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NORTH CAROLINA  
RUTHERFORD COUNTY

GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION  
FILE NO: 15 CRS 153

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

BY CP

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )

v. )

ROBERT LOUIS WALKER, JR. )

MOTION FOR CHANGE  
OF VENUE

COMES NOW the Defendant in the above-captioned proceeding, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 15A-957, and moves the Court for a change of venue upon the grounds that there exists in the county in which the prosecution is pending so great a prejudice against Defendant that Defendant cannot obtain a fair and impartial trial. In support of this motion, Defendant states as follows:

1. This case has been the subject of excessive, pervasive and insidious publicity on a local, statewide, and even a national level. The local publicity has been excessive and highly prejudicial.

2. There has been extensive news media coverage regarding this case and the attendant circumstances by various radio and television stations serving Rutherford County, North Carolina and throughout the State and surrounding region. Some of these news media agencies have also posted written news articles about this matter on their websites. Copies of said postings are attached to this motion as "Exhibit A" and incorporated by reference.

3. The *Daily Courier*, a daily newspaper originating from and published in Rutherford County, North Carolina, as well as other newspapers generally available and circulated in the county, have published and circulated newspaper articles beginning on December 8, 2014, up to the present time concerning this case and the attendant circumstances. Some of said articles are attached hereto and marked as exhibits. The *Daily Courier* newspapers are widely disseminated in this prosecutorial district, both by delivery to homes and business and by the online edition. Other newspapers widely disseminated in this county and adjoining counties include the *Charlotte Observer* and the *Shelby Star*, both of which have also reported extensively on this case and related matters. Copies of newspaper articles containing some of this extensive publicity are attached to this motion as exhibits are attached hereto as "Exhibit B" and incorporated by reference.

5. The references made in this aforementioned publicity to statements given by Matthew Fenner, the alleged victim, and by others have placed before prospective jurors information that is incompetent as evidence in this cause and which has prejudiced prospective jurors against Defendant.

6. The Defendant is a member of the Word of Faith Fellowship, a church that for nearly two decades has been the subject of extraordinary persecution, hatred, bigotry, and discrimination in this county, spurred by *Inside Edition* tabloid news; local, national, and international news media coverage, as well as continual social media postings. These circumstances have also led to hate crimes against the church and its members. Additionally, there have been several prior court actions in this jurisdiction involving the church and its members arising from this persecution and discrimination. Copies of some of the social media postings relevant to this case and to the church and/or its members are attached hereto as "Exhibit C" and incorporated by reference.

7. In 2003, Word of Faith Fellowship pastor Jane Whaley ("Whaley") was charged in Rutherford County with a misdemeanor. In that case Whaley's attorney made a motion to change venue for similar reasons set forth in this motion regarding negative publicity. The court in that case ordered that venue be changed to Polk County for the jury trial in that matter, which was held in 2005. During a recess in the middle of the 2005 trial, two sitting jurors were heard in the bathroom stating to one another that they knew Whaley was guilty because she attended Word of Faith Fellowship and they believed the church was a "cult" (see attached Affidavit of Robin Webster). Whaley was thereafter found guilty. After the trial, Whaley's attorney spoke with another sitting juror, who informed the attorney that the jurors found Whaley guilty because Whaley is a member of the Word of Faith Fellowship which they believed was a "cult" (see attached Affidavit of Jane Whaley). Whaley appealed the verdict, and eventually the verdict was overturned. The alleged victim/complainant thereafter recanted her story and the charge was dismissed. Polk County and the counties directly west and north west of Rutherford County receive news from the same media sources as Rutherford County, as shown by the attached documents marked as "Exhibit D".

8. The adverse and prejudicial publicity as evidenced by the attached exhibits represents only a part of the continuing newspaper, television, and radio publicity prevalent in this area, and said exhibits are not intended as a complete list of the unfavorable publicity and do not fully depict the full measure of the publicity. The examples provided demonstrate the reasonable likelihood of unfair prejudice to Defendant and a deprivation of Defendant's right to trial by an impartial jury in Rutherford County. The Defendant will, thus, be unable to receive a fair and impartial trial.

WHEREFORE, Defendant prays the Court to enter an order granting a change of venue and such other and further relief as may be just, fit, and proper.

Respectfully submitted, this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2015.



---

Joshua B. Farmer, NC State Bar #32669  
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#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that the undersigned has this date served this document in the above entitled action upon all other parties to this cause by hand delivery to an associate or employee with the Rutherford County District Attorney's Office.

This the 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2015.



---

Joshua B. Farmer



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### Former Word of Faith Church Member Alleges Abuse

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, N.C. -- A former member of a Rutherford County church alleges he was beaten and strangled because he was gay.

Matthew Fenner says in January 2013 while he was a member at Word of Faith in Spindale, two women physically abused him. He says the church has a culture of abuse and that he was targeted because he was gay.

The church calls the allegations "ludicrous and false". The church's attorney denies Fenner's allegations and

says it has 25 witnesses from that night who refute his story.

"I suffered severe beatings, being strangled, belittling, just all because I was gay," Fenner said.

This is not the first time the church has come under fire for alleged abuse.

In 2012, another gay member of the church, Michael Lowry, alleged he was verbally and physically abused for being gay. That member later recanted his story and rejoined the church, but has since left the church again.

Fenner says he wanted to change to make his mom happier, but the tactics the church uses are too severe.

A grand jury will meet Monday to determine whether there is enough evidence to file charges against the two women.

**6:00PM News 13 @ 6**

**6:30PM ABC World News**

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## NC church members facing charges in beating of gay man

Posted: Dec 14, 2014 9:45 AM EST

Updated: Dec 28, 2014 9:46 AM EST

by Mitch Weiss, Associated Press

SPINDALE, N.C. - For Matthew Fenner, a crowd of parishioners gathering around him in a church sanctuary after a prayer service was a sign of trouble.

Within minutes, he said they began to berate him because he was gay. One woman told him he was "disgusting." Then for two hours, they pushed and hit Fenner, screaming at him as they tried to "break me free of the homosexual 'demons,'" he said in a police affidavit about the Jan. 27, 2013 attack.

Nearly two years later, five Word of Faith Fellowship church members have been indicted for kidnapping and assault in connection with Fenner's beating.

But the case has opened new wounds in the rural North Carolina community where the church has been a lightning rod of controversy.

Now a student at the University of North Carolina, the 21-year-old Fenner told The Associated Press that he believed his life was in danger that night.

He said he had to press authorities to investigate his allegations because of the church's influence in the community.

"The line between religion and abuse, they are crossing it quite severely. That's why I'm doing this. They have to know you cannot hurt people," he said.

But Joshua Farmer, whose law firm is representing the five church members, said that was nonsense.

"In short, this stuff is an absolute complete fabrication," Farmer told the AP. "They are innocent of the charges."

This is the latest controversy to surround the church founded in 1979 by Sam and Jane Whaley. The church, which has 750 members and operates a 35-acre complex in the rural community of Spindale, has been accused for years of enforcing extensive control over its congregation.

Former members say they were told by church leaders where to live and work, what to read, how to dress and when to have sex with their spouses.

Word of Faith also practices "blasting," a form of hands-on, high-pitched, screaming prayer. The church says it doesn't celebrate Christmas and other holidays because of their pagan origins.

The church was investigated twice in the late 1990s for its treatment of children but was cleared of any wrongdoing.

In recent years, national gay rights groups have criticized Word of Faith after several young men - whose parents are church members - claimed they were abused because they are gay.

"It's pretty clear to me ... that these individuals wanted to inflict pain on Matthew because of his sexual orientation," said Brent Childers, executive director of Faith in America, a group that addresses harm done to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people by "misguided religious teachings."

Several telephone messages for church leaders, including Jane Whaley, were not returned. But Whaley has told the AP that her church has become a "target" - and they have spent millions in the past fighting off claims of abuse.

Rutherford County Sheriff Chris Francis and District Attorney Brad Greenway did not return telephone messages.

Justin Covington, 20, of Rutherfordton; Brooke Covington, 56, of Rutherfordton; Robert Walker Jr., 26, of Spindale; and Adam Bartley, 25, of Rutherfordton have been indicted on one count each of second-degree kidnapping and simple assault.

Sarah Covington Anderson, 27, of Rutherfordton, faces the same charges - and one count of assault inflicting physical injury by strangulation. It's unclear how the Covingtons are related, but the indictments show they live at the same Rutherfordton address.

The police documents and interviews with Fenner reveal details of the case.

Fenner's family joined the church a few years ago at a time when Fenner said he was struggling with his sexuality.

He said he decided to attend the church and its school because of his mother.

"My mom and I were always really close and I just thought maybe I can keep an open mind and see if it works - see if I can change. Obviously, that was really a stupid decision because you can't change who you are. But in my mind it seemed like the right thing to do," he said.

During that period, he said he became a tutor, helping other students at the church, and going to services. He said church members suspected he was gay - and later began harassing him, the police affidavit said.

But Fenner said nothing prepared him for what happened on Jan. 27, 2013.

After a nighttime church service, three members asked him to go to the back of the sanctuary. In the affidavit, Fenner said the three were soon joined by about 20 others and they surrounded him. And that's when "deliverance soon ensued."

He said they began pushing him and hitting him and using "other violent measures" that were all part of the church's way of trying to cure him of being gay.

It lasted about two hours before they let him leave.

When he got home, he said he told his mother, but she didn't believe him - even though he said he was covered in bruises.

He said he went to his grandparents' house and he called the sheriff's office. And he said that was the beginning of his struggle to get law enforcement to take action.

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# UNC student says church members beat him up because he's gay

Posted: Dec 15, 2014 11:23 PM EST

Updated: Dec 29, 2014 11:23 PM EST

by Derick Waller, WNCN News [CONNECT](#)

SPINDALE, N.C. - A University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill student says members of his church in his hometown of Spindale beat him up because he's gay.

Last week, a grand jury in Rutherford County indicted five members of the Word of Faith Fellowship.

Adam Christopher Bartley, Brooke McFadden Covington, Justin Brock Covington and Robert Louis Walker, Jr. are charged with felony second-degree kidnapping and misdemeanor simple assault for the January 2013 beating of Matthew Fenner.

A fifth church member, Sarah Covington Anderson faces those same charges as well as an additional charge of felony assault by strangulation.

They're all due in a Rutherford County courtroom in February.

Via Skype on Monday, Fenner, now 21, described a terrifying night in 2013, when he said members of his own church at the time strangled him and beat him up because of his sexual orientation.

"Sarah reached her arm back and then slapped me across the face and yelled, 'You're a liar!' " Fenner recalled. "People had all gathered around me at this point, and I sat down and ... I just stuck my head down and was just crying. And they all just started getting on top of me and just started screaming."

The church denies the charges. Church attorney Josh Farmer said in a statement, "They are innocent of the charges leveled against them and we look forward to proving their innocence and to their complete vindication before a trial court."

Fenner told WNCN that's a lie and he said he has the pictures of his injuries to prove it. His attorney advised him to save those pictures for court.

Fenner said just the fact that the case is going to court at all is a victory, but he's still afraid to walk down the street in his own hometown.

"It's never something I think I'll feel completely safe about -- especially when I come back to this town. But, I mean, I'm just going to do what I have to do to pursue justice," Fenner said.

He's now an anthropology major at UNC Chapel Hill and is heavily involved in the university's LGBTQ Center.

This is not the first time Word of Faith Fellowship has found itself involved in problems.

In 2011, a young man said he was held against his will by the church because he was gay. He later recanted.

And in 2003, the church was involved in a custody dispute between a church member and one of the suspects in this case, Brooke Covington. Authorities temporarily removed the children from Covington's custody.

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# Victim of Alleged Word of Faith Abuse "Grateful" for Indictments

Updated: Wednesday, December 17 2014, 11:41 AM EST



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RUTHERFORD COUNTY, N.C. -- For the first time ever, several members of the Word of Faith Fellowship are facing felony charges.

A former member of the church says he was beaten and strangled for being gay in January 2013. On Monday night, a Rutherford County grand jury indicted Justin Brock Covington, Brooke McFadden Covington, Robert Louis Walker Jr. and Adam Christopher Bartley on Second Degree Kidnapping and Simple Assault charges.

Sarah Covington Anderson was indicted on Second Degree Kidnapping, Simple Assault and Assault by Strangulation charges.

The church has faced similar allegations of abuse in the past, but this is the first time a jury has called for felony charges.

The victim, Matthew Fenner, spoke to News 13 via Skype from Chapel Hill about the indictments on Tuesday.

"Things usually don't always work out well, but I was just very grateful to see that the jury made the decision they did and decided to help me pursue justice," Fenner said. "So I was just really glad with the turnout."

Patrick Covington, brother of one of the accused, says this fear is misplaced and these allegations go too far.

"I knew it was a lie from the beginning," Patrick said. "Because especially my sister is not capable of doing what he's accusing her of doing."

Patrick says he too is gay and escaped the church with Fenner to be free to lead their own lifestyles, but he denies abuse was ever an issue. He says the charges against his family members are weighing heavily.

An attorney for the members of the Word of Faith Fellowship issued the following statement: "They are innocent of the charges leveled against them and we look forward to proving their innocence and to their complete vindication before a trial court. Please remember that the law declares them innocent until they are proven guilty beyond all reasonable doubt."

Note: The group Families Against Cult Teachings says that Nancy Burnette, who was interviewed for this story, is not employed by F.A.C.T. and is not authorized to speak on its behalf.



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The following is an archived video story. The text content of that video story is available below for reference. The original video has been deleted and is no longer available.

### **Alleged Word of Faith Abusers Indicted**

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, N.C. -- Five members of the Rutherford County Word of Faith Church were indicted by a grand jury, Monday.

The indictment relates to a 2013 alleged assault on a gay member of the word of faith fellowship in Spindale.

The accuser, Matthew Fenner, says he was beaten and strangled by members of the church because he was gay.

The names and official charges of the accused will be released by the Rutherford County clerk of court Tuesday.

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# WNC Church Members Indicted On Assault, Kidnapping Charge

Posted: Dec 09, 2014 5:08 PM EST  
Updated: Jan 06, 2015 9:36 PM EST

By WSPA Staff | **CONNECT**



RUTHERFORD COUNTY, N.C. - Five members of a local church are facing serious charges. The Word of Faith Fellowship has been apart of the Spindale community in Rutherford County, North Carolina for more than three decades. One former member says something that happened behind closed doors had him fearing for his life.

"I honestly thought I was going to die," said Matthew Fenner.

He says several church members beat and strangled him because he's gay.

"My head was like being flung back, my vision was going brown and black," said Fenner. "I couldn't breathe and I'm sitting here thinking if I don't get out of this, i'm probably going to die."

That 2013 incident has now led to the indictments of five church members: Sarah Covington Anderson, Adam Christopher Bartley, Brooke McFadden Covington, Justin Brock Covington and Robert Louis Walker Jr. Each face simple assault and kidnapping charges. Anderson also faces an additional charge of assault by strangulation. The Rutherford County Sheriff's Office released the information Tuesday afternoon.

A "No Trespassing" sign kept us from driving up to the Word of Faith Fellowship building Tuesday. The church's attorney, Josh Farmer answered our questions via email.

"They are innocent of the charges leveled against them and we look forward to proving their innocence and to their complete vindication before a trial court," said Farmer. "We are adamant that no one ever physically harmed Mr. Fenner... The church does NOT target members who are gay."

Fenner says he's pushing forward for what he's knows is right.



