



Perquimans County
Fire Marshal's Office
104 Dobbs Street
Hertford NC, 27944
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Press Release

Structure Fire
206 Main Street
Winfall, NC
May 19, 2020

On Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at 9:31 p.m., the Perquimans 911 Center received a report of a structure fire at 206 Main Street, Winfall. Upon arrival of the first units, smoke was visible from the rear of the structure. Fire crews gained entry through a rear door and began an aggressive offensive attack on the fire. They faced intense heat and smoke upon entry but were able to extinguish and control the fire shortly after entering the building. Due to the location of the fire, the church building suffered extreme heat and smoke damage throughout the entire structure.

Winfall Fire Department responded with 3 fire apparatus and were assisted by Hertford Fire Department with 4 apparatus, and Belvidere Fire Department with 2 apparatus. Approximately 30 firefighters were on scene to fight the blaze. Winfall Fire Chief Stallings stated, "Our volunteer firefighters did a great job working together to contain the fire quickly."

Fire personnel remained on scene into the early morning hours, and deputies maintained a presence at the scene until investigators could return to complete their scene investigation Wednesday morning.

The fire departments were also assisted by the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office, Perquimans County EMS, Perquimans County Emergency Management and Albemarle EMC.

The cause of the fire has been deemed incendiary (arson). Fire Marshal Overman made a determination that the fire had been intentionally set based on the origin and other evidence at the scene.

Spirit and Truth United Methodist Church is owned by the Trustees of North Carolina Annual Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, Inc. Arthur Manigault is the pastor.

The Perquimans County Fire Marshal and Sheriff's office continue to investigate the fire and encourage any persons with information to contact either office.