Artist ‘paints’ in natural wood

Elizabeth Alford has a hard time telling people what it is she does with wood. “I know everything that it’s not, but I don’t know what it is,” she says.

The former painter turned her skill to wood when she had to give up working with stained glass because of the paint fumes and chemicals involved. “I’d worked at a millworks and built things. I saw the different kinds of wood and decided to try doing something with that,” Alford says.

The result is wood “paintings.” Wooden pieces are cut and mounted on a background board. Alford uses only unfinished woods. The natural hues in the wood give her works color.

Alford will join artists from a five-state area at the Parkview Baptist Arts and Crafts Festival Friday and Saturday. Hours for the show are 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday at Parkview Baptist School, 11785 Jefferson Highway.

Most of her work is custom order, she says. “I have pieces that I will show, but then most of the people who see it will want me to do something custom for them,” she says.

Some of her works include a family crest for a door, a “portrait” of two cats and signs for business logos. “I’ve just started doing portraits with wood. I always loved doing portraits in oil,” she says.

The cost for Alford’s work varies depending on the size of the piece. “A lot of people think the smaller pieces will be less expensive, but I have to spend more time working on the smaller pieces,” she says. The prices range from $100 for a fairly simple piece to as much as $800 for a more complex one.

For more information on the show, call 293-2820.