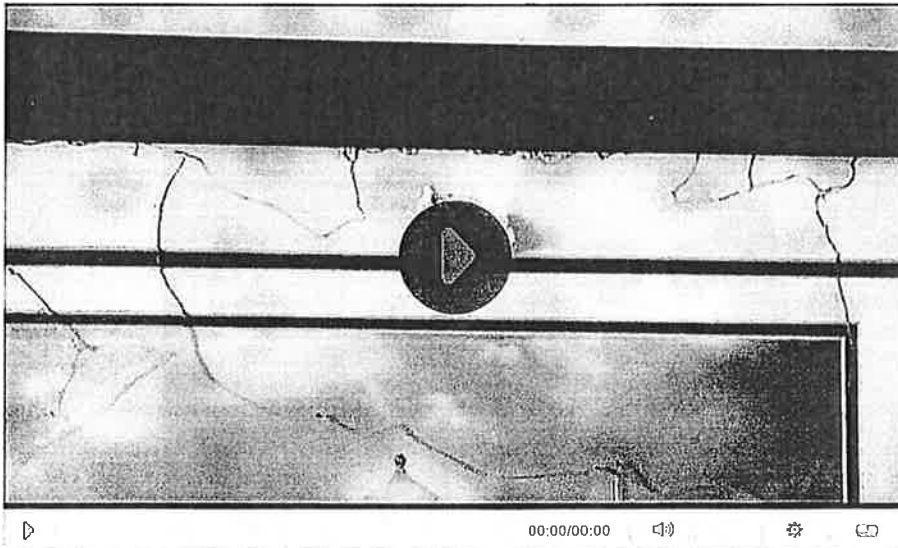
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## Five western NC church members indicted following assault allegations

Posted: Dec 09, 2014 5:49 PM EST  
Updated: Jan 06, 2015 5:56 PM EST

By Andrew Reeser [CONNECT](#)



SPINDALE, NC (FOX Carolina) - Five members of a western North Carolina church are facing kidnapping and abuse charges after a former member accused them of attacking him when he revealed he was gay.

Matthew Fenner, 21, said the five confronted him for being homosexual in January of 2013 when he was a member at Word of Faith Fellowship in Splndale. He said Sarah Anderson, Brook Covington and Nick Anderson began assaulting him shortly after. Fenner also said other members then became involved. Fenner claims he was beaten, strangled, slapped and held against his will. He also said the those three along with Robert Louis Walker, Jr. and Adam Christopher Bartley were all involved.

Fenner, who is now a junior at UNC Chapel Hill, said the five held him against his will for two and a half hours.

Monday a Grand Jury in Rutherford County heard statements from several witnesses, and decided to indict the five church members.

In a statement to FOX Carolina, Matthew Fenner writes:

*"I am extremely thrilled that the Grand Jury made the decision to indict. It has given me hope that the injustices that take place within the Word of Faith Fellowship are slowly, but potentially coming to an end. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I am happy that I will be given the chance to obtain justice for the crime committed against myself. I hope that this can in some way be a door of encouragement for others to seek justice for the crimes being committed against themselves within this organization, or in any other organization that crosses the line between a religious practice and utter hatred and ill-will."*

FOX Carolina reached out to Word of Faith Fellowship, whose attorney, James Farmer, responded with this statement:

*"My partner, Mark Morris, and I represent the accused. They are innocent of the charges leveled against them and we look forward to proving their innocence and to their complete vindication before a trial court. Please remember that the law declares them innocent until they are proven guilty beyond all reasonable doubt."*

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David Bellamy  
Dec 10 2014

We are not sure when he actually filed charges. In the statement, it gave the date of January of 2013. But, this is when they confronted him about being gay. They began abusing him shortly after, but not sure when the actual kidnapping took place. The it takes time for the Grand Jury to indict him. These 5 people call themselves Christians ?????

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Dec 10 2014

So these Christians think this kind of treatment is ok

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Wesley Duncan  
Dec 9 2014

I feel the same Bill, Christians like that makes people think all are like that but like you why wait a yr and half to report? should have when it happened not after this length of time, does make you wonder, we are to love all like Christ loves us and real Christians know this, but he should have come forward sooner, if that bad, makes us wonder

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bill  
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It took him 1 year and 11 months to bring charges? Why?

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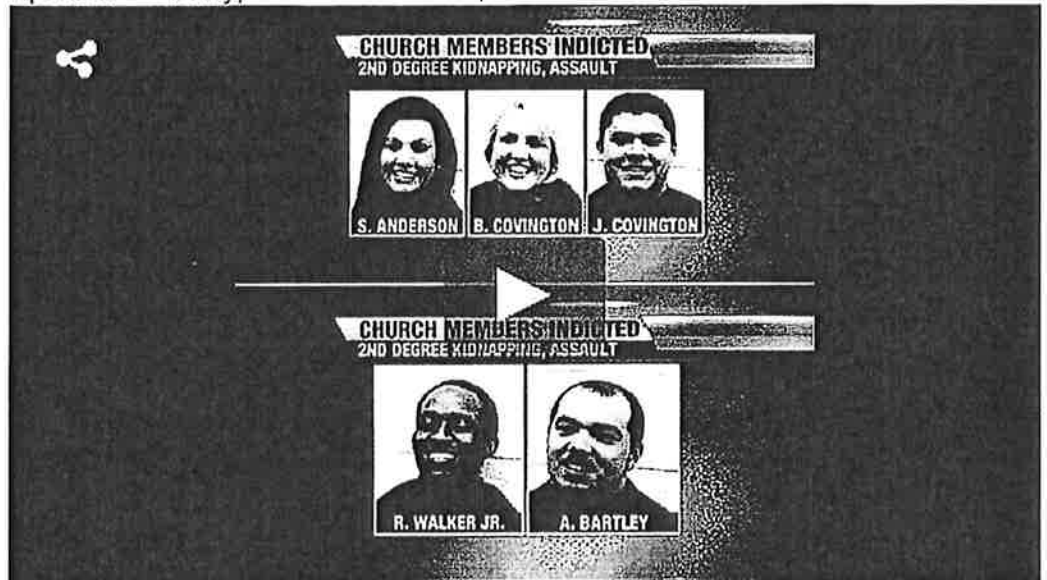
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# Mugshots of Alleged Word of Faith Abusers Released

Updated: Thursday, December 11 2014, 08:27 PM EST



RUTHERFORD COUNTY, N.C. -- Booking photos have been released for the five Word of Faith Fellowship church members indicted for allegedly assaulting a former member.

Sarah Anderson and Brooke and Justin Covington are all charged with second degree kidnapping and simple assault. Anderson is also charged with assault by strangulation.

Robert Walker Junior and Adam Bartley are also charged with kidnapping and assault.

Former member Matthew Fenner alleges he was beaten and strangled by members of the church in January of 2013 because he's gay.

All five have been released on bond.

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Victim of Alleged Word of Faith Abuse "Grateful" for Indictments  
Former Word of Faith Church Member Alleges Abuse



"This is the only way that I can get my voice out there to say look, this kind of stuff is happening. It happened to me and it just kind of sheds some light onto the things that are going on in there and that people do know, but can't really have the facts to go with it," said Fenner.

The grand jury met Monday on the case. Fenner says his mother and brother, who are still members of the church, were among the witnesses who testified against him.

We did some digging and this isn't the first time an accusation like this was made.

In 2011, a young man said he was held against his will by the church for months because he was gay. He later recanted.

In 2003, the church was involved in a custody dispute between a former church member and the same Brooke Covington accused today.

Reports show the mother gave Covington temporary custody, but in October of 2003 those children were ordered removed from the home after a district court found the environment abusive.

Two daughters went back to the church after an appeals court tossed out the ruling.

#### WNC Church Members Indicted On Assault, Kidnapping Charge



A western North Carolina church is facing serious allegations after five members were indicted on assault and kidnapping charges. [More>>](#)

16 comments ▾

Add a comment...



**Julie Young Jernigan**

They need to hand this case over to a court in another county besides Rutherford. Members of the "Church" are employed in all offices of government here and that is how they keep getting away with everything they do! This so called "Church" is nothing more than a Cult that needs to be taken down and let everyone be aware of what they really do there!

Reply · Like · 👍 7 · December 12, 2014 at 11:30am



**John Calendo** · ☆ Top Commenter · Editor/ Writer at Newspapers and Magazines

I'm sure they'll tell us how this is all an assault on their religious liberty and "sincerely held beliefs."

Reply · Like · 👍 7 · December 11, 2014 at 10:02am



**Jaime Gandarilla** · ☆ Top Commenter · Queretaro · 103 followers

Religion as always, helping people.

Reply · Like · 👍 7 · December 10, 2014 at 12:18pm



**Michael Gemmell** · ☆ Top Commenter · Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

What's the difference between this "church" and Muslim terrorists?

Reply · Like · 👍 6 · December 11, 2014 at 9:08am



**Richard Buxton**

Tax relief?

Reply · Like · 👍 11 · December 11, 2014 at 9:20am



**Matthew Nalett** · ☆ Top Commenter · Founder, President at Chicago Music Promotions

Richard Buxton lol

Reply · Like · 👍 1 · December 15, 2014 at 1:01pm



**Brian Hamilton** · ☆ Top Commenter · 204 followers

What a sick twisted cult.

Reply · Like · 👍 5 · December 12, 2014 at 1:37am



**Rhonda Smith** · Rural Carrier at Pacolet Post Office

This church is nothing but a Cult!!!! Crazy people!!

Reply · Like · 👍 4 · December 12, 2014 at 7:48pm



**Laurie Wood** · Landrum, South Carolina

Why are they all smiling like crazed idiots?

Reply · Like · 👍 4 · December 12, 2014 at 11:30am



**Campbell King** · ☆ Top Commenter · Works at Retired

There are thousands of christian cults...Take the bible with a grain of salt folks...Some is good-some is bad but none of it was written by God and lots of contradictions in it .....

Reply · Like · 👍 2 · December 12, 2014 at 9:24pm



**Geri Smith** · Chesnee High

I noticed that 3 of the five have the name Covington. Is this a practice of the church, or is it mainly one family with a couple of friends? Can't believe a church would support this.

Reply · Like · 👍 2 · December 12, 2014 at 1:26pm



**Randy Brown** · ☆ Top Commenter · Baltimore, Maryland

All the inbred people  
Where do they all come from?  
All the inbred people  
Where do they all belong?

--paraphrasing Lennon & McCartney

Reply · Like · 👍 1 · December 14, 2014 at 9:36am



**Michael Gemmell** · ☆ Top Commenter · Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Geri Smith, all the members of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas--the ones who tried to disrupt funerals--are members of the same family also.

Reply · Like · 👍 1 · December 15, 2014 at 1:35pm



**Thomas J. Carlin III** · ☆ Top Commenter

It's sad we protect religious beliefs more than we do the way people were born. Religion is, and always will be the epitome of mankind.

Reply · Like · 👍 1 · December 17, 2014 at 5:56am



**Heather Ciampi** · Spartanburg, South Carolina

All i see is people feeding on a messed up situation and you all are just as bad as the accused. Not one of you said a prayer for this man or his attackers so god bless this man in his time of need and work in the hearts and lives of the ones who may or may not have done this act of sin. In Jesus name i pray amen.

Reply · Like · December 14, 2014 at 10:19am



**Hagen Ulrich** · ☆ Top Commenter · Author at Author · 110 followers

Was für ein widerliches religiöses Pack. Da sehe ich keinen Unterschied zwischen solchen "Christen" und Islamistisch geprägten Terroristen. Und wenn es "Christenverfolgung" ist, solche "Kirchen" und Ihre Mitglieder zur Verantwortung zu ziehen, dann ist das eine Christenverfolgung, die ich begrüße und unterstütze.

Reply · Like · January 6 at 8:45am

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EXHIBIT

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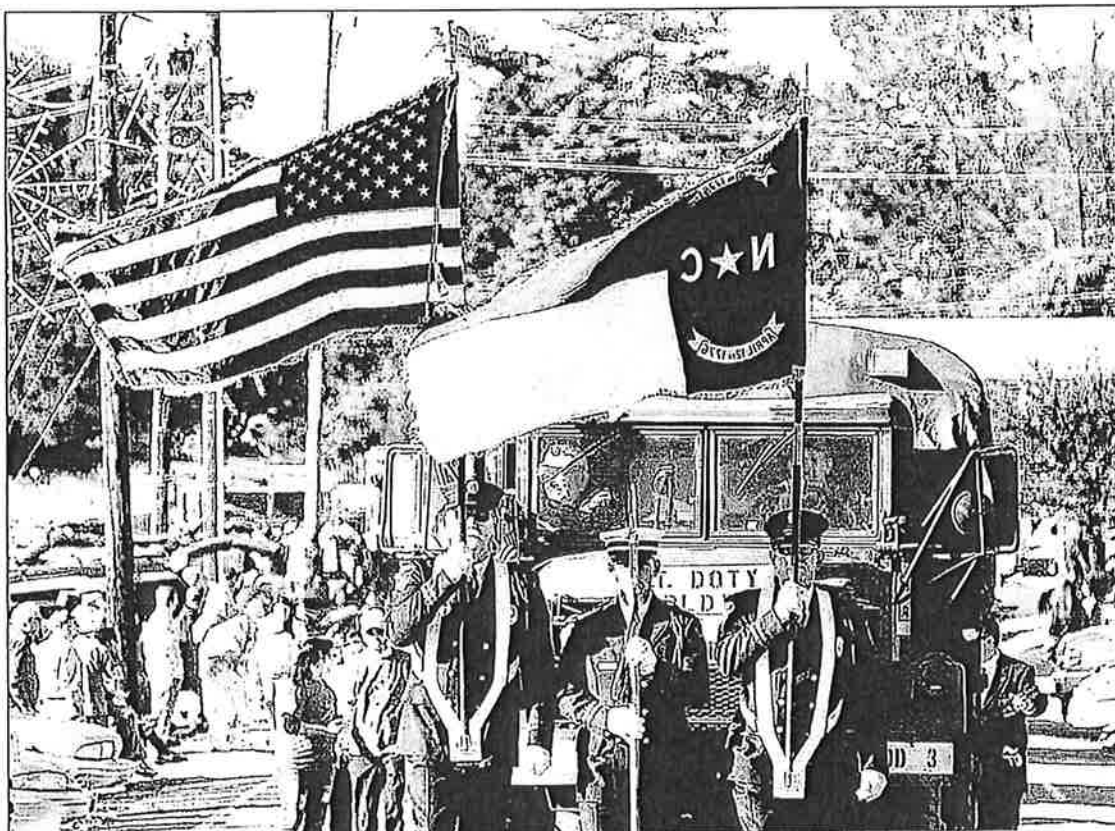
# Car accidents

Rutherford County had a couple auto accidents Monday/A6

# THE DAILY COURIER

Tuesday, December 9, 2014 • 75c • Serving Rutherford County • www.thedigitalcourier.com • Local Matters

## GREAT DAY FOR A PARADE



## Jury hears abuse case testimony

BY JEAN GORDON  
JGORDON@THEDIGITALCOURIER.COM

RUTHERFORDTON — The Rutherford County Grand Jury met all day Monday to hear testimony regarding the alleged physical beating of a former Word of Faith Fellowship Church member by two women of the church.

The grand jury disbanded at about 5:20 p.m. Monday with a decision but Rutherford County Sheriff Chris Francis said the details of the decision would not be available to his office until Tuesday.

Any charges and the names of those allegedly involved will be released Tuesday.

SEE ABUSE/PAGE A9

# ABUSE

FROM THE **FRONT PAGE**

The grand jury, called into special session Monday to hear evidence in the case on behalf of the victim and the defendants.

Matthew Fenner, a former member of the church and now living in Durham, said while he was a member of the church in January 2013, two women physically abused him. He contended he was assaulted by strangulation and suffered severe

beatings by two women because he is gay.

According to one officer in the courthouse Monday afternoon, there were numerous witnesses called before the Grand Jury during the day-long hearing.

In an earlier report, the church called the allegations false and the church had 25 witnesses from the night in question who could refute Fenner's story.

Calls to the district attorney's office, the Word of Faith Fellowship and attorneys were not returned late Monday.

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# THE DAILY COURIER

Wednesday, December 10, 2014 • 75c • Serving Rutherford County • www.thedigitalcourier.com • Local Matters

## Word of Fellowship Church members indicted

BY JEAN GORDON

JGORDON@THEDIGITALCOURIER.COM

RUTHERFORDTON — Five members of the Word of Faith Fellowship were indicted on felony assault charges after a special session of the grand jury Monday.

