Knit bonnets and booties for infants.
- Dolls for Bayview Manor.
- Stuffed animals for Beaufort Hospital Emergency Room

They were all there, artistically arranged on a central table. But what caught the eye and carried the theme were the hands. Blue, transparent rose, white, and the over-sized one with the message in the palm, "Hands to Work, Hearts to God."

And so they led our worship--ushers, acolyte, readers, choir, liturgist, preacher and celebrant--the women of St. John's on WELCA Sunday 2010, brought to life the essence of our Lord's revelation and work--"He showed them his hands."



