

Office of the Sheriff

SHERIFF
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Arrest Made in Connection to Church Arsons in Casar, NC

On the night of **October 17, 2025**, between **9:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.**, intentional fires were set at two separate churches in **Casar, North Carolina**. Deputies from the **Cleveland County Sheriff's Office** responded alongside local fire departments and the **Cleveland County Fire Marshal's Office**.

The affected churches were **Tabernacle Baptist Church** on Corinth Church Road and **Calvary's Cross Baptist Church** on Mt. Zion Church Road. Both buildings sustained damage believed to be caused by arson. Fortunately, quick-thinking citizens noticed the fires early and were able to extinguish them before significant damage occurred.

Following an extensive investigation, on **October 24, 2025**, deputies arrested **Craig Vegh**, age 40, of Casar, NC. Vegh has been charged with two counts of **Burning of Church/Religious Establishment, Possession of Methamphetamine** and **Destroying/Altering Evidence**. He is currently being held at the **Cleveland County Detention Center** under **\$500,000.00 bond**

Sheriff **Alan Norman** expresses his gratitude to the citizens who acted quickly, to the fire and law enforcement personnel who responded, and to the investigators whose persistence led to the arrest, emphasizing that acts of arson and all other crimes against places of worship will be thoroughly investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent.

The investigations remain ongoing. Anyone with information related to these incidents is encouraged to contact the **Cleveland County Sheriff's Office** at **(704) 484-4822** or **Cleveland County Crime Stoppers** at **(704) 481-8477**. Tips submitted through Crime Stoppers will remain **anonymous**.