Indicted were Sarah Covington Anderson, 27, Adam Christopher Bartley, 25, Brooke McFadden Covington, 56, Jus-

tin Brock Covington, 20, all of Breeze Hill in Rutherfordton, and Robert Louis Walker, Jr., 26, of New Flynn Drive in Spindale.

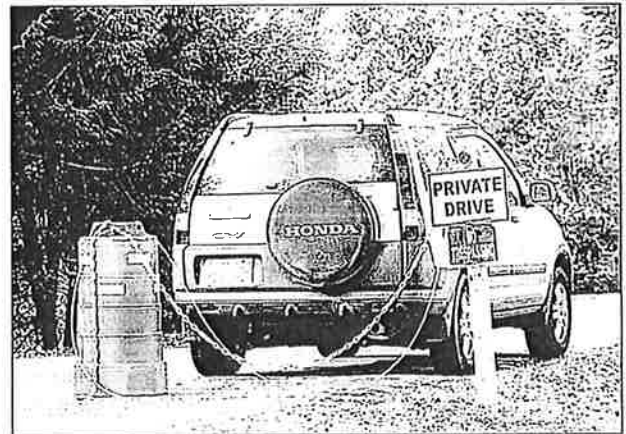
Five true bills of indictments were handed down for second-degree kidnapping and simple assault. Anderson was also charged with assault inflicting personal injury by strangulation.

Matthew Fenner, who was a member of the Word of Fellow-

ship Church in January 2013, alleges he was assaulted and strangled by the church members because of his sexual orientation.

Fenner appeared before the grand jury during its November session for a "presumption" session after which the jury requested a special session in

SEE MEMBERS/PAGE A10



Jean Gordon/Daily Courier

The driveway that leads to The Word of Faith Fellowship off Flynn Road in Spindale is closed to public traffic.

# MEMBERS

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

December to hear evidence in Fenner's allegations. Resident Superior Court Judge Tommy Davis approved the special hearing.

Evidence was pre-

sented Monday on both sides of the case.

One court official said there were numerous witnesses testifying throughout the day.

The jury did not dissolve its business until after 5 p.m. Monday.

The five people will be served warrants for their arrest and will go before a magistrate.

Brooke Covington is the mother of



**Matthew Fenner**

Anderson and Justin Covington and is the adopted daughter of church leader Jane Whaley.

The defendants will be tried in Superior Court next year.

They are being represented by attorneys Joshua Farmer and Mark Morris from the firm Tomblin, Farmer & Morris of Rutherfordton.

"They are innocent of the charges leveled against them, and we look forward to proving their innocence and to their complete vindication before a trial court," Farmer said. "Please remember that the law declares them innocent until they are proven guilty beyond all reasonable doubt."

Farmer also said the church members never hurt Fenner, and "we do not target gays."

Rutherford County Sheriff Chris Francis said Tuesday afternoon the five people were making arrangements with their attorneys to turn themselves in to law enforcement officers.

# THE DAILY COURIER

Friday, December 12, 2014 • 75c • Serving Rutherford County • www.thedigitalcourier.com • Local Matters

## Word of Faith Fellowship members post bond

Superior Court trial scheduled for Feb. 11, 2015

BY JEAN GORDON  
JGORDON@THEDIGITALCOURIER.COM

**RUTHERFORDTON** — Five members of the Word of Faith Fellowship posted property bonds Wednesday night after turning themselves into law enforcement officers on alleged assault charges of a former member of the church.

Posting bond Wednesday night on felony and misdemeanor charges were Sarah Covington Anderson, 27, of Brooke Breeze Lane in Ruth-

erfordton; Adam Christopher Bartley, 25, who has an address of Sunlight Path Drive in Monroe and also Brooke Breeze Lane in Rutherfordton; Justin Brock Covington, 20, of Brooke Breeze Lane in Rutherfordton; Brooke Camille Covington, 56, of Brooke Breeze Lane in Rutherfordton and Robert Louis Walker, 26, of New Flynn Road in Spindale.

The charges stem from allegations by Matthew Fenner, 24, of Chapel Hill who said the five members of the Word



Sarah Anderson



Adam Bartley



Justin Covington



Brooke Covington



Robert Walker

of Faith Fellowship assaulted him and one member strangled him because of his sexual orientation in January 2013 when he was a member of the church.

Anderson received a \$15,000 bond on felony charges of second degree kidnapping and assault by strangula-

tion and a misdemeanor charge of simple assault.

Bartley was given a \$25,000 bond. He is charged with felony second degree kidnapping and misdemeanor simple assault.

Bartley has a criminal record from Union County that includes felony breaking and entering and a conviction

in 2008 of which he served time. He also has misdemeanor assault on female and drug possession charges from 2014 and several other felony breaking and entering cases.

Justin Covington received a \$10,000 bond on a felony second degree kidnapping charge and misdemeanor simple assault.

Brooke Camille Covington received a \$10,000 bond on charges of felony second degree kidnapping misdemeanor simple assault.

Walker also received a \$10,000 bond on felony second degree kidnapping and misdemeanor simple assault.

SEE BOND/PAGE A6

# BOND

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

The five church members received true bills of indictment Monday evening after a day-long session of the Rutherford County Grand Jury. The jury was granted a special session by Superior Court Judge Tommy Davis, in order to hear evidence in the case.

In November Fenner, who is a student in Chapel Hill, went before the grand jury with his story and after the presumption hearing

at that time, a special session was scheduled for Dec. 8. Evidence from both sides was heard Monday from numerous witnesses.

Brooke Covington is the mother of Anderson and Justin Covington and is the adopted daughter of church leaders Jane Whaley and Sam Whaley.

The defendants are scheduled for trial during the Feb. 11, 2015 term of Superior Court.

They are being represented by attorneys Joshua Farmer and Mark Morris from the firm Tomblin, Farmer & Morris

of Rutherfordton.

"They are innocent of the charges leveled against them and we look forward to proving their innocence and to their complete vindication before a trial court," Farmer said Tuesday after the indictments were handed down. "Please remember that the law declares them innocent until they are proven guilty beyond all reasonable doubt," Farmer said.

Farmer also said the church members never hurt Fenner and "we do not target gays," Farmer said, who is a member of the church.

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# THE DAILY COURIER

Weekender edition of December 27-28, 2014 • \$1.50 • Serving Rutherford County • [www.thedigitalcourier.com](http://www.thedigitalcourier.com) • Local Matters

## SUPERIOR COURT

# Garcell's request for retrial denied; Sappenfield not guilty

BY JEAN GORDON  
JGORDON@THEDIGITALCOURIER.COM

FOREST CITY — When Superior Court resumes in Rutherford County in January, District Attorney-elect Ted Bell will be the new face at the helm of the district attorney's office. Bell will take the oath of office at 9 a.m. on Friday, in the Rutherford County Courthouse.

Bell, a Republican, defeated incumbent Democrat District Attorney Brad Greenway in his run for re-election in November.

Among criminal cases that received media attention in 2014 included updates from the 2013 shooting involving youths in Spindale.

The case of Tyric McDowell, 15, the alleged shooter of 16-year-old Dominique Fernanders on Nov. 17, 2013, in Spindale, was moved to Superior Court from juvenile proceedings. McDow-

## TOP STORIES OF 2014

ell was indicted in September 2014 by the Rutherford County Grand Jury on charges of attempted first-degree murder and assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury.

McDowell, of Spindale, is being held in an area for younger offenders in a North Carolina Department of Corrections facility.

Superior Court Judge Jeff Hunt approved the motion made by District

SEE COURT/PAGE A6

# COURT

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Attorney Greenway last summer that McDowell be tried as an adult.

## Another shooting in Spindale

In another Spindale case involving a shooting, Rodriquez Brown, 42, is charged with attempted first-degree murder and possession of a firearm by a felon in a Nov. 19 incident. He is in jail under a \$325,000 bond.

The victim in the incident, Taranus Donte Hampton, sustained life-threatening injuries from two gunshot wounds. The shooting took place at the home of Hampton's family.

## Convicted murderer on death row seeks retrial

Under heavy security, Ryan Gabriel Garcell, 28, a convicted murderer on death row, walked into the Rutherford County courthouse in September seeking a new trial.

Security officers from the North Carolina Department of Correction in Raleigh escorted Garcell into the Superior Court room where motions were being heard in the 2004 murder case of Mildred Hutchins Bennick, 71.

Superior Court Judge James U. Downs, who presided over the 2006 trial, sentenced Garcell to death on April 4, 2006.

Garcell came to court in September regarding motions filed for appropriate relief surrounding alleged actions by Downs during jury deliberations in the 2006 trial.

The motion for appropriate relief filed by Garcell's attorneys suggested Downs answered questions from the jury inside the jury room rather than have the jury return to the courtroom during their time of deliberations.

Downs denied the allegations.

The defense presented sworn affidavits from the jurors who heard the 2006 case and said Downs talked to the jury during deliberations inside the jury room.

The jurors that testified in September said they were harassed by investigators in 2010 and 2011 regarding the matter and said on the stand Downs did not go into the jury room until after the trial was completed. He went in at that time to thank the jury for their service.

Resident Superior Court Tommy Davis denied the request for a new trial.

In his order, Davis said the affidavits signed by jurors in 2011 during investigation after Garcell filed a Motion for Appropriate, regarding Downs' actions were mistaken.



Jean Gordon/Daily Courier

Under heavy security, Ryan Gabriel Garcell, 28, a convicted murderer on death row, walked into the Rutherford County courthouse in September seeking a new trial. Garcell was in Rutherford County seeking a retrial, but was denied.

Davis said Downs had extensive experience in handling capital murder cases and understood the impropriety of a judge entering the jury chambers during deliberations.

## Edgerton trial on February docket

Napolean Brian "Nike" Edgerton, 28, charged with first degree murder in the shooting death of Antonituis "Buddy" Robinson in 2012 is scheduled for Superior Court in February 2015. He appeared in Superior Court in Rutherford County two times in 2014 with his lawyer asking for a reduction of his \$550,000 bond. The request was denied each time. He is represented by attorney Mike Edney.

## Sappenfield not guilty

In another high profile case that caught the attention of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, 21-year-old C.J. Sappenfield, of Bostic, was found not guilty in July of felony death by motor vehicle and careless and reckless driving. He was charged in the vehicle crash on May 15, 2013, that claimed the life of his best friend, Matthew Lail, 19, of Forest City. Evidence proved alcohol was a factor, but jurors did not find enough evidence to prove who was the driver of the vehicle the morning of the crash off Bostic-Sunshine Highway.

**Washington on \$500,000 bond**  
Dedrick Shamar Washington,

19, of Shelby, charged with killing Jeffrey Lee James, 43, of Spindale, on Sept. 28, 2013, was given a \$500,000 bond in July. Prior to the July hearing, Washington was being held without bond in the shooting death that occurred at Mingle City bar in Spindale.

Greenway told the judge since the murder of James was not a death penalty case, the judge set a \$500,000 secured bond.

Washington was also ordered not to have any contact with James' family, he cannot contact any of the state's witnesses and he is not to associate with any gang members.

## Word of Faith members indicted

Five members of the Word of Faith Fellowship were indicted on felony assault charges after a special session of the grand jury was held in December.

Indicted were Sarah Covington Anderson, 27, Adam Christopher Bartley, 25, Brooke McFadden Covington, 56, Justin Brock Covington, 20, all of Breeze Hill in Rutherfordton, and Robert Louis Walker, Jr., 26, of New Flynn Drive in Spindale.

Five true bills of indictments were handed down for second-degree kidnapping and simple assault. Anderson was also charged with assault inflicting personal injury by strangulation.

Matthew Fenner, who was a member of the Word of Faith Fellowship Church in January 2013, alleges he was assaulted and strangled by the church members because of his sexual orientation.



## Beaten, assaulted, strangled



Matt Fenner

Special to The Star

Matt Fenner says he suffered at the hands of Word of Faith Fellowship Church members during a bizarre ritual to cure him of his homosexuality. In December, five members of the Spindale church were indicted for their role in the assault.

Joyce Orlando

jorlando@shelbystar.com

After two years of waiting, Matt Fenner of Rutherfordton has some resolution to the trauma he faced at the hands of people from the Word of Faith Fellowship Church in Spindale.

Last month, five church members were indicted for kidnapping and assault for their roles in an incident at the church in early 2013 when Fenner says he was shoved and beaten because of his sexual orientation.

Church members Justin Covington, 20, of Rutherfordton; Brooke Covington, 56, of Rutherfordton; Robert Walker Jr., 26, of Spindale; and Adam Bartley, 25, of Rutherfordton, have been indicted on one count each of second-degree kidnapping and simple assault.

Sarah Covington Anderson, 27, of Rutherfordton, faces those same charges plus one count of assault inflicting physical injury by strangulation. It's unclear how the Covingtons are related, but the indictments show they live at the same Rutherfordton address.

"There were at least three instances that resulted in members of the Word of Faith Fellowship ganging up on me for being a homosexual and having tendencies that would cause one to perceive such," Fenner wrote in an email to *The Star*.

Out of the three incidents, the one that took place on Jan. 27, 2013, was the worse, said Fenner, a graduate of Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy.

### A church going too far?

Fenner's family joined the church a few years ago at a time when Fenner said he was struggling with his sexuality.

He said he decided to attend the church and its school because of his mother.

"My mom and I were always really close, and I just thought maybe I can keep an open mind and see if it works — see if I can change," he said. "Obviously, that was really a stupid decision, because you can't change who you are. But in my mind, it seemed like the right thing to do."

During that period, he said he became a tutor, helping other students at the church, and going to services. He said church members suspected he was gay — and later began harassing him, according to the police affidavit.

### 'Blasting' sins away



Photo courtesy of WOLS-TV

Word of Faith Fellowship Church has 750 members and operates a 35-acre complex in Spindale. The church was founded in 1979 by Sam and Jane Whaley, pictured at left during a 1995 news conference. For years, the church has faced accusations of enforcing extensive control over its congregation.

"deliverance soon ensued."

The group began using a technique they call "blasting," a form of hands-on, high-pitched, screaming prayer.

Within minutes, he said, they began to berate him because he was gay. One woman told him he was "disgusting."

"I told her that I was sorry, that I didn't know what she wanted me to tell her, and this is the point at which she slapped me with a great amount of force across my left cheek," Fenner wrote.

### Alleged abuse continued for two hours

For two hours, they pushed and hit Fenner, screaming at him as they tried to "break me free of the homosexual 'demons,'" he said in a police affidavit about the attack.

One of the people who was in control

>> See FENNER/Page 3A



Associated Press

But Fenner said nothing prepared him for what happened on Jan. 27, 2013.

After a nighttime church service, three members asked him to go to the back of the sanctuary.

"At first, three members took me to the back of the sanctuary, in which they

questioned me about 'sin,' that I hadn't been 'opening my heart about', meaning that I hadn't been making known to them voluntarily," Fenner wrote.

In the affidavit, Fenner said the three were soon joined by about 20 others, and they surrounded him. And that's when

Continued from Page 1A

"God told her there was something I had done, but wasn't telling," Fenner wrote. "We went back and forth that I didn't know what they were talking about, all in the attempt to somehow deter the attention from me and get them to back off for a bit because it was obvious they were all three upset."

After this line of questioning, the members of the church who took part in the blasting threatened to leave Fenner in the sanctuary for the next two days, Fenner said.

"Seeing as how different leadership members had done this before to others, I took this as a very serious threat. Feeling practically cornered in, I began to tell them things they'd want to hear (none of which had actually occurred)," Fenner wrote in the email.

He said they began pushing him and hitting him and using "other violent measures" that were all part of the church's way of trying to cure him of being gay.

They decided to let him go. When he got home, he told his mother what had happened, but she didn't believe him — even though he said he was covered in bruises.

"I left knowing that if the entire truth of the homosexual feelings had been found out, I truly believe that I would have been killed, if not just severely beaten," Fenner said.

He said he went to his grandparents' house and called the sheriff's office. He said that was the beginning of his struggle to get law enforcement to take action.

