



News from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office

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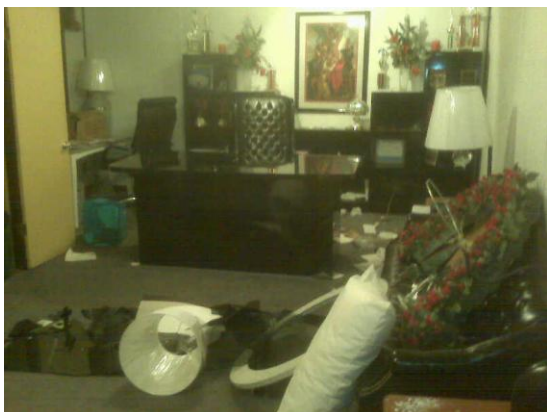
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November 26, 2008

Arlington Church Burglary and Vandalism



Members of an Arlington church arrived for services tonight only to find their sanctuary, classrooms and fellowship hall heavily damaged by burglars.

Sheriff's Deputies were called to the Hammond Grove Baptist Church at 7924 Osborntown Road just before 7 o'clock. Investigators aren't sure how the suspects entered the church. Once inside the suspects went from room to room kicking doors open, pushing items off bookshelves and turning over tables.

Some of the worst damage was done to the sanctuary. The pulpit, altar and communion supplies had been pushed over. Major damage was also noted in the pastor's study. Dr. James Adams' desk had been flipped over, a mirror was shattered and hot sauce had been thrown on the walls.

In the fellowship hall chairs were turned over, pantry supplies tossed to the floor, even fire extinguishers had been discharged covering the floor with thick, white powder. The burglars got away with a DVD player and a satellite TV converter box.

Detectives say there was no evidence the vandalism was racially motivated.

Anyone with information about the burglary and vandalism should call the Shelby County Sheriff's Office General Investigation Bureau at **(901) 545-5600** or Crime Stoppers at **(901) 528-CASH**.

(End of Release)