Vandals damage historic church

Vandals struck a historic church in Brunswick Tuesday night, causing thousands of dollars of damage and threatening a nearly one-hundred year old bell. The unknown persons tore down the roof on the Cherry Grove Missionary Baptist Church’s small bell tower and tossed it to the ground, causing over $2,000 of damage.

The ones who damaged the bell also broke the glass in the churches sign. The sign originally cost $470.

When the parishioners erected the original church in 1904, they mounted the bell in the steeple. When they rebuilt the church in 1958, they moved it to a small tower beside the main building.

The church removed the ringer from the bell because people played with it. The bell once rang in the community when a death occurred, said church member J.B. Davis.

Church members said this is not the first time someone has vandalized the church. Someone has left obscene messages written in the grass, left garbage on the church steps and rearranged the pylons in the parking lot.

Some members of the church said they know who has committed the crimes against the church. They said the Sheriff’s department has come out over half a dozen times and told them they could do nothing unless the man damaged the church.

Sheriff Deputy Richard Blackwell dusted the broken tower for prints, but did not expect to find any since the grain of the wood made fingerprints difficult to discern.

Vandalized bell

Deputy Richard Blackwell dusts the damaged bell tower for prints. The church has had the bell since 1904.