**I left knowing that if the entire truth of the homosexual feelings had been found out, I truly believe that I would have been killed, if not just severely beaten.**

Matt Fenner

### **Members indicted for kidnapping, assault**

Now a student at the University of North Carolina, the 21-year-old Fenner told The Associated Press that he believed his life was in danger that night.

He had to press authorities to investigate his allegations because of the church's influence in the community, Fenner told the AP.

"The line between religion and abuse, they are crossing it quite severely. That's why I'm doing this. They have to know you cannot hurt people," he said.

But Joshua Farmer, whose law firm is representing the five indicted church members, said that was nonsense.

"In short, this stuff is an absolute complete fabrication," Farmer told the AP. "They are innocent of the charges."

### **History of controversy**

This is the latest controversy to surround the church, founded in 1979 by Sam and Jane Whaley. Word of Faith Fellowship Church, which has 750 members and operates a 35-acre complex

in Spindale, has been accused for years of enforcing extensive control over its congregation.

Former members say they were told by church leaders where to live and work, what to read, how to dress and when to have sex with their spouses, the AP reports.

The church says it doesn't celebrate Christmas and other holidays because of the holidays' pagan origins.

The church was investigated twice in the late 1990s for its treatment of children but was cleared of any wrongdoing.

In recent years, national gay rights groups have criticized Word of Faith after several young men — whose parents are church members — claimed they were abused because they are gay.

"It's pretty clear to me ... that these individuals wanted to inflict pain on Matthew because of his sexual orientation," said Brent Childers, executive director of Faith in America, a group that addresses harm done to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people by "misguided religious teachings."

*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

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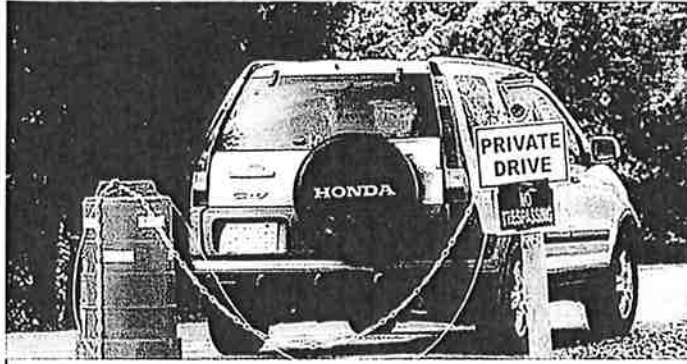
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**The Daily Courier**

December 9, 2014 ·

Five members of the Word of Faith Fellowship were indicted on assault charges after a special session of the Grand Jury Monday.

<http://www.thedigitalcourier.com/.../Five-Word-of-Faith-membe...>



## Five Word of Faith members indicted for assault | The Daily Courier

Five Word of Faith members indicted for assault Dec. 09, 2014 @ 11:40 AM JEAN GORDON Login Subscribe or link to print subscription RUTHERFORDTON —...

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Recent Activity

150 shares



**Kristen Thornton** Need a change of venue to make sure the Judge is not on WOFF payroll

37 · December 9, 2014 at 1:57pm



**Carol Rhodes** I wish this disgusting CULT would be forcibly permanently REMOVED from our state!

25 · December 9, 2014 at 2:09pm



**Barbara Huskey** Sane Too bad Jane Whaley isn't one of those charged.

17 · December 9, 2014 at 2:12pm



**Crystal Eason** Hey I wouldn't dare join this crazy cult but I do love eating at there restaurant. They tried to talk to me once about joining. I looked at them like they were out there mind. I said I like ur chicken salad but not enough to give u my kids for it. How bout we just pretend this conversation didn't happen and I'm gonna come in tomorrow order my turkey sandwich and u gonna be like oh hey crystal. Lol true story.

16 · December 9, 2014 at 2:25pm

4 Replies · December 15, 2014 at 7:48pm



**Jill Scherpereel** Hopefully the system won't fail him

15 · December 9, 2014 at 1:55pm



**Tina Melton** It's about time!!!

12 · December 9, 2014 at 1:57pm



**Deborah Brantley** Own a lot more than just restaurants . If you disagree (as I do) with their practices then don't support their businesses.

10 · December 9, 2014 at 6:11pm

2 Replies · December 14, 2014 at 12:31pm



**Mendy Barnes** Should be a lot of 'purgin' tonight!

9 · December 9, 2014 at 2:29pm



**Marvin Parker** Been going ob for years & tthey keep getting away free. To many people & money in the cult (WOFF). Its goinf have to get higher then Rurherford Co. to get something done.

9 · December 9, 2014 at 2:17pm



**Marvin Parker** If its not cult why does rhe higher members need AR -15 ? WOFF cult brain washes people & nobody is stopping the bs.

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8 · December 9, 2014 at 2:24pm



**Emily Hicks** Praying Matthew Fenner gets justice!

5 · December 9, 2014 at 2:28pm



**Peggy Cogdell Greene** Well you need to stop shopping at Belks

4 · December 13, 2014 at 2:37pm



**Ryan Guffey** No arrests have been made in this case. If any other citizen were caught with this charged we would have immediately been arrested

4 · December 9, 2014 at 8:45pm



**Jennifer Mullinax Taylor** It's ABOUT time some of them were punished for there horrible actions... They're a FELLOWSHIP OF THE DEVIL NOT GOD !!!!!

4 · December 9, 2014 at 3:01pm



**Terri Clements** Good luck Matthew Fenner!!!

4 · December 9, 2014 at 2:13pm



**Carol Rhodes** If I'm aware of a business operated, owned or affiliated with this CULT I avoid it. Why support their businesses?

3 · December 10, 2014 at 5:04am

2 Replies · December 10, 2014 at 9:35am



**Andrea Dawn Williams** Amen someone needs to do something to stop this dangerous cult!!

3 · December 9, 2014 at 7:51pm



**Becky Cooper** wondered how long it would take

3 · December 9, 2014 at 4:14pm



**Lisa Cox** It's a shame it has taken so long.

3 · December 9, 2014 at 4:13pm



**Carol Rhodes** I support Matthew Fenner and any other person under the WOFF mind control who are seeking refuge

3 · December 9, 2014 at 3:10pm · Edited



**Carol Rhodes** Cafe at the mall

2 · December 10, 2014 at 1:49am



**Diana Spratt** I don't know anything about WOFF from personal experience so I hope the truth is exposed.

2 · December 9, 2014 at 3:15pm



**Angle Watkins** He's not the only one who deserves justice. But I sure hope he gets his.

2 · December 9, 2014 at 3:01pm



**Linda Cunningham** Praying that someone finally does something about this. I have much knowledge of the stupidity of this cult as I have had and now have family there. Pls pls pray that justice is served and that this cult is shut down for good.

1 · December 10, 2014 at 4:03am



**Hunter Yelton** Luci Miller they own that food place in the forest city mall

1 · December 9, 2014 at 5:01pm



**Luci Miller** What is the name of the restaurant

1 · December 9, 2014 at 4:50pm



**John Thomas Hill** Cafe at the Mall

December 10, 2014 at 4:56am



**David Starnes** When all is said and done , there will be more said than done . No one has the backbone anymore to gather a community and run them out of town. If they did it would have already happened.

3 · December 10, 2014 at 3:55am



**Wanda Evans** Thank you God.

December 10, 2014 at 2:49pm

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**Fox Carolina News**

December 9, 2014 ·

Five members of a western North Carolina church are facing kidnapping and abuse charges after a former member accused them of attacking him when he revealed he was gay.

Andrew Reeser has the story on The FOX Carolina News tonight.



### Five western NC church members indicted following assault allegations

The victim, who is now a junior at UNC Chapel Hill, said the five held him against his will for two and a half hours.

FOXCAROLINA.COM | BY ANDREW REESER

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**Lora Radford Brown** i grew up in the county where this happened and this is a cult not a church, you can not judge all christians based on what these people do.

18 · December 9, 2014 at 6:23pm



**Kristie Tipton** We don't judge ALL Christians based on things like this BUT this isn't an isolated incident either. You should check out some of the threads concerning homosexuality on here and it might change your mind on Christians too.

1 · December 10, 2014 at 5:52am



**Lora Radford Brown** I am a christian and I do find myself disappointed in a lot of the people who claim to be because they spread so much hate instead of love like Jesus said you should.

3 · December 10, 2014 at 6:55am



**Lori Jarman** True Christians do NOT act this way! Yes those who CLAIM to be Christians but not true children of God will act like that, no matter what I read!

1 · December 10, 2014 at 1:46pm



**Kristie Tipton** I agree!

December 10, 2014 at 3:13pm



**Jason Lollis** Messed up how God only makes the Media if one Christian (or a few) does something non-Christianlike. We have tons of Churches across the Carolinas feeding the Hungry on a weekly basis but they shine a light on the few bad apples. Smh

16 · December 9, 2014 at 6:18pm · Edited



**Kristie Baldwin** Right!!!! That is the only time this sort of talk is permitted... When people can bash Christians and their beliefs!!! Any other time it is a violation of someones rights....

2 · December 9, 2014 at 6:49pm



**Jason Lollis** I wished everyone saw it that way Bree

December 9, 2014 at 7:17pm



**Heath Lane** I know for a fact there are some good Christians out there, they're just vastly outnumbered by nut jobs like that. I think if more of the good ones would speak out very loudly against idiots like that, more people would recognize that not every Christian was like that.

3 · December 9, 2014 at 7:39pm

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**Jason Lollis** Outnumbered? I've been a Christian since I was 5 and I only hear of crazy ppl like this on the news. You sort of proved my point of what the media is doing for Christians. I'm not Catholic but do you realize there are hundreds of thousands of priests that don't molest children. The media has ruined their reputation over the few bad apples.

8 · December 9, 2014 at 7:48pm



**Heath Lane** Let me put it to you this way, Jason...during all the outcry from so-called "Christians" over the idea of same-sex marriage, for every goodnatured, tolerant, informed and "Christ-like" Christian who had something neutral or even positive about the overturn of the ban against equal rights, there were 20 or 30 condemning it who had really hateful, nasty and UN-Christian things to say about it (and the people who benefit from it). It was disturbing, and revolting. If you're NOT outnumbered, y'all need to speak up against these fanatical, extremist nutjobs. Because so far, they APPEAR to be the majority, and make you all look bad. Know what I mean?

1 · December 10, 2014 at 3:18pm · Edited



**Kristie Tipton** Exactly Heath Lane

1 · December 10, 2014 at 3:14pm



**Jason Lollis** If they were saying un-Christianlike things about homosexuals its one thing, but hating the sin not the sinner is another. I for one am not going to apologize for standing up against homosexual marriage. In my opinion, the Bible is clear about this issue. Legalizing homosexual marriage still doesn't legitimize it. Now when it comes to the actual people that are homosexuals, I love them all. I think most Christians do. I will say I can relate to the ones who fear whats next for America after such a thing as homosexual marriage is passed. Sure divorce is thrown around with homosexual marriage and I'm pretty sure it would be brought up again here as usual. The thing about divorce that is different than homosexual marriage is this: Not one straight couple that gets married are intending to divorce, otherwise they wouldn't be getting married. On the other hand, every single homosexual person who marries is making a commitment to sin every single day for the rest of their lives. Its a pact with the Devil. How does one back away from sin when they've signed a contract to live in sin for the rest of their lives?

December 11, 2014 at 12:46am



**Chelsea Renee** That's y I don't go to church ... Cause most of the people who go there are fake!

12 · December 9, 2014 at 8:41pm



**Barbara Hoelzer Bennett** And these are supposed Christians.

8 · December 9, 2014 at 5:52pm



**Chad Williams** Do you mean Jesus wouldn't have done that? Gaspl

1 · December 9, 2014 at 5:55pm



**Barbara Hoelzer Bennett** don't think so

1 · December 9, 2014 at 6:01pm



**Lynn McGarity Sarmiento** And they are innocent until PROVEN guilty...so why judge them before any evidence has been heard??

2 · December 9, 2014 at 6:13pm



**Lora Radford Brown** trust me when I say that this "church" is really a cult. their leader is a sick and twisted woman who makes all the people in the "church" follow her perverted version of "christianity"

4 · December 9, 2014 at 6:20pm · Edited



**Jennifer Mooney Hastings** Obviously evidence is there or they wouldn't be indicted.

2 · December 9, 2014 at 6:24pm



**Amie Elizabeth Sisk** Do they claim to be Christians?

December 9, 2014 at 6:34pm



**Scott Moore** Yeah, folks, there are no fakes or hypocrites or nuts anywhere else. Ever. These people aren't Christians. Going to church doesn't mean you are. Not does it mean you're perfect. This is inexcusable, but it doesn't mean we are all like that. By stereotyping Christians or church goers, you're pretty much doing the same thing that you condemn in them. Nobody's perfect. Except you, of course, right?

7 · December 9, 2014 at 9:02pm



**Tiffany Timmons** Dlsusting! Gives all Christians a bad name. we are supposed to love everyone, we don't have to love the choices but LOVE THEM LIKE CRAZY!!!!!! Now THATS what Jesus woulda done

14 · December 9, 2014 at 6:01pm



**Lauren May** I agree. I don't like the choices these church members made beating and kidnapping someone either. It's dispicable!

5 · December 9, 2014 at 7:37pm



**Gina Sharpe Grantt** This cult has been holding people against their will, separating families, torturing people, and profiting from the people for 30 years. In the mid 1990's the cult made national media on Inside Edition. They never get convicted of their crimes bc they have so much money and influence over local law and court system. Their reach is international. Some "members" have escaped to foreign countries only to be tracked down. There is a class system to the cult. The higher class dress similar with perfectly fixed hair and makeup and nice dress clothes regardless of age. The males always are dressed well too. Even at church league



games members would come dressed as such. The ball players had professional like uniforms. They own many businesses in the county and lots of real estate. The higher members keep many of the lower class members in their houses. The worker bees either work for them and turn over a percent of income or work somewhere else and still have to give a large portion of their income. This is not a church. It is a cult. I hope they get a conviction this time.


6 · December 10, 2014 at 3:31am

**Mark Johnson** Another reason to stay away from Christians and their religion of hate and anger.


6 · December 9, 2014 at 9:59pm

 **Tammy Whitlock Achenbach** Christ doesn't teach anger and hate. These people are disturbed.


1 · December 10, 2014 at 10:02am

 **Brooke Pickles Simon** Christ was a human so I'm sure he taught whatever he wanted to plus he wasn't as perfect as yall claim...He was married too by the way lol


2 · December 10, 2014 at 10:25am

 **Scott Biff Smith** Brooke Pickles Simon , how do you know he was marroed , were you there ?


December 10, 2014 at 12:21pm

 **Kristie Tipton** Scott were you there? How do you know he wasn't?

1 · December 10, 2014 at 3:12pm · Edited

 **Heath Lane** Hlstorians and theologians have pointed to several "lost" gospels (in other words, somehow erased from many later translations, and thus considered "non-canonical" by certain sects) which clearly feature Jesus speaking of his wife but also place Mary Magdalene as that lucky bride.


2 · December 10, 2014 at 3:26pm

 **Laura Wright** The church pushed me away when I had a child out of wedlock and no one ever asked me why or where the daddy was or just didn't care that he did me wrong. Christians walk around like they are elite and do no wrong!


1 · December 11, 2014 at 8:45am

 **Connie Workman** Hate the sin, not the sinner

5 · December 9, 2014 at 6:12pm

 **Kristofer Parker** That's easier said than done for most people sadly.


1 · December 9, 2014 at 7:35pm

 **Kristie Tipton** What does that have to do with anything when it comes to this? We ALL sin...even you.


December 10, 2014 at 5:50am

 **Vic Johnson** Michael Milam Cult. Not Church.


4 · December 9, 2014 at 10:29pm

 **Janice Gill Sexton** Think of Jim Jones. This is a cult. Period. Please don't confuse this cult with bible believing Christians. A sick cult. Wouldn't be spruced if one day we hear they drank the koolaid. Sad.


3 · December 10, 2014 at 3:14am

 **Teri Thomas Noel** Automatically knew what church it was before I opened the story. A few years ago it was public beatings of disobedient children and members, child molestation before that. Sad.

