

'He who came by water and blood'

New baptismal font adds beauty to a unique church

By HEATHER LEE

In many ways, Foundation United Methodist in Temple is not your typical church

"We see ourselves as a different sort of church," the Rev. Steve Buchele, pastor of Foundation United Methodist, said.

"Every piece of this place has a story behind it."

Like their large, rugged pecan cross hanging above their altar, made by a member of the church congregation. Or, most recently, the new pecan-and-glass baptismal font.

The church had a font already, but there was nothing special about it, Rev. Buchele said.

"It had eight sides," he said. "Where is the number eight significant in the Bible? Nowhere. And there are millions of these kinds of fonts; we wanted something like nothing else."

The board of trustees of the church had wanted to replace the font, but saw it as "one of those things we'd do if we had money," Rev. Buchele said.

Then, a member of the congregation made an anonymous monetary donation, making a new font possible. The next thing the church did was decide to commission Salado artisan Robert Pascoe, owner of the Salado Sawmill, to create it. This was in the summer of 2005.

Pascoe, originally from New Jersey, moved to Salado with his wife after he retired from IBM. Now, he makes custom furniture and runs a bed and breakfast, all out of the same building.

"I only do custom jobs," he said, "because I don't like to do the same piece over and over. I like to learn something new from each piece."

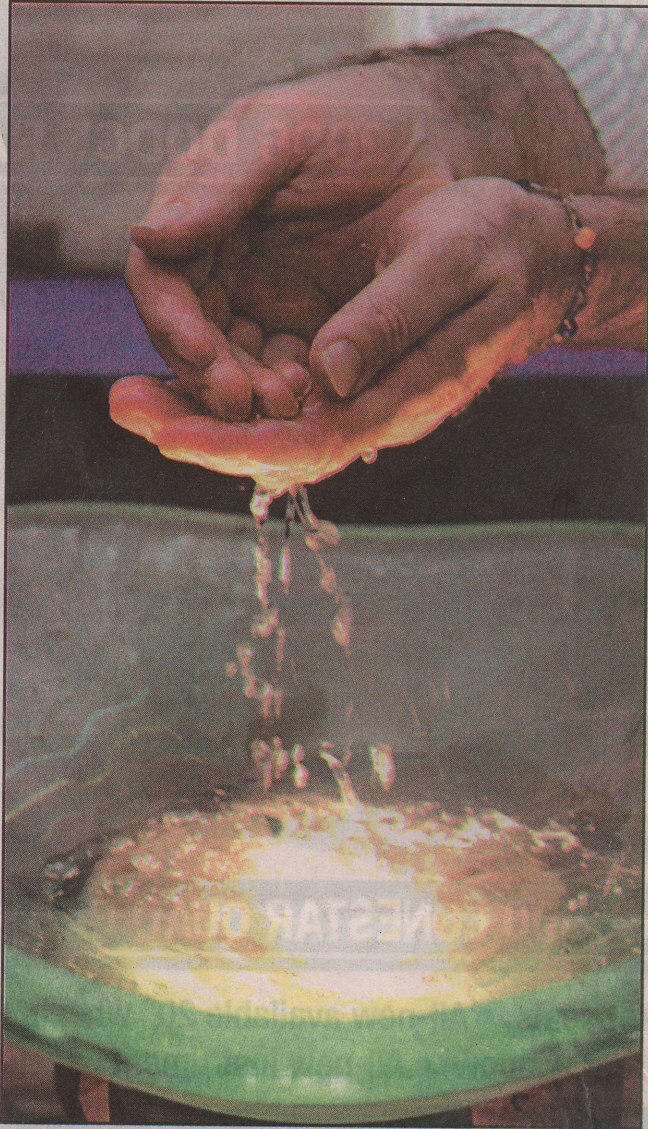
He then designed several different fonts, all around a glass bowl he obtained from Melissa Paxton, owner and chief designer at Salado's Coyote Glass.

"I like to say I don't build furniture—I grow it," Pascoe said. "I find something unique, and I design and build around it."

The church decided upon the "Trinity" design, made by three pecan legs, to match the cross.

"Each leg is shaped in the form of a gothic arch and they are joined at the top by a crown of walnut," Pascoe said. "The glass bowl is designed to sit atop the crown."

Pascoe enlisted Woody Burgess, owner of the Whole in



Rev. Buchele and the new baptismal font