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Man facing charges in two church thefts

Break-ins reported in Auburn, Holden

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A Marlboro man arrested Thanksgiving morning in Salem will be charged this week with church burglaries in Auburn and Holden, according to police.

Auburn Detective Sgt. Jeffrey A. Lourie said Shad P. St. Pierre, 30, with a listed address of 53 Elm St. Apt. 1, Marlboro, but who may be homeless, will be charged with breaking into Faith Baptist Church, 22 Faith Ave., Auburn. He said Mr. St. Pierre will be charged with larceny, breaking and entering in the nighttime with the intent to commit a felony and wanton injury of property. Sgt. Lourie alleged Mr. St. Pierre kicked in several doors during the burglary, which was reported Nov. 24. He said an undetermined amount of cash was taken.

Sgt. Lourie said Salem police arrested Mr. St. Pierre while he was driving a stolen 1997 Ford Taurus. In the car, they said they found items believed to have been taken in a church burglary in Holden.

Holden Police Chief George R. Sherrill said yesterday the Holden Chapel on Reservoir Street was broken into Nov. 25 or 26. He said the burglary was discovered by a church member Wednesday morning and that an undetermined amount of money was taken and many doors damaged.

Holden police will file charges similar to Auburn's later this week, Chief Sherrill said. Holden Detective Albert Bourget is investigating.

Sgt. Lourie said there has been a rash of church burglaries recently in Central Massachusetts. He said churches have also been broken into in Sutton, Northboro, Bolton and Sudbury.

Sutton Police Lt. David J.

Perry said St. Mark's Church on Boston Road was burglarized Nov. 24. He said the investigating officer has been made aware of Mr. St. Pierre's arrest.

Chief Sherrill said a Salem police officer did a check of the Ford Taurus while Mr. St. Pierre was in a convenience store about 9 a.m. on Thanksgiving and found out it was stolen. A short chase followed, Sgt. Lourie said, before Mr. St. Pierre was arrested. The car was allegedly stolen in Hudson.

Mr. St. Pierre was being held in the Essex County Jail and House of Correction, according to a Salem



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police spokesman.

A Salem District Court spokesman said Mr. St. Pierre was arraigned Friday on charges of receiving a stolen motor vehicle, driving with a suspended license, failing to stop for a police officer and receiving stolen property.

He is scheduled for a pretrial conference Jan. 30.



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