3 · December 9, 2014 at 7:18pm

 **Kayla Phillips** If they are found to be guilty they should be charged with a hate crime. The behavior of "Christians" makes it super easy to be an atheist.

3 · December 9, 2014 at 6:50pm

 **Judy Wilkey** Dont let the behavior of a few cause you to die and go to hell or miss out on Heaven in any way. There will be plenty who act the part just to cause confusion to others. Don't fall for it.


5 · December 9, 2014 at 8:16pm

 **Kristie Tipton**  
IF YOU'RE USING THE BIBLE TO HURT OTHER PEOPLE,  
YOU'RE USING IT WRONG.



"LOVE DOES NO HARM TO ITS NEIGHBOR,  
THEREFORE LOVE IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW"  
ROMANS 13:10

2 · December 10, 2014 at 12:06pm

 **Angle Duncan Beasley** That is true not many people who call their self Christian's are not .Only few will enter the Gates of Heaven .

2 · December 10, 2014 at 7:51am



**John Williams** Jesus tells us that not everyone that cries Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of God.

December 10, 2014 at 8:39am



**Jeff Lancaster** Word of faith is a cult. They own most of spindale and thler married members live apart and have to ask permission from the leader to have sex with their spouse. I've worked with several members in the past. Another Waco Texas in the making

2 · December 10, 2014 at 2:01am



**Laura Wright** That's crazy and I'm curious now and would like to know more. People, lol!

December 11, 2014 at 8:50am



**Elyse Wooldridge** Going to church doesnt make you a follower of Jesus any more than sitting in a garage makes you a 67 mustang, why involve the cult/church/group? Some guys allegedly jumped on another guy for his sexual orientation. And if the alleged victim is telling the truth, I'm sure this could fall under the whole hate crime law

2 · December 9, 2014 at 9:34pm · Edited



**Gwelda Duncan** Yea they run that town! DSS, law enforcement, I heard even judges!! I was easier in this ungodly town!!

2 · December 9, 2014 at 8:26pm



**Heath Lane** They only did it because they felt "persecuted", I'm guessing. Lol. Seriously, those people need to be punished by the full extent of the law.

2 · December 9, 2014 at 7:37pm



**William Cole** WOF is nothing but a cult. Don't drink the cool aid.

2 · December 9, 2014 at 7:10pm



**Brooke Pickles Simon** Not the first church I've heard of doing that so it's not surprising really.

2 · December 9, 2014 at 6:11pm



**Amie Elizabeth Sisk** Really? You have heard of this before?

December 9, 2014 at 6:35pm



**Brooke Pickles Simon** Many of them...where I used to live there was one in town...used children for sex acts with animals. Even graduated with a guy that was eventually convicted of being with the group from the church. Obviously you have your eyes closed to the world around you. Churches are not always what they seem. Just like humans aren't always what they seem.

3 · December 9, 2014 at 6:38pm



**Judy Wilkey** I was actually holding my breath to see what town in WNC the church could have possibly been located because I know of a few myself I would not put it past to attempt something as alleged. Just because a building has a steeple and the name church on its sign by the road does not in fact mean they are a Christian church with actual Christians in the pews and pulpits.

3 · December 9, 2014 at 8:12pm · Edited



**Justin Seay** Brooke you said "many" of them, then you vaguely named one. Can you name or point out the many others? Thanks!

1 · December 10, 2014 at 5:10am



**Brooke Pickles Simon** If you can't watch what's going on in the world for yourself...then I can't help you...how about you do your own research instead of waiting for someone else to do it for you. Research the south and you will find many things that you never thought could happen. Obviously none of you have heard of all the priests doing things with little boys for years...

1 · December 10, 2014 at 6:30am



**Brooke Pickles Simon** Jus like if you feel you have to go to a "church" to talk to who ever it is you talk to...then you have problems that I can't help you with.

1 · December 10, 2014 at 6:31am



**Jenny Leigh** He wasn't asking for help from you. He was asking for you to tell him the names of the other churches.

December 10, 2014 at 9:49am



**Brooke Pickles Simon** Research Hosanna church that was in Ponchatoula, Louisiana then. I don't get paid to teach you. If you can't research on your own that's not my problem. If you want to keep believing in whatever it is you believe in then have fun. If you think churches are so great lol.

1 · December 10, 2014 at 10:23am



**Barnaby Fauntleroy IV** Psycho religious nuts

2 · December 9, 2014 at 6:05pm



**Greg Ellison** Someone needs to proof read these reports before posting....

2 · December 9, 2014 at 5:57pm



**Lori Reed** Cult!

2 · December 9, 2014 at 5:57pm



**Jason Sara Pearce** Jesus said "follow me" not the fanatics .....the end

5 · December 9, 2014 at 6:49pm



**Kristie Tipton** People hurt others in the name of God constantly.

1 · December 10, 2014 at 12:05pm



**Kitty Porter** SOME INDEPENDENT CHURCHES GO TO THE EXTREMES, THIS I TOO MUCH

1 · December 9, 2014 at 7:32pm



**Sabrina Sadeghian** Sadly this doesn't surprise me here.

1 · December 9, 2014 at 7:05pm



**Karen Stevenson** Yeah right, It took him almost 2 years to report this. All I can say is God knows the truth and Lord help him if he is lying

1 · December 9, 2014 at 6:52pm



**Jesslynn Spain** Matthew is my friend of many years. So happy he is on the way to justice!

3 · December 9, 2014 at 7:47pm



**Katharina Vorhauer Good.** Punish them hard. They get punished In jail now I hope, just bc they run to church they are nit excused. Karma will get them

2 · December 9, 2014 at 8:28pm



**Michael Rouse** I've damm

December 10, 2014 at 3:51pm



**Sonya R. Head** What Is wrong with people??

December 10, 2014 at 2:08pm

**Sandra Dickson** So sad,hi

December 10, 2014 at 11:06am



**Brenda Hawkins Walker** False religions are every where. .Some people are easily fooled..we are to seek the truth.

December 10, 2014 at 8:54am



**John Williams** God has His churches and His preachers. Satan too has his churches and preachers. Satan can and does fool folks into believing that they are Christians. Some folks say that true Christians judge others but they are quick to judge all Christians based on false Christians actions.

December 10, 2014 at 8:37am



**Brooke Pickles Simon** All churches do is brainwash people just like the government and television do...yall people need to learn how to think for yourself!!

December 10, 2014 at 8:20am



**William Suttles** If you never been there how would you know any of that is true yall just going on hear say...just saying

December 10, 2014 at 5:47am



**Star Tecún Cali** Why would he go to a so called church like that anyway. He had to know ebay kind of people they were

December 10, 2014 at 5:28am



**Amanda Keel Cobb** As a Christian, my heart breaks for this young man and the mentality of the accused. It also breaks for those do you who feel the way you do about Christianity. I'm sorry that you have had experiences in your own lives to feel so much anger or hate or disconnect. This behavior, these actions aren't Chrisike, they aren't "Christian". As a human we will always fail and fall short, but this is not just about hypocrisy, this is a deep, taught and learned hate issue. So sad.

December 10, 2014 at 5:12am



**Linda Patterson** So happy that they are finally doing something about these people. We have had them as neighbors. One house next to us houses god knows how many children. Too many to count. These people need to be shut down.!!!!!! Disgusting

December 10, 2014 at 3:46am · Edited



**T.J. Lee** Are you sure they're not just Pentecostal and were laying hands on him in prayer?

December 10, 2014 at 3:14am



**Jennifer Buckner** This is EXACTLY why I don't go to church anymore. Cause of IDIOTS Luke this. U find them everywhere. Just sayin.

December 10, 2014 at 1:25am



**James Scronce Bs**

December 9, 2014 at 10:46pm



**Shirley Danielson** If you don't go to Church because of this something else is wrong. They are closer to God than you are .

December 9, 2014 at 8:58pm



**Jessica Andrews Rouby** How do you know that for sure? Judgment Is not your Job, God has a great handle on It.

2 · December 10, 2014 at 3:19am



**Kristie Tipton** What?!?! Bahahahal

1 · December 10, 2014 at 5:54am



**Brooke Pickles Simon** There Is no god...lol

December 10, 2014 at 8:18am



**Gina Autrey** Sweet baby Jesus.

December 9, 2014 at 7:47pm



**Natalie Smith** disgrace

December 9, 2014 at 6:59pm



**Eddie Davis** Burn the town down !!

December 9, 2014 at 6:15pm



**Tamara Borter** Wow...that's truly disturbing-

December 9, 2014 at 6:13pm



**Cynthia Davis** Not too cool !!!!!

December 9, 2014 at 6:09pm



**Sherry Pollard Freeman** Now that's not a true Christian

1 · December 10, 2014 at 7:27am



**Akhlaq Hussain** Prisoners of Heart.

To prove truthness of your religion or science you just have to agree with me even in your heart.

You all people of the world Follow the Holy Quran, If you Don't agree with me? Then if anyone of us will be found liar on The Day Of Judgment will Take other's whole Nation's sin, do you agree? You can be agree in your Heart either, Be brave now and agree in your Heart. (Don't relate Pseudo Muslims with Holy Quran)

December 10, 2014 at 7:04am



**Dale Turner** NO WAY.

December 9, 2014 at 9:25pm



**Tim Parker** not the first time they been charged.The system just lets them go free every time

1 · December 9, 2014 at 6:53pm



**Christopher Greeno** Better call swat

1 · December 9, 2014 at 6:05pm

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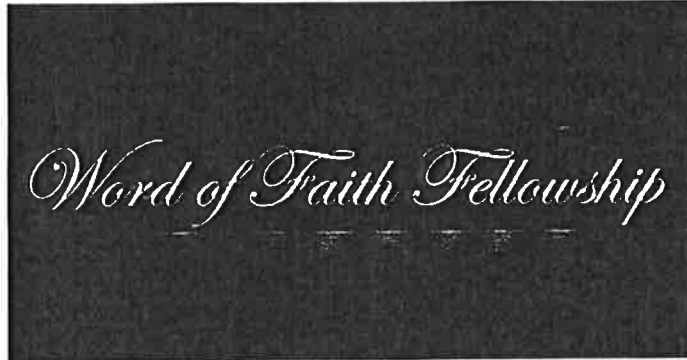
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WSPA-TV News Channel 7

December 9, 2014

This is in connection with the alleged assault of a gay church member in 2013 at Word of Faith Fellowship in Rutherford County.



### WNC Church Members Indicted On Assault, Kidnapping Charge

A western North Carolina church is facing serious allegations after five members were indicted on assault and kidnapping charges.

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Earline Merck, Linda Shirey Lingerfeldt, Kimberley Earley Mann and 52 others like this.

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**David Womick** That church has been in trouble with the law before. I think some folks refer to that bunch as a full blown cult.

13 · December 9, 2014 at 2:26pm



**Whittney Greene Hannah** They are a cult! In every sense of the word

1 · December 9, 2014 at 4:50pm



**Karla Bradley Oliver** Yep a cult!

1 · December 9, 2014 at 6:19pm



**Candi Hollifield** yes David, it is a Full Blown Cult and yes theyve been in the news alot for abusing children, kidnapping, assault, harrassment, on and on...its a Shame to most of us that live in this town...a shame that Nothing ever goes in favor of the victims here. You Go Matthew Fenner we are behind you 100%

10 · December 9, 2014 at 3:13pm



**Kristen Thornton** DA needs to change venue cause if the judge is on their payroll nothing will happen

9 · December 9, 2014 at 4:29pm



**Chad Matheny** That church should burn to the ground. The county will have to go without the yard sales.

5 · December 9, 2014 at 6:24pm



**Rhonda Ann Culbreth** LOL , so true about the yard sales.

December 10, 2014 at 3:10am



**Whittney Greene Hannah** I refuse to buy anything at that yard sale. No one in my family will either, it's all members stuff that they had to give over when they joined

1 · December 10, 2014 at 4:34am



**Amy Lee Jeffords** Family owned and operated..what a shame to God's name

5 · December 9, 2014 at 3:28pm



**Chris Miller** The county government is corrupt with members of WOF. They will make it go away. This needs to be tried outside of this county.

4 · December 9, 2014 at 6:10pm



**Lori Reed** Agree Chris! They are everywhere here!

1 · December 10, 2014 at 5:00am



**Courtney Fogle** That's a great way to try to speared the word of God...

4 · December 9, 2014 at 2:42pm



**Juanita Towery** Nothing will be done to these so called Christians. It is sad what these people have gotten by with for so many years in this county.

3 · December 9, 2014 at 5:14pm



**Whittney Greene Hannah** I hope this time something is done

1 · December 9, 2014 at 5:20pm



**Chris Shifflett** So what if he is a trouble maker! Get real!

2 · December 9, 2014 at 3:41pm



**Whittney Greene Hannah** You OBVIOUSLY don't know Matthew or ANYTHING about word of faith, or you're apart of them

December 9, 2014 at 4:51pm



**Stacy Mae Robertson** Deff not a trouble maker.. when you join a church do they generally make u sell all your possessions and move into a houseing community with other church members nope sure don't but this church does

December 9, 2014 at 6:03pm



**Chris Shifflett** Sorry someone on here said he was! So I said so what! He didn't deserve that!

December 10, 2014 at 12:35pm



**Whittney Greene Hannah** Oh we thought you meant he was a trouble maker, that guy that said that doesn't know him or anything about this "cult" we've established that from his comment

December 11, 2014 at 10:26pm



**Jane Cantrell** Thats a little extrem.They could just kicked them out. Beating them not going to turn them straight.

2 · December 9, 2014 at 2:20pm



**Michelle Coffin Gardner** Their philosophy for so many sins is to beat the devil out of the person.

2 · December 9, 2014 at 3:04pm



**Karla Bradley Oliver** This cult believes they can scream and beat the devil out of their "members" including small children, It's disgusting what they do

1 · December 9, 2014 at 6:19pm



**Christopher Struyf** What a bunch of scum.

5 · December 9, 2014 at 2:21pm



**Brent Varnadoe** Pathetic

5 · December 9, 2014 at 2:22pm



**Heather Roberts** You know, I pray that the truth comes out. We weren't there so we don't know, however, what I do know is that all these responses cutting Christianity down are irrelevant to the subject matter. Nowhere in my Bible does it tell me to criticize, condemn, kidnap or beat the Hell out of someone. It gets exhausting hearing how judgmental Christians are when some of these comments are exactly that & lack education & wisdom. Maybe we should spend time opening our eyes instead of our mouths.

1 · December 10, 2014 at 4:55am



**Michael Elder** See what believing silliness can get you?

1 · December 9, 2014 at 11:37pm

**Mark Johnson** Christianity - the religion of peace! NOT

1 · December 9, 2014 at 9:39pm



**Stacy Mae Robertson** They will just be slapped on their wrist and sent back to their leader ...

1 · December 9, 2014 at 6:00pm



**Anne Varnadoe Bowie** A very unchristian act

1 · December 9, 2014 at 4:07pm



**Laurie J King** The reason churches get a bad name, idiots like this.

3 · December 9, 2014 at 2:58pm



**Patricia Moore** His mother and brother testified against him?

December 10, 2014 at 3:13pm



**Freda Doughty** and they own half of spartanburg not mentioning any names but yall be careful cause they own a whole lot of businesses around here

December 10, 2014 at 1:01pm



**Jennifer Mejia** R u serious?

December 11, 2014 at 6:13am



**Wanda Jeanne Wilson** I know a lot of Word of Falth members and It's hard to believe any of this!

December 10, 2014 at 7:04am



**Amanda Lynn Harris** Its not REALLY a church...Its a cult...they say they are Christians but they are not!!!

December 10, 2014 at 3:12am



**Rhonda Ann Culbreth** This church is a cult! I worked in Rutherford county for 16 years and they were always in the newspaper there. I emailed WSPA years ago to investigate and they never responded. Each story just gets worse than the one before.

