

Fairfax Man Charged: Juvenile Sexual Assault

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

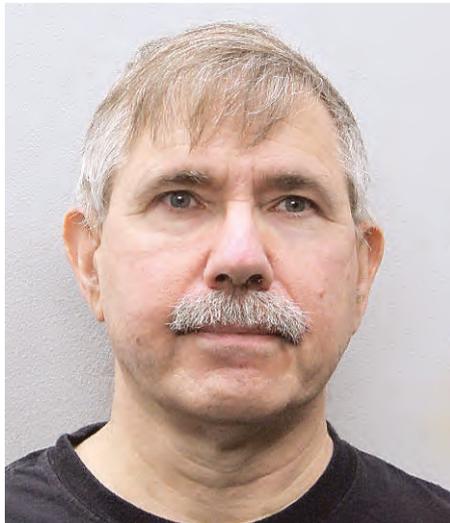
Fairfax County police have charged a former church-youth leader with sexually assaulting a juvenile and possessing child pornography. He is Thomas Weaver, 61, of Fairfax.

Detectives from the Major Crimes Bureau's Child Abuse Squad were notified in June by a family member of the juvenile that the alleged victim was sexually assaulted. The relative said the perpetrator was a member of St. Matthews United Methodist Church in Annandale.

Detectives determined that Weaver joined that church in 2001 and had periodically been a leader in youth activities but had not held that position since 2020. However, say police, "On multiple occasions since 2020, Weaver [reportedly] coerced the victim to meet him in a secluded area in Annandale. Once there, Weaver [allegedly] sexually assaulted the victim."

Last Wednesday, July 20, detectives executed a search warrant at Weaver's home and seized numerous images of child pornography. They then arrested Weaver and charged him with 20 counts of possession of child pornography and five counts of taking indecent liberties of a minor by a custodian. He was held in the Adult Detention Center without bond and has a Sept. 22 court date.

According to police, the church also notified Fairfax



Weaver

County Child Protective Services with concerns about Weaver and has been cooperating fully with police. Furthermore, detectives believe there may be additional [alleged] victims, since Weaver possibly worked as a youth leader at other churches in the past.

Police are asking anyone with information about this case or who believe Weaver had inappropriate contact with them or their child to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 3. Tips may also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by calling 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

Britepaths' Emergency Pantry Needs Community Support

Since hunger in Fairfax County never takes a vacation, Fairfax-based nonprofit Britepaths works hard, all year 'round, to feed local individuals and families in need. But it can't do it alone; it needs the community's help to stock its Emergency Pantry.

Currently, the most-needed food items are: Applesauce cups/fruit cups (unsweetened/in own juice); dried beans, cooking oil, jam and jelly, pancake mix and syrup, pasta sauce, peanut butter, oatmeal (unflavored, in canisters) and rice. Greatly needed, as well, are shampoo and adult-sized toothbrushes, plus reusable grocery bags to distribute the food.

Britepaths is at 3959 Pender Drive, No. 200, in Fairfax, and accepts donations on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. To arrange to make a drop-off, please contact Britepaths in advance at 703-273-8829 or info@britepaths.org.

❖ To order needed items via Britepaths' Amazon Wish List page, go to <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/30LSP2LLWHRPV>.

❖ To make a monetary contribution to Britepaths' Food Bridge program, go to <https://britepaths.org/donate/>.

— BONNIE HOBBS

NEWS BRIEFS

Man Arrested in Widespread Theft from Churches

A 61-year-old man has been arrested for stealing from churches throughout the region. On June 28, Fairfax County police officers responded to the Saint Mary's of Sorrows Catholic Church in Fairfax for a man who stole a purse from a car in the parking lot. The man

used stolen credit cards from the purse at several stores nearby. On July 4, the same suspect returned to the church and stole from two donation boxes. At least one stolen check was cashed from the donation box.

Detectives reviewed surveillance footage and distributed flyers of the suspect throughout the region to other law enforcement agen-

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