



Barcodes

1 18 19

Ex-church worker arrested on embezzlement charges

By Linda Siskind

PLAZIER — A former church administrator arrested last month Thursday on charges she had siphoned off money from Valley Street Baptist Church.

The 42-year-old woman, who worked at the church for 10 years, was arrested in a small town in Tennessee. County Sheriff's Department Officer Fred said.

Cabney had control over the church's bank accounts and had the authority to write checks in her own name. She had used several methods by which money was withdrawn, she

Cabney will not provide an attorney, instead a local attorney said. A few months before the church decided to prosecute her for embezzlement.

"They were very nice and kind," she said.

The embezzlement charges were filed about a year ago. Cabney had been charged with embezzlement charges, such as using church funds for personal expenses.

She was released from the Ramsey County Detention Center in a small town.

BL
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

ASHEVILLE, NC
FRIDAY 55,748
APR 25 2003



Burrelle's
INFORMATION SERVICES

8
.xz2b.

35

OB
XX....

Ex-church worker arrested on embezzlement charges

By Lynde Hedgpeth
STAFF WRITER

FLETCHER — A former church administrative assistant was arrested Thursday on charges she took more than \$67,000 from Boiling Springs Baptist Church.

The embezzlement happened over a five-year period during which money disappeared in small increments, Buncombe County Sheriff's Detective Cody Muse said.

Cairnes had control over the church's bank accounts and had the authority to write checks to herself or change deposits, two of several methods by which money was embezzled, Muse

TKS
said.

Cairnes left her position at the church almost a year ago, Muse said. A few months later, the church decided to prosecute her for embezzlement.

"They were very torn over that," Muse said.

The embezzlement investigation took about nine months, Muse said. Cairnes faces two felony embezzlement charges, each for taking about \$33,800 from two church accounts.

She was released from the Buncombe County Detention Center on a \$20,000 bond.

Contact Hedgpeth at 232-5953 or
LHedgpeth@CITIZEN-TIMES.com.

A Controversial Landmark Is Demolished

The century-old Boiling Springs Baptist Church building, focal point of a long controversy over land it occupied at the entrance to Asheville Airport, was leveled by the City of Asheville Thursday.

After more than 10 years of unsuccessful negotiations culminating in litigation, the city obtained the property Wednesday through a court-ordered public sale and bulldozers tore the building down Thursday.

But even the demolition of the old building was not without its conflict. Robert C. Burris, whose discharge from the City Tax Office in 1963 on conflict of interest charges resulted from his acquisition of an interest in the property, was on hand and subsequently was arrested and charged with trespassing and obstructing an officer in the performance of duty. Burris later was released on recognizance.

According to city officials, early negotiations for the church land as a part of the airport site were blocked because of restrictions in the original deed to the property given by two sisters to a Methodist Church. The sisters stipulated that the property must be confined to church use, else title should revert to their heirs. The building was used by a series of different churches through the years.

Church representatives were unwilling to sell the property to the city because of the reversion provisions. Not actually needed for airport construction, city authorities bided their time, intending, they said, to wait until the problem could be resolved.

Meanwhile, J. Weldon Weir, then city manager, learned that the interest of the heirs of the

original grantors had been conveyed to Burris, and Burris was discharged by Weir, alleging a conflict of interest. Burris carried the appeal of his discharge twice to the State Supreme Court, but in the final round, the court upheld the city manager.

In later litigation over the church property, the court found that the Henderson County Board of Education had an interest in the land as well as the Boiling Springs Baptist Church. The city then negotiated successfully for these interests.

Again the matter was taken to court, the city seeking to have Burris either purchase the city's interest or sell his interest to the city.

Final outcome was appointment of a commissioner who ordered that the original site occupied

church and west of the Airport Road be disposed of at public sale and the remaining land be partitioned.

Boiling Springs Baptist Church for several years has been located in a new building on Fanning Bridge Road, about a 1/2 mile south of the old location.



Church Levelled on Long Disputed Property

Asheville Citizen
~~Asheville Times~~
 Asheville Citizen-Times
 Burlington Times-News
 Charlotte News
 Charlotte Observer
 Concord Tribune
 Dunn Record
 Durham Herald
 Durham Sun
 Elizabeth City Advance
 Fayetteville Observer
 Gastonia Gazette
 Goldsboro News-Argus
 Greensboro Daily News

NO910
[Handwritten signature]