December 10, 2014 at 3:07am



**Tammy Cox Wood** Hell is empty

December 10, 2014 at 2:21am



**Mandy Wise Tucker** Rhonda Ann Culbreth did you see this

December 9, 2014 at 7:18pm



**Rhonda Ann Culbreth** Watching the news now! SMH

December 10, 2014 at 3:11am



**Holly Moss Nesterode** Melissa Arrowood

December 9, 2014 at 5:53pm



**Whitney Greene Hannah** And of COURSE the attorney for the church says they're not guilty! Look who he is!

December 9, 2014 at 5:21pm



**Johnny Gibson** Attack everyone stupid!!

December 9, 2014 at 5:32pm



**Whitney Greene Hannah** Seeing as how he is the attorney and I know a TON about this cult!



December 9, 2014 at 5:41pm



**Willie Blocker** Nuts

December 9, 2014 at 4:21pm



**Johnny Gibson** The kid is a trouble maker

December 9, 2014 at 3:37pm

Hide 12 Replies



**Whitney Greene Hannah** You know him?

December 9, 2014 at 4:51pm



**Johnny Gibson** Yes...you?

December 9, 2014 at 5:01pm



**Whitney Greene Hannah** Yes I do, apparently you don't know Matthew Fenner, or you're apart of WOF!

1 · December 9, 2014 at 5:10pm



**Johnny Gibson** Apparently he is a trouble maker and so are you

December 9, 2014 at 5:14pm



**Whitney Greene Hannah** It's obvious you're a idiot and I can about guarantee you're a member or someone in your family is, or you wouldn't take up for these horrible people! God bless your souls.

1 · December 9, 2014 at 5:18pm



**Whitney Greene Hannah** You apparently know nothing of the WOF or anything about Matthew Fenner maybe you should read up on WOF before you run your big mouth and make yourself look stupid

December 9, 2014 at 5:19pm



**Johnny Gibson** The only one that looks stupid is you ...I'm not a part of that church. ..he's gay and went there to start trouble...moron! !!

December 9, 2014 at 5:29pm



**Johnny Gibson** You so stupid!

December 9, 2014 at 5:30pm



**Stacy Mae Robertson** Please read up on woff I've seen stralght ppl Kicked out the church before if you knew the half of It you wouldn't be blaming a gay man for anyone's troubles

1 · December 9, 2014 at 6:07pm



**Karla Bradley Oliver** Fyl Matthew was forced to go to that cult by family members before he was of age, so u sir have no idea what u are talking about...

2 · December 9, 2014 at 6:22pm



**Whitney Greene Hannah** Or anything about WOF

December 9, 2014 at 6:31pm



**Tj Youngman** He's a troll, ignore him

December 10, 2014 at 9:56am



**Lauren McSwain** LaVonda Hill  
December 9, 2014 at 2:47pm

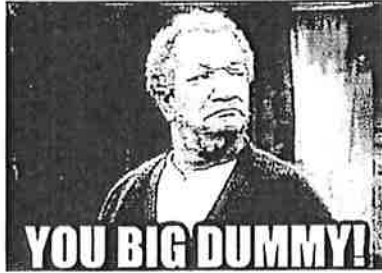


**Matt Alexander** Turrible turrible...  
1 · December 9, 2014 at 2:24pm



**Rick Pearson** There's that good ol hypocritical, bigoted, Christian love for ya.  
December 9, 2014 at 11:30pm

**Ricky Tapp**



December 9, 2014 at 3:20pm





### Citizens Against Corruption and Abuse

December 10, 2014 ·

Like Page

It is very frustrating to see the obvious preferential treatment that these members of WOFF are receiving. It wouldn't be this way if it were anybody else in the county. Who is allowing them to make the choice as to when they will be processed on the indictments ? The sheriff dept.? The DA office? Come on guys who is going to step up and admit that they are afraid of these cult members! This is such a joke !

Caleb Home Find Friends

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**Kathryn Landrum** I worked with the Court system in another state for 8 yrs. It was the Magistrate Judge that wrote the warrants. Then the Officers that were involved with the case had to be sworn in under oath that it was true and factual. Then my Judge would sign, and it would be handed over for to the Officers to arrest that person.

Like · Reply · December 10, 2014 at 3:15pm · Edited



**Citizens Against Corruption and Abuse** Matthew was told they would be arrested.

Like · December 10, 2014 at 3:14pm



**Kathryn Landrum** That's good. All records , except juveniles are Public. Has the judge issued the warrants yet ?

Like · December 10, 2014 at 3:18pm



**Kathryn Landrum** I do know that after they have been arrested , they have to be arraigned with in a certain amount of hours.

Like · December 10, 2014 at 3:23pm · Edited



**Kathryn Landrum** My prayers are with Matthew and the others that feel like they have no voice.

Like · 2 · December 10, 2014 at 3:25pm



**Kathryn Landrum** I know I might sound way out there but, like I mentioned to my neice, Christina Louise Bryant if anyone has thought about Dr. PHIL? HE DOES NOT BACK DOWN TO ANYONE.

Like · 4 · December 10, 2014 at 6:43pm



**Brandy Waters** I could see Dr. Phil drilling Jaynell That would bring out the demons in her for sure!!!

Like · 4 · December 10, 2014 at 9:21pm



**Kathryn Landrum** I wish

Like · December 10, 2014 at 10:46pm

Write a reply...



**Lisa Oscarson** It's all of them! Either a lawyer that knows and is friends with a member or the cops or judge. Who knows? no one will it is swept under the rug! Shameful. I used to live next to members of that "cult" they need to be stopped here so they can move on. The family I knew followed woff from Kansas! They are monsters!

Like · Reply · 2 · December 10, 2014 at 9:14pm · Edited



**Karen Arrowood** Gibbs Jane's a plastic haired freak!!!

Like · Reply · 1 · December 10, 2014 at 8:31pm

**Donna Hardin** Money will buy you anything in Rutherford county the woff works in the coi Chat regional, they have their on lawyers and

Like · Reply · 3 · December 10, 2014 at 5:56pm



**Matt Dunlvan** I have friends still trapped and brainwashed in that place that might just have a chance at a life if the courts would bust up the whole organization

Like · Reply · 5 · December 10, 2014 at 4:00pm



**Kay Burnette** When does the new DA take over?

Like · Reply · 2 · December 10, 2014 at 2:11pm



**Citizens Against Corruption and Abuse** January

English (US) · Privacy · Terms · Cookies · More  
Facebook © 2015

Like · 1 · December 10, 2014 at 3:14pm

Write a reply...



**Lynn Deb Miller** At least we get a new DA in January.

Like · Reply · 7 · December 10, 2014 at 2:41pm



**Chasity Medina** Wow call the news channel an all on these ppl! Our community needs to come together on this an STOP buying stuff from these ppl!

Like · Reply · 11 · December 10, 2014 at 2:23pm



**Jerry Cooper** Go figure...seems like some things never change.

Like · Reply · 2 · December 10, 2014 at 2:11pm



**KImBerly Dawn** Im not afraid send em all my way!

Like · Reply · 4 · December 10, 2014 at 2:09pm



**Thlago Silva** bring the news on this call them!

Like · Reply · 7 · December 10, 2014 at 2:07pm



Citizens Against Corruption and Abuse

December 10, 2014 ·

Like Page

http://goqnotes.com/.../anti-gay-n-c-church-members-indicted.../



### Anti-gay N.C. church members indicted on felony kidnapping, assault against gay man

Five members of an anti-LGBT church in Spindale, N.C., were indicted on several felony charges this week, following a complaint lodged by a young gay man who...

GOQNOTES.COM

Like · Comment · Share

53 people like this.

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**Bud Wiser** as much as I hate these idiots , I would have a very difficult time voting guilty were I on the jury. Now the young man may have evidence that hasn't been revealed yet that could change that, but if it's merely his word against theirs I would have a problem convicting them

Like · Reply · 1 · December 10, 2014 at 10:25pm



**Citizens Against Corruption and Abuse** We have plenty of evidence. Thanks

Like · 6 · December 10, 2014 at 10:46pm



**Morgan Condrey** Far from hear say. Do your research. Thanks!!

Like · December 11, 2014 at 7:51am

Write a reply...



**Joe Willis** I live **Chat** ed. Its more of a cult than anything. Has had charges brought before, but they have connections in the local courthouse and Sherriffs dept. Always buy theirway out of it. Hope the indictments stick this time.

Like · Reply · 21 · December 10, 2014 at 9:45pm



**Matt Dunlvan** The jury needs some good character witnesses, then. I volunteer

Like · Reply · 4 · December 11, 2014 at 6:47am



**Melissa Williams** This "church" is a cult! I am from spindale and they need to be stopped. They recruit members, take everything they own, remove any form or personal identity, and abuse them. The fact that this young man had such a hard time filing charges shows how deeply their tles run in the local community. Charges should have been filed the moment he made the report! This should be treated as a hate crime to get outside authority involved and finally justice will be served.

Like · Reply · 3 · December 11, 2014 at 9:30am



**Becky Allen Daves** I believe everything Matthew is saying. They are evil and Rutherford county should support him. Shame on the people who are in charge of protecting the citizens. They are a disgrace to the offices they hold and should have been voted out.

Like · Reply · 2 · December 11, 2014 at 8:05am



**Chuck L Melton** LMAO

Like · Reply · 1 · December 11, 2014 at 11:00am



**Rita Conway Seymour** To call them a "church" is a misnomer. Do some research and the true nature of this group becomes obvious. I pity the children.

Like · Reply · 2 · December 11, 2014 at 9:40am

Write a comment...



### Citizens Against Corruption and Abuse

added 5 new photos.

December 11, 2014 · Edited ·

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Facebook © 2015

The faces of evil. Do they look concerned to you? Do you see any remorse?



**JUSTIN COVINGTON**

221 BROOK BREEZE LANE  
RUTHERFORDTON, NC, 28139.

Intake Date: December, 10 7:58PM  
Release Date: December, 10 12:00AM

Age: 20      Gender: Male  
Height: 5'11"      Eyes: Hazel  
Weight: 195 lbs.      Hair: Brown  
Charges (2)



**ROBERT WALKER**

100 NEW FLYING ROAD  
SPYGLASS, NC, 28160  
Intake Date: December, 10 8:20PM  
Release Date: December, 10 12:00AM

Age: 29      Gender: Male  
Height: 6'00"



**SARAH ANDERSON**

221 BROOK BREEZE LANE  
RUTHERFORDTON, NC, 28139  
Intake Date: December, 10 8:34PM  
Release Date: December, 10 12:00AM

Age: 27      Gender: Female  
Height: 5'00"



**BROOKE COVINGTON**

221 BROOK BREEZE LANE  
RUTHERFORDTON, NC, 28139  
Intake Date: December, 10 8:23PM  
Release Date: December, 10 12:00AM

Age: 36      Gender: Female  
Height: 5'00"

Like · Comment · Share

48 people like this.

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Press Enter to post.



**Matt Dunivan** I wonder about the last fellow with the earring....when I was there, you'd get that thing ripped out in a second! Brooke looks weird!! Puffy looking face, fake, obvious plastic surgery, vain, hypocrite  
Like · Reply · 7 · December 11, 2014 at 10:40am



**Citizens Against Corruption and Abuse** Chat      irtley guy was an inmate. Ht

We aren't sure if he still attends WOFF  
Like · 2 · December 11, 2014 at 10:44am



**Candi Hollifield** I see, so i wonder if he was "kicked out" or "tortured"??

Like · 1 · December 11, 2014 at 11:12am



**Matt Dunivan** I was "jailed" one time at their factory that everyone works at in Shelby, NC, Plastic Oddities, Inc. I can't exactly remember what I did, but it was something trivial. I think I forgot to "report" in to one of my superiors. They drove me up to a secluded cabin way off behind the plant, without any food or water, and made me stay there for days until God told them I had learned my lesson. I am still dealing with the harm that their psychological abuse caused my mentality. They are sick, though, because my family had been with them from the beginning when they made all the members sign a waiver and release so that no one could sue them. Once, I saw a man die because they refused to let him go to the hospital.  
Like · 2 · December 11, 2014 at 11:21am · Edited



**Teresa Dodrill** Brooke looks like a chipmunk. I don't know if it's from weight gain or she did something to herself.

Like · 1 · December 11, 2014 at 12:29pm



**Matt Dunivan** I thought the same thing. I know she had something wrong with her 20 years ago but I can't remember what it was. I

I thought bolox when I saw the picture because she has definitely had a facelift

Like · December 11, 2014 at 1:35pm

Write a reply...



**Becky Allen Daves** They have also been brainwashed by the queen bee. Jane is the one who needs to be in prison.

Like · Reply · 23 · December 11, 2014 at 10:17am



**Brandy Waters** Their smiles are not smiles of innocence but smiles that say I did it and I'm confident I'll get away with it! I pray they don't get away with it as times before. They are proud of that accomplishment!

Like · Reply · 16 · December 11, 2014 at 11:54am



**Michelle Daigle** I suspect they are smiling because they feel completely justified in their actions. I'm just wondering where in the Bible did Jesus scream, choke, hold down, humiliate, and abuse those seeking help for ANY reason. This is not love! This is terrorism. We fought a 'war' against a small group of crazy, over zealous, fundamentalist Muslims who felt perfectly justified in the name of their religion with this happening under our noses. WHAT is the difference between these people and a terrorist?

Like · Reply · 9 · December 12, 2014 at 9:40am



**Citizens Against Corruption and Abuse** Very well spoken! Thank you for your support!

Like · 2 · December 12, 2014 at 9:50am

Write a reply...



**Benjamin Carmona** So nice to see Brooke there; I was blasted, screamed at, isolated and humiliated because she thought Jamey and I were gay for each other because our pants had frays at the bottom of them. Frays that we earned from slaving at Sam's every Saturday morning against our will. Fuck that bitch!

Like · Reply · 8 · December 11, 2014 at 3:57pm



**Eric Spicer** I have a friend that simply drove down the road in front of their "church" and turned around at the end. Two cars followed him all the way to his house and took pictures of his car and house. I also knew the lady that developed those exact photos taken and saw them. If they are so innocent, then why all their paranoia? Insanely creepy people.

Like · Reply · 8 · December 11, 2014 at 3:47pm



**Kimberly Hoyle** Candi Hollifield noticed that too. Released is 16 hours before intake date hmmm?

Like · Reply · 7 · December 11, 2014 at 1:34pm



**Raquel Johnson** SO I'm guessing they take this is a joke??? Smiling well let me tell you something you child abuser you will get what's coming to you and then we'll see who's smiling! Grab your tissue. Justice for Matthew....

Like · Reply · 7 · December 11, 2014 at 1:00pm



**Ryan Guffey** I just don't understand why this "church" cares about their public image... It was ruined years ago

Like · Reply · 7 · December 11, 2014 at 12:30pm



**Brandon Bivens** Sick folks. Just realized I know two of them. Funny they all wear black and of course are dressed to the 9s with their attire. Hope they like their new paper clothes! Guess they can't go in front of the Cult and ask if their attire is ok and NOONE has it since they all will wear the same in prison haha

Like · Reply · 7 · December 11, 2014 at 11:03am



**Jerry Cooper** Same look the 4 had in my trial. I am sad for them...they really think they are free. So sad.

Like · Reply · 7 · December 11, 2014 at 10:59am



**Josh McClellan** Stepford drones.

Like · Reply · 7 · December 11, 2014 at 10:41am



**Tina Percy Haney** I'm sure they r thinking they will come out in the end with a slap on the wrist! Disgusts me!!

Like · Reply · 7 · December 11, 2014 at 10:40am



**Amber Powell** Seems like it's always a joke to these people. Their sick. I pray every day justice is served & they do time.

Like · Reply · 13 · December 11, 2014 at 10:13am



**Crystal R Mclean** Sooo many children. And I thought it was only me..Run is all I can wish for any Child that forced to be there..

Like · Reply · 6 · December 11, 2014 at 7:22pm



**Matt Dunlvan** HEY CRYSTAL1

Like · 1 · December 11, 2014 at 8:58pm



**Matt Dunlvan** Hey Crystall How u doin girl?? I love you and your brother so much!!! i miss you all!!!

Like · 1 · December 11, 2014 at 8:59pm

Write a reply...



**Liz K Grier** Wow only criminals smile  
Like · Reply · 6 · December 11, 2014 at 10:12am



**Thiago Silva** you know what! they can kiss my ass! lol lol lol AS they are reading everything we say here....always controlling people lives and they know better about my life than I do about... they spend hours investigating people on the websites and talking about in their privates meeting (I was apart in many of them).....It s so ridiculous and they should be teaching about believing God like they used to 20 Years AGO...  
Like · Reply · 5 · December 11, 2014 at 7:34pm · Edited



**Diana Spratt** Mug shots??? Look like modeling pics.  
Like · Reply · 5 · December 11, 2014 at 11:39am



**Candl Hollifield** Honestly this is disgusts me to no end. These people have not a clue. They smle because they have been assured freedom from prosecution in this and any other matter. Possibly years from now we will be hearing the horrors of one of them TRYING to leave this place of Abuse and Control, Tables will Turn. Reap what You Sow.  
Like · Reply · 5 · December 11, 2014 at 11:09am



**Sheri Nolan McCartney** Smiling for Jansus!  
Like · Reply · 5 · December 11, 2014 at 10:51am



**Paul Ditz** They got them some smiling demons in them.  
Like · Reply · 4 · December 12, 2014 at 7:11am



**Crystal R Mclean** Hey Matt Dunivan how r u .....Hold on Baby They r going to get theirs..Cause God dont like for his Little ones to be harmed.They allowed it and still doing so after all these damn years....  
Like · Reply · 4 · December 11, 2014 at 9:25pm



**Kaitlyn Sizemore** I would not be smiling if i was arrested for these allegations. Smh. The arrogance is ridiculous and sad  
Like · Reply · 4 · December 11, 2014 at 7:50pm



**Brandy Waters** Straight from their website! They have ties somewhere.



Like · Reply · 4 · December 11, 2014 at 11:55am



**Patricia F Silva** Paulão E Ana Santos Paula Ferreira Paulo Silva Marcus Vinicius Marina Rocha Victor Troysi Mariana Reis Abner Balista. Rebeca Floriana Quéren-Hapuque Rebeca Silva. Sarah Rossetti. Cristiane Elias  
Like · Reply · 4 · December 11, 2014 at 11:17am



**Marina Rocha** Caramba, oq é isso?  
See Translation  
Like · December 11, 2014 at 4:32pm



**Quéren-Hapuque Rebeca Silva**  
Like · December 11, 2014 at 7:55pm

Write a reply...



**Beth Swinkey** It's so sad that these people are such souless human beings. So proud of their ignorance and injustices they have released into this county. Hell is a much better setting for this people. I look at them and feel nothing but disgust. They are the true demons on this earth.  
Like · Reply · 4 · December 11, 2014 at 10:20am



**Karen Arrowood Gibbs** Beth Swinkey, tell us how you really feel I agree with you!!!  
Like · 1 · December 11, 2014 at 11:35am



**Beth Swinkey** I believe there is good in people but this makes me lose faith in humanity.  
Like · 1 · December 11, 2014 at 12:06pm

Write a reply...



**Amber Powell** If I was facing felony charges I sure wouldn't be smiling in my mug shot. I'd probably be scared to death. But these soulless beings couldn't care less. Which goes to show what kind of people they are. Our local law & judicial members should be ASHAMED of themselves for letting these people get away with all they have for so long.

Like · Reply · 8 · December 11, 2014 at 11:19am · Edited



**Courtney Sneed** It is such a shame that because these people are so ignorant, they think they can force the gay out of someone by abusing him and screaming at him. I hope the judicial system throws the book at these idiots and local government doesn't become scared into thinking these people have "religious freedom" to break laws. Word of Faith members are not being persecuted...what's wrong is wrong.

Like · Reply · 3 · December 11, 2014 at 4:59pm



**Jay Wilson** We need them in Rutherford county so we can pray for them. They need to know Jesus.

Like · Reply · 3 · December 11, 2014 at 3:06pm



**Thlago Silva** They are in top of world! So funny! Lmao I can not stop laughing!

Like · Reply · 3 · December 11, 2014 at 11:19am



**Gina Davidson** This is a big joke to these people. I think the judge needs to see these pictures on the first court date. Who smiles for mug shots?????

Like · Reply · 7 · December 11, 2014 at 11:06am



**Debra Tate** Orange is the new black for these people it will look good on them!!!

Like · Reply · 2 · December 12, 2014 at 3:16pm



**Crystal R Mclean** Hello

Like · Reply · 2 · December 11, 2014 at 7:18pm



**Shella Philbeck Stone** What are you smiling for?

Like · Reply · 2 · December 11, 2014 at 1:02pm



**Nancy Bleecker Elliott** Matt Dunivan, I am so sorry about ur experience. God is a loving God and I believe those kinds of acts sadden and Him! I pray something can finally be done with this current case.

Like · Reply · 2 · December 11, 2014 at 11:44am



**Candi Hollifield** Please let us know if anyone hears of a courtdate!!

Like · Reply · 2 · December 11, 2014 at 11:11am



**Liza Berry** Wow....smiling. Thats sad:(

Like · Reply · 2 · December 11, 2014 at 10:58am



**Heather Riley** That's the same look that you see in all of their eyes....with the exception of a few that still have a tiny twinkle left. Their "supervisors" will read my comment but will not tell them that they have hope. They will only watch them more closely so they won't run.

Like · Reply · 2 · December 11, 2014 at 10:38am · Edited



**Rusty Kyle England** Creepy.

Like · Reply · 4 · December 11, 2014 at 10:17am



**Karla Bradley Oliver** Looking at the sorry excuses of a human beings disgust me, they need those smiles smacked off their faces!

Like · Reply · 4 · December 11, 2014 at 11:53am



**Kallyn Logan** I like that now I know where they all live.

Like · Reply · 2 · December 12, 2014 at 3:46pm



**Scott Scism** I called years ago when I knew someone that went there and tried to ask about visiting. They asked me if I knew anyone there. I told them know and they told me I had to be invited by someone. This person's voice was very hoarse and raspy. It is scary that they keep letting this go on. Anyone that has part in this and all its cover ups, need to be prosecuted.

Like · Reply · 2 · December 12, 2014 at 4:56am



**Paulão E Ana Santos** Marcilene Reis Diego Meiry Mariana Reis

Like · Reply · 2 · December 11, 2014 at 11:21am



**Candi Hollifield** hmmm check out the "release" date..

Like · Reply · 2 · December 11, 2014 at 11:13am



**Patrícia F Silva** Eles acabaram com anos da minha vida. Essa Igreja foi uma DESGRACA!!!! Nao tem nada de Deus, e se acham os unicos salvos do planeta... Inferno tem que existir mesmo.  
See Translation

Like · Reply · 3 · December 11, 2014 at 3:43pm



**Debra Tate** They all need to be locked up and someone in prison will make examples out of them they will become some one bitch!!! Sick fucks!!!

Like · Reply · 1 · December 12, 2014 at 3:14pm



**Candi Hollifield** smh Kimberly Hoyle



Like · Reply · 1 · December 11, 2014 at 1:44pm



**Ashley Bradshaw** Look like some brainwashed dipshits to me!

Like · Reply · 1 · December 11, 2014 at 12:47pm



**Brooke Bailey** Jeanna Powell

Like · Reply · 1 · December 11, 2014 at 12:32pm



**Chuck L Melton** Lmao

Like · Reply · 1 · December 11, 2014 at 10:56am



**Chris Cogan** Maybe the charges didn't get filed a year ago because there was no evidence?

Like · Reply · December 13, 2014 at 9:32am



**Chris Cogan** Evil people! How dare they want to worship God without persecution?

Like · Reply · December 13, 2014 at 9:32am



**Michelle Daigle** They are smiling because they are being persecuted for righteousness sake. It's as beautiful as the sweet surrender on the face of a suicide bomber, knowing there are 40 virgins waiting in heaven for him.

Like · Reply · 3 · December 12, 2014 at 9:46am



**Felix Mena** What are these people on this page for? Share a link or whatever.

Like · Reply · December 11, 2014 at 11:41pm



**Jacob Bennett** May as well smile

Like · Reply · December 11, 2014 at 4:01pm



**William Cole** We need to have a fire.

Like · Reply · December 11, 2014 at 1:18pm



**Karla Bradley** Oliver Robbie Oliver

Like · Reply · December 11, 2014 at 11:53am



**Clint Parker** Tabitha N Joey Henderson Staci Danielle Funderburke Wendi Baynard Teresa Smith Kim Gibson Ashley Rose Juan Arevalo Cassandra Alamilla Cody Parker please share

Like · Reply · December 11, 2014 at 11:42am



**Candi Hollifield** Me too Gina!!!

Like · Reply · December 11, 2014 at 11:10am



**Luke Jones** Esby Lockamy

Like · Reply · 1 · December 11, 2014 at 10:48am



**Esby Lockamy** They feel justified by their faith. Sad world.

Like · 4 · December 11, 2014 at 10:55am

Write a reply...



**KimBerly Dawn** Demons!!

Like · Reply · 1 · December 11, 2014 at 10:55am



**Hayley Waters** Murphy Emily Molina

Like · Reply · 1 · December 11, 2014 at 10:22am

Write a comment...

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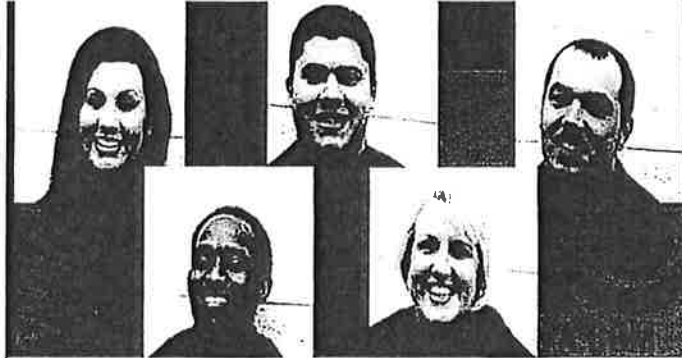
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WSPA-TV News Channel 7

December 12, 2014 ·

UPDATE: We just received the mugshots of the suspects involved in this case.



### WNC Church Members Indicted On Assault, Kidnapping Charge

A western North Carolina church is facing serious allegations after five members were indicted on assault and kidnapping charges. It relates to the alleged assault...

WSPA.COM | BY WSPA STAFF

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**Mike Heisler** Am I the only one who thinks it is creepy the way they are all smiling?  
142 · December 12, 2014 at 11:00am

Hide 21 Replies



**April Free Clamp** My exact same thought!!  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:06am



**Melissa Goldberg Lesley** My thought ! Y are they smiling  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:06am



**Whitney Greene Hannah** Because they think they're going to get away with it like they have in the past  
6 · December 12, 2014 at 11:09am · Edited



**Christopher Struyf** I'm not thinking these are their actual mugshots.  
2 · December 12, 2014 at 11:10am



**Janet Hood Lankford** Well they have that thing draped over their clothes that they put on for a mugshot. Looks like the thing used at the hairdresser's.  
2 · December 12, 2014 at 11:15am



**Chassidy Lee Miller** If you think that's creepy go to their church website. Look at how the whole church looks the same. From clothes to haircuts to makeup. Even the kids.  
4 · December 12, 2014 at 11:22am



**Trish Bolding** Our watch them on YouTube! Crazy!  
December 12, 2014 at 11:26am



**Michelle Lucas** My thoughts exactly  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:35am



**Sarah Ratliff** They are crazy  
December 12, 2014 at 11:45am



**Cheryl Lynn Childers** Exact thought too!  
December 12, 2014 at 12:05pm



**Sarah C Jenkins** I agree! These were the happiest mug shots I ever saw!  
December 12, 2014 at 12:06pm



**Shawn Huff** It even says above: Update we've received their mugshot photos. READ PEOPLE!!!  
2 · December 12, 2014 at 12:44pm



**Mike Heisler** I wonder if they all went to Bob Jones?  
December 12, 2014 at 12:46pm

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**Jennifer Silvers Durham** looks like a bunch of weirdos to me  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 4:38pm



**Kevin Nelson** These people are seriously disturbed. They're about 1 control mechanism away from being classified as a cult.  
December 12, 2014 at 4:44pm



**Christie Jackson Wiles** That's because Jesus came in their heart.  
December 13, 2014 at 9:58am



**Mike Heisler** I think Jesus forgot to tell them to not kidnap people while he was there.  
3 · December 13, 2014 at 10:23am



**Eva Brigman Gillespie** It struck me as very creepy... smiling like loons. That's serious charges. Something very not right about it.  
2 · December 13, 2014 at 2:31pm



**Jennfer Davis Lindley** I thought the same thing. I'm pretty sure I would be far from smiling in a mug shot.  
December 13, 2014 at 9:47pm



**Suzanne Fowler Anthony** I thought the same thing!  
December 14, 2014 at 7:12am



**Roxanne Moser** My very first thought was creepy.  
December 14, 2014 at 7:42am



**Melinda Crews Kirkley** I would not count this as a true Christian church. A true church loves everyone, but disagrees with the lifestyle. We don't hate.  
32 · December 12, 2014 at 11:03am



**Trish Bolding** Why hasn't this place been shut down?? Its a cult!!  
24 · December 12, 2014 at 10:58am



**Trish Bolding** That's what it looks like! Crooked people running the town!  
2 · December 12, 2014 at 11:06am



**Candi Hollifield** yes they are in our justice system, shameful  
2 · December 12, 2014 at 11:09am



**Tammie Stone** Sad to say we live in this county ☐  
December 12, 2014 at 11:10am



**Trish Bolding** I know the justice system is backing them, but I'd like to know the names of the businesses that these members own!  
December 12, 2014 at 11:12am



**Savanna N Jeff Miller** Social services, Rutherford county sheriffs dep., Rutherford county schools, the list goes on to where they work at!! It's a sad thing!  
4 · December 12, 2014 at 11:32am



**Larry Silva** Yes I agree, the court of public opinion has too much power in this country.  
December 12, 2014 at 2:56pm



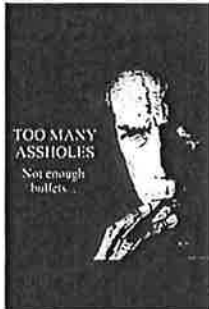
**Richard Chambers** all belief systems started out as cults  
December 13, 2014 at 9:54am



**Troy Pressley** These people are idiots and give Christians a bad name.  
18 · December 12, 2014 at 11:11am



**James A. Banks**



16 · December 12, 2014 at 12:16pm



**Stuart Luckadoo** Scott Michael Bowers  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 1:04pm



**Jim Minkler** To smile for a mug shot speaks volumes that something isn't right with these losers.  
13 · December 12, 2014 at 12:05pm



**Angela Weaver-Walker** Please look up "word of faith Inside edition" this has been going on for years!! Its a cult, full of \$, they have members in the Rutherford county courthouse & law enforcement. So any normal human being would wonder how this is even real BUT I ENSURE YOU IT IS. There's a group that actually helps people escape & hide from this "church". I have lived here for 2 years and could not believe that this actually goes on but after listening to countless testimonies & audio recordings I have no doubt that this is true. Matthew Fenner isn't trying to sue for \$,

he was assaulted and actually had to keep on Rutherford County officials to do something. It's a very sad thing & not everyone is after money these days they are fighting for their families & children still In this cult!! Please do some investigation for yourself before you just say it's about \$. Wrong is wrong....period!

13 · December 12, 2014 at 11:40am

**Janet Hood Lankford** They are smiling like the cat that ate the canary. Like they are proud of their actions! They are SO misguided!! The Jesus that I know would NEVER treat a person like that.

