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# LOCAL & TEXAS

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## Clean teeth and stained glass

Area dentist has decorated office with more than 20 pieces of his own art

By Jessica Chia

Tribune-Herald staff writer

The link between dentistry and stained glass is obvious to Dr. Mark McCall, a 53-year-old Waco dentist who created each of the 21 panels of stained glass displayed in his office.

"There is definitely a link.

Stained glass is just another type of hand work of art. I love to work with my hands; I love to put things together," McCall said.

He considers dental work, like

making crowns and creating composite fillings, to be an art form in its own right.

It was this artistic aspect that inspired McCall to enroll in dental school after seeing some waxing and casting techniques.

"I thought, that looks really neat, that looks like fun. It is a real art and craft to do those kinds of things," McCall said.

Although he always has loved to draw and paint, McCall was drawn to the art of stained glass.

"Whenever I've seen stained glass, whether in a church or building, I've been interested," McCall said. "It's beautiful. It's inspiring the way light goes through glass, the colors — how it makes the room feel."

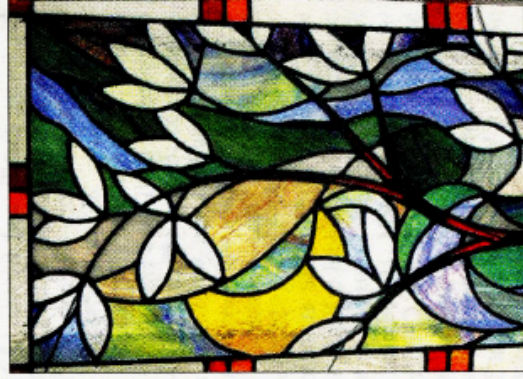
McCall learned to make stained glass in the fall of 2002 after a couple of his patients who knew the craft encouraged him to take a class.

"Once I learned how to do it, it was a natural progression. I just wanted to keep doing it and keep trying different things," he said.

Almost a decade later, McCall's office at 2229 Columbus Ave. is filled with pieces of his work because of a relative's suggestion.

A dental-themed piece hangs in the window of each of his two main exam rooms.

One features colorful pieces of glass that comprise an image of a tooth. The other, inspired by the



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Staff photos - Duane A. Lavery

**ABOVE:** Waco dentist Dr. Mark McCall stands next to one of his stained glass art pieces in his dental office. McCall learned to make stained glass in the fall of 2002. **BELOW:** A detail from one of his works.



# GLASS

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work of architect Frank Lloyd Wright, is made up of many actual toothbrushes.

Stained glass panels on walls and in the light fixtures of the sitting room are more traditional, but bring color and texture to the area.

Lisa Bray, 37, a long-time patient of McCall's and a mother of four, said the work makes the waiting room a welcoming environment.

★ "My kids come in and make themselves at home. I have four children, so we spend lots of time in the waiting room."

A panel in a skylight above the staff area is what McCall considers his most whimsical piece, inspired by round "nuggets" that stand in for a lady-

bug's spots and a gecko's eye.

McCall plays with visuals in his designs. In a series of panels he designed for his church — Crestview Church of Christ — strategically-placed textured glass projects the image of a cross in a shadow the window casts on the floor. But the cross is barely visible when the viewer looks at the window itself.

Although unusually shaped or textured glass sometimes inspires a design, McCall draws inspiration from designs he likes, dentistry, biblical themes, and even his favorite sport, tennis.

McCall makes every panel in his garage-turned-workshop with a glass cutter, some pliers, soldering tools and a grinder with a diamond bit. His materials include caulk, lead cane, copper foil, and reclaimed or new glass.

"It's really more solitary.



Staff photo — Duane A. Lavery

Waco dentist Dr. Mark McCall made this stained glass art piece, which shows a ladybug and a gecko.

That's the thing I really like. I'll go out to the garage and just be out there for hours," said McCall, who said larger panels can take up to 45 hours to create.

McCall has sold a few of his pieces through the years, and has done some commissioned work, although it remains a

hobby rather than a business for him.

"If someone really wants a piece I can make it for them," said McCall, who estimated that a medium-sized panel was worth at least several hundred dollars.

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