



07-22-19

## Pickens County Sheriff's Office Continues to Investigate Damage to Local Churches

The Pickens County Sheriff's Office is investigating damages sustained to three churches this past weekend on Saturday evening to Sunday morning during the cover of darkness.

One of the locations has been highly publicized by various media outlets due to words being painted on the exterior of the sanctuary and the adjacent fellowship building referencing **Michael Seabrooke** who was recently charged in the placement of hazardous devices at the Pickens County Courthouse and the Department of Social Services.

Detectives do not believe and have no evidence that Mr. Seabrooke is in any way connected to the church or the damages.

Authorities in the bombing case have told detectives from the Sheriff's Office that there is no information or evidence in that would indicate or suggest that there was an accomplice assisting Seabrooke in the hazardous device incidents.

The Sheriff's Office has not identified any suspects in the three cases involving the churches but the preliminary investigation has not ruled out that these events are the result of juvenile activity.

The three locations are all within close proximity to one another and well within walking distance to each site.

**Locations:**

*Bible Baptist Church*

- **busted windows, paint on exterior of building**

*Seventh Day Adventist Church*

- **busted windows**

*Pickens View Wesleyan Church*

**Address:**

2522 Gentry Memorial Highway Pickens, SC

2503 Gentry Memorial Highway Pickens, SC

2309 Gentry Memorial Highway Pickens, SC

- **tires cut on church van**

Detectives are following the normal investigative protocols to include the collection and review of any area surveillance footage that may have captured activity during the night as well as interviewing anyone that may have any information regarding suspicious activity within the vicinity.

The Sheriff's Office is asking anyone that may have seen anything suspicious or have any other information that may be related to these incidents to please call the Pickens County Sheriff's Office at (864) 898-5500 or Crime Stoppers at 1-888-CRIMESC.

The Sheriff's Office is not conducting any camera interviews at this stage of the investigation so as not to spur or motivate additional acts of a "copycat" nature.

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