12 · December 12, 2014 at 11:13am



**Larry Love**



10 · December 12, 2014 at 11:30am

**Richard Chambers** Flood it with fire you mean  
December 13, 2014 at 9:55am

**Roxanne Moser** I know right Richard. Sometimes I wonder if God regrets making the promise to not destroy the Earth by flood again.  
December 14, 2014 at 7:48am



**Amanda Rash Davis** Kool-aid, anyone?

10 · December 12, 2014 at 11:10am



**Stacy Price**



9 · December 12, 2014 at 12:10pm

**Rachelle Andino** These people are obviously pleased with themselves. They make me sick.

9 · December 12, 2014 at 11:00am



**Pamela Merrill-Dilabio** They all look like a happy bunch!

9 · December 12, 2014 at 10:58am



**Michael Gladden** Their all smiles cuz they know that they will get off due to the corruption of Rutherford County courts

8 · December 12, 2014 at 11:20am



**Ann Greene** Sad sad sad for my hometown. These people are sick little puppies!! Their mugshots look like satan himself! Really!!!! They do!! Praying for you Rutherford county!! I have precious family there. They will not win!! In the end.....

7 · December 12, 2014 at 12:31pm



**Kelly Gantt** Thing is a woman can't be a minister period!!!! Inspirational speaker yes but when I heard a woman was a minister of this "church" I knew right away it wasn't of God.

6 · December 12, 2014 at 12:01pm

**Jessica Boisher** Yet God chose a woman to bring his only begotten son into this world

5 · December 12, 2014 at 12:08pm

**Michelle Frederick** A woman can be a minister If you know what minister actually means. Perhaps you should find a dictionary.

1 · December 12, 2014 at 2:58pm



**Kevin Nelson** Yes He did, Jessic, but He did NOT ordain her.....

December 12, 2014 at 4:46pm



**Corey O'Gorman-Carlson** Women preached all over the middle east till the Romans took over the faith. Anyone can be a minister.

December 13, 2014 at 12:26pm



**Beth Tudor Eskridge** What makes you say women can't be ministers?

December 14, 2014 at 8:11am



**Mary Davidson Schaefer** I use to leave in Rutherford county growing up and that church is a cult.They r smiling BC they know they will get away with it.

5 · December 12, 2014 at 2:52pm



**Isrrael Castañeda** Lev. 20:13, "If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them."

Yep. That's from the bible...

5 · December 12, 2014 at 12:13pm

Hide 11 Replies



**Diana Spratt** Yep. The Old Testament. What did Jesus say about it?

1 · December 12, 2014 at 12:21pm



**Angela Weaver-Walker** And...??? So It's OK to choke and beat someone to try to "beat the gay" out of them? Whatever you're belief on homosexuality is doesn't give anyone the right to beat anyone.

7 · December 12, 2014 at 12:37pm



**Taylor Marie Jenkins** Diana Jesus Didnt Do away With the Old Testament, He Was A Jew that Observed Torah Aka Old Testament, however I am Agaisnt Beating People For Sin.

December 12, 2014 at 1:02pm



**Harrison Wilkerson** Regardless of your stance on the subject; beating, choking, and kidnapping are in no way justified by your belief.

4 · December 12, 2014 at 1:15pm



**Michele Miller Wheeler** James 2:10 (NIV)

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Romans 3:23 (NIV)

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

The argument goes, therefore, that if even the smallest sin prevents us from attaining the perfection that God calls us to seek, then that one single sin is as great as the worst sin.

1 · December 12, 2014 at 1:34pm



**Penny Gigi Edwards Pearson** Full of contradictions that book is. Says one shall be put to death for this or that, then says thou shall not kill.

4 · December 12, 2014 at 2:27pm · Edited



**Elizabeth Baxley** No one's place to judge. Doesn't the Bible say that?

Guess people are overlooking that one.

3 · December 12, 2014 at 2:09pm



**Corey O'Gorman-Carlson** Isrrael, from the look of your facebook page, It does not look like your a little angel either. Maybe not judge others.

December 13, 2014 at 12:24pm



**Isrrael Castañeda** I too disagree with what these people did to the kid for being gay. I was simply stating what the bible said about this.

December 13, 2014 at 4:02pm



**Wes Hardy** Obviously it is a quote that shows the irrelevance of the Bible in a modern society.

December 13, 2014 at 6:02pm



**Roxanne Moser** The ground is level at the foot of the cross. These people seem happy with their sin. SMH

December 14, 2014 at 7:50am



**Carla Marie Engle** I wonder if all those smiles are going to stay when they meet their new "buddies" in jail

5 · December 12, 2014 at 11:00am



**Joseph Camp** Just more proof that religion is easily twisted and how easily some are swayed by such twisted religious views. Sad state that most people only noticed the creepy smiles and not the fact that they commltted a hate crime in the name of religion.

4 · December 12, 2014 at 6:44pm



**Paul Chambers** AMEN!! Relgion & relgious beliefs are & can be a GREAT thing when utilized, dispensed, followed & administered properly & appropriately!

1 · December 13, 2014 at 2:43am



**Stewart Mitchell Fisher** Now that's a happy bunch of criminals !

4 · December 12, 2014 at 5:28pm



**Toni Fridal** Omg they are all smiling

4 · December 12, 2014 at 2:55pm



**Linda Anderson** At least their not raclst. They do look too happy. Maybe they need a drug test.

4 · December 12, 2014 at 2:46pm



**Wanda Hornby** This is not Gods work.

4 · December 12, 2014 at 12:14pm



**Angela Norton Tucker** It is very creepy the way they're smiling, llike they are brainwashed!!

4 · December 12, 2014 at 11:29am



**Tricia Jackson Watts** Funny how they smile there lawyer is a woff member stupid people

4 · December 12, 2014 at 11:03am



**Tammie Stone** It's called WOFF I understand a church a real church always has their doors open and welcome u well thls place does not have open doors they have so called guards that stand at the doors so this is not a church

9 · December 12, 2014 at 11:22am



**Susan Mayberry Cunningham** If the charges against these people is true- this would be number 1 blillion why I can not support organized religion. It is truly disgusting when people commit heinous acts under the guise of religion and "the church". I feel sorry for souls that are so lost. And if you are religious, the smiles on their faces Indicate that they were definitely not doing the work of The Lord. I agree with everyone who commented about these folks trying to "play god". They are lost, spiritually ill. My heart hurts not only for the alleged victim here but for the perpetrators as well. Sad commentary on the present state of humanity. You think with all of the resources available, such ignorance would have been abolished by now. We as a human race have quite a ways to go

3 · December 14, 2014 at 3:34am



**Jill Rothman** High on Jesus ...? But doubt it...wolves in sheep clothing maybe..innocent til proven guilty

3 · December 12, 2014 at 4:01pm



**Jade Zorn** This is why people look down on Christians.

3 · December 12, 2014 at 2:52pm



**Derrick R. Howard** Its not everyday we christians break the law so no need for people look down on us

December 12, 2014 at 11:19pm · Edited



**Paul Chambers** History shows otherwise

December 13, 2014 at 2:40am



**Roxanne Moser** And it's so sad that all Christians are judged by the acts of people like these, just like all police officers are judged by the acts of officers like the Ferguson officer, etc. This world feels like we are back in the 60s and 70s again. Full of hate for one another.

2 · December 14, 2014 at 7:57am



**Hannah Roberts** why are they all smiling?

3 · December 12, 2014 at 2:46pm



**Rachel Boiter** Not your typical mug shot.

3 · December 12, 2014 at 2:37pm



**Octavia Smith** Why are they smiling? Lol that's weird!

3 · December 12, 2014 at 12:54pm



**Sheri L Merrell** Mad they let them smile for this ignorance! Like God wants ANYONE TO TREAT ANYONE like that! An u say Hippocrates!

3 · December 12, 2014 at 12:23pm



**Cathy Acosta** I don't think this is a church..most likely a cult.....crack heads don't even smile like that when they go to jail..So there's their sign!!

3 · December 12, 2014 at 11:42am



**Mary Jodie Poteat Lundeen** They do understand this is a mugshot not a glamour shot?!?!?

3 · December 12, 2014 at 11:37am



**Michelle Lucas** Why are they all smiling creepy

3 · December 12, 2014 at 11:35am



**Donna Ferguson-Ramsey** They'll get out of it. They always have. Grew up in that county.

3 · December 12, 2014 at 11:12am



**April McConnell Henderson** Looks like they all have the same painted on smile...weird, creepy, and cultish.

3 · December 12, 2014 at 11:04am



**Tammie Stone** Sounds lke somebody ls brain washed on here

7 · December 12, 2014 at 11:23am



**Tammie Stone** Read the dally courier today 1 of the members has a record on him these r some messed up people everybody here in the county knows it's a cult

7 · December 12, 2014 at 11:06am



**Sally Whitt** This is no more of a church than "Westboro Baptist". Christ says to love everyone & allow Him to judge.

2 · December 13, 2014 at 4:29pm



**Bev 'Blossom' Lordman** They're cheesin like they're in a yearbook pic! Spooky!

2 · December 13, 2014 at 12:12am



**Angela Arrington Nyberg** These are suppose to be mug shots not glamour shots...just say/n

2 · December 12, 2014 at 2:59pm



**Dana Arthur Shrum** Carolyn G Best and Amanda Cochran Dyer you might see a familiar face in these mugshots

2 · December 12, 2014 at 12:22pm



**Kimberly Noland** Why are they all smiling like that?  
December 12, 2014 at 12:39pm



**Dana Arthur Shrum** I don't know it's super creepy  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 1:06pm



**Kimberly Noland** The 3 guys that were arrested for stalking this fella had the same smile in their mugshots too  
December 12, 2014 at 1:07pm



**Kay Ward** Why are they all smiling????  
2 · December 12, 2014 at 12:21pm



**Karen Hilliard** I believe Mr.Fenner!!!  
2 · December 12, 2014 at 12:21pm



**Angel Raimondo** They all look way tooooo happy.... must be drinking some good wine...  
2 · December 12, 2014 at 12:20pm



**Johnny Gibson** This is funny!...when you happy and you know it...your face will surely show it...clap your hands  
2 · December 12, 2014 at 12:04pm



**Kristy Edwards Foster** Rene Bailey Grayson look at this  
December 14, 2014 at 8:20pm



**Larry Silva** Maybe Fenner is making all this up in hopes he can cash in on his homosexuality.  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 12:35pm



**Harrison Wilkerson** I would ask you to think about what you are saying before you post such comments.  
2 · December 12, 2014 at 1:18pm



**Steve Black** Cashing in on fa66otry is common these days  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 1:26pm



**Erica N. Usery** Yep, let's side with the abusers.  
December 12, 2014 at 2:21pm



**Larry Silva** Allegedly, they all will have their day in court. All Fenner has to do now is prove it!  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 2:53pm



**Beth Tudor Eskridge** Cashing in? He was beaten and kidnapped by these people! Would you say anything about cashing in if he wasn't gay? I think not  
December 14, 2014 at 8:16am



**Larry Silva** That's right Beth, I wouldn't. So what!  
December 14, 2014 at 6:34pm



**David J Oberly II** Punishing a crime worse because of hate is punishing thought. The punishment should be based on the crime. Nothing more, nothing less.  
December 14, 2014 at 8:40am



**Steve Black** Were they ever able to beat the fa66otry out of him?  
December 12, 2014 at 1:25pm



**Erica N. Usery** I'm guessing you would like to join their church?  
December 12, 2014 at 2:33pm



**Steve Black** I'm unaffiliated  
December 12, 2014 at 5:21pm



**Beth Tudor Eskridge** And sick in the head, Steve Black  
December 14, 2014 at 8:17am



**Steve Black** All the world's weirdness is my entertainment, I'm not the one putting this comical immorality out there  
December 14, 2014 at 8:25am



**Beth Tudor Eskridge** There should be federal hate crime charges and Morris Dees needs to come visit  
December 14, 2014 at 8:21am



**Gage Cash** Let God be with them  
December 13, 2014 at 11:42pm



**Chad Keeter** I Wsh They Would Try To Hold Me Down I'll Send Them Straight To Hell With The Devil Their Boss IF We Had Any Judges And District Attorneys In This County Would Be Honest When We Put Them In Office They should punish These People I Believe They Work For The Church  
1 · December 14, 2014 at 9:35am · Edited



**Sarah Ravan** It's about time! I've heard nothing but horrible creepy things about this cult for a long time!! No more religion used to abuse and oppress. Time to shed the light.  
1 · December 13, 2014 at 6:37pm



**Tammy Clark Roberts** All smiles? Are they possessed?! Creepy!  
December 13, 2014 at 5:29pm



**Bridget McClellan** I don't know what's worse - that they exist or that ppl actually fall for their mess !! What do you think ?

1 · December 13, 2014 at 4:13pm



**Cheryl Hayes** I agree with you Eva Brigman Gillesple. Creepy!

December 13, 2014 at 3:24pm



**VickiePaulet Gregory Tim McLaughlin** the word of faith cult has tentacles that reach deep into the court system here, believe me, they are smiling because they KNOW they will get off scott free or at worst get a slap on the wrist!!!

1 · December 13, 2014 at 5:22am



**Steven Standridge** How insightful. You know this conspiracy.

December 13, 2014 at 3:12pm



**VickiePaulet Gregory Tim McLaughlin** a lot of people here know it's a fact

December 13, 2014 at 3:14pm



**Dale King** Why are they smiling? This is very strange for people who are facing charges.

1 · December 12, 2014 at 4:07pm



**Steven Standridge** Why not smile if you're innocent?

December 13, 2014 at 3:09pm



**Cherita Gardin** They look like happy going church folk to me. Baby Jesus will forgive them.

December 13, 2014 at 12:42pm



**Willie Blocker** Hay It is Integrated.

December 13, 2014 at 10:36am



**Mary Murphy Yon** This is sorry as sorry can get everyone is equal do Em same way they did him

December 13, 2014 at 10:26am



**Christie Jackson Wiles** You only smile like this when Jesus comes in you.

December 13, 2014 at 10:00am



**Connie Fyffe Bower** Maybe not true.

December 13, 2014 at 8:47am



**Katina Reed- Williams** why they all smiling? ...they think it's candid camera...smh

1 · December 13, 2014 at 8:18am



**Kaye Chambers** Don't be surprised many churches are up to no good, One right here in Charlottesville. Will reveal who in days to call come. Believe that!

December 13, 2014 at 8:03am



**Tyrone Miller** You all have tried and convicted these people already! Probably the same people upset with the people from Ferguson because of their anger of the decision not to indict the police officer. Now yall see how they felt in their assumption. No one knows, so let's stop acting like we do

1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:15pm



**Paul Chambers** No crime was committed in that shooting until the looting & riots & burning of personal property. Here, these folks are smiling in mug shots -Not normal.....

December 13, 2014 at 2:50am · Edited



**Tyrone Miller** See.... Now you're playing God, we don't know if no crime was committed, the people decided that there was no probable cause. Further more, Jesus when he was before pontius pilate never said a word which is not normal, maybe these people feel like they have the favor of God abiding among them or maybe they're trying not to display guilt, we just don't know so leave these people alone it's a free country

December 13, 2014 at 7:30am



**Danny Reczko** You typical church goes for ya ( TRY BELIEVING IN GOD FOR ONCE) BIBLE BASHERS

December 13, 2014 at 6:12am



**Kathy Ravan** Can't wait to hear the truth in this matter.

December 13, 2014 at 4:35am



**Michael Olson** Religious fanatics, cults, xtian church whichever one doesn't matter, these people do what they do best and that's be a danger to society and harm others. Their Jesus must be so proud.

1 · December 13, 2014 at 2:27am · Edited

**Mark Johnson** It's no wonder the leaders of North Korea doesn't want Christians in his country. Or that the Romans threw them in with the Lions. Christians are an oppressive hate group. (And these Christians want to run the government.)

1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:23pm

**Elaine Johnson** Don't. Through all Christians in the same bag

1 · December 13, 2014 at 1:52am



**Derrick R. Howard** Dang they dont look like criminals to me they look like nice christian folks

1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:13pm





**Lance Larsen** The look and act like normal christians to me.  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 10:17pm



**Kay Ellison Allred** They drank the kool aid  
3 · December 12, 2014 at 9:04pm



**Joseph Cloninger** Joