

Tumbleweed Smith

Comanche's Shoe Repair Shop Located on the Square

Ray Williams has a shoe and boot repair shop on the square in Comanche. It's a colorful place, with interesting things on the wall. The equipment hums when he sews a sole on a boot and the smell of leather is almost intoxicating. Ray says he has met a lot of nice people who come in his shop just to look around and talk. He has the ideal location to see what's going on in downtown Comanche.

"When something interesting is passing by, I go next door and get the barbershop guy and we'll stand out on the sidewalk and point and

laugh. It's fun."

Ray stays busy repairing all sorts of things.

"Ladies purses and shoes. There's no telling what people might bring in here. There's not many shoe shops around, so my customers come from a pretty wide area for repair work."

Some of his services have a set price, like for half soles and heels or saddle work.

"For miscellaneous things, I'll look at the person and charge them a couple of dollars."

He makes belts, chaps, gun

holsters and a lot of knife sheaths.

"Somebody will get a knife that comes in a cheap holster and they want a nice leather one. I do a bunch of those."

Ray comes from a long line of leather workers.

"My dad had a shop in Eastland and my granddad also had a shop. His uncle had a harness shop in Mississippi. He made shoes and worked on harness. I grew up in my dad's shop. Started sweeping the floor when I was about six. When I got older I did construction work and worked in the oil patch for

a while, then decided to do leather work. My dad and I were looking for a shop for me and we found this spot here in Comanche twenty-one years ago. He kinda helped me get started. We got in a good building and started making it good enough so I could afford to pay my Dad back, then I bought the building. Hey, I'm here for good now. I have an apartment upstairs that I fixed up a couple of years ago just like the old timey people who lived above their businesses. I guess I'm an old timer person."

Ray has a garden behind his shop. He likes to go camping, hunting and fishing. He used to make belts from snakeskins and has some of those lying around. A bobcat is mounted on the wall. Ray got it when he used to trap animals and sell their fur.

"Tourists come in here from all over the world. You'd be surprised. They take pictures and stuff. I wish I could go somewhere."

Ray sees no reason to retire because he's having so much fun. His dad worked well into his 80's.

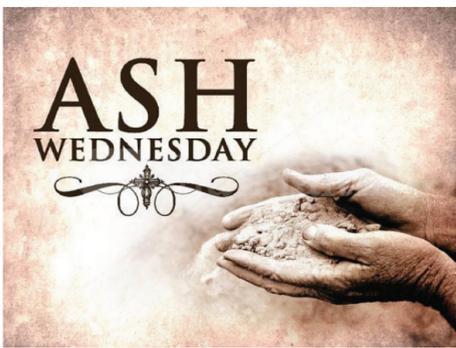
First United Methodist Church Takes Ash Wednesday to the Streets

On Ash Wednesday, February 13, First United Methodist Church will be offering "Ashes to Go," a new approach to a centuries-old Christian practice, from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. on the steps of the First United Methodist Church Chapel at the corner of SW 4th and SW Avenue B.

First United Methodist Church is part of a new nationwide movement that has clergy and lay people visiting transit stops, street corners, coffee shops, and college campuses to mark the foreheads of interested passers-by with ashes and invite them to repent of past wrongdoings and seek forgiveness and renewal.

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the holy season of Lent, a time for reflection and repentance in preparation for the celebration of Easter. For centuries, Christians

have received a cross of ashes on the face at the beginning of that season as a reminder of their sin and an invitation to receive God's



forgiveness. Ashes to Go provides the opportunity to participate in that tradition for people who have lost their connection to a church, or have never participated before.

"Ashes to Go is about bringing our faith out from behind church

walls and into the places we need them every day," stated Marvin Gregory, pastor. "As people get busier and busier, we especially need reminders of forgiveness in the tough places of our lives. The people who accept ashes on the street are often people longing to make a connection between their faith and daily life, and Ashes to Go helps them feel that connection."

Coffee and water will also be offered.

There will also be an "Ash Wednesday" service at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 13 in the church sanctuary. All are welcome.

Contact Marvin Gregory at 758-3241 for more information. More information about the Ashes to Go movement can be found at www.AshesToGo.org.

Mirror Ministries

No Need to Fear

By Daphne Delay

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When you imagine God on His throne, what do you see?



I know that whatever I try to picture in my mind, it will not do it justice. The throne of God must be magnificent, awe-inspiring, and yet cause me to tremble at the same time. I imagine

God dressed in a royal robe with a crown on His head and a scepter in His hand.

A scepter is a rod or wand in the hand of royalty as a sign of their imperial power. You may remember from the story of Esther, how the king held out a golden scepter toward her to indicate his approval for her to enter (Esther 4:11, 5:2).

This is an excellent picture for us.

The Bible says, "Your throne, O God is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom" (Psalm 45:6).

In other words, God's sign of royal power and authority is righteousness. It is the scepter of His kingdom.

In the same way Esther entered the king's courtroom and found favor, we too will be accepted by the King when we enter with righteousness. "[For] even the righteousness of God [His royal power and authority] is through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference" (Romans 3:22).

The New Living Translation says, "We are made right in God's sight [given righteousness] when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we've done." If we enter the inner court with righteousness (because of our faith in Christ), we have nothing

to fear. God will not reject us.

In fact, the Bible says, "So that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might REIGN THROUGH RIGHTEOUSNESS to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 5:21). Why does grace reign through righteousness? Because righteousness is God's scepter of royal power and authority, and He gives it to all who receive Jesus.

Esther feared for her life but soon had nothing to fear. Many Christians today live in a fearful relationship with God, but we don't have to. Yes, He is awe-inspiring and deserving of our reverence. Yet in His kindness and forbearance, "to demonstrate His righteousness" (Romans 3:25), He passed over our sins and accepted us.

A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of His kingdom.

(Editor's Note: Seminole resident Daphne Delay is an author, speaker, and the founder of Mirror Ministries. More devotionals can be found at www.mirroministries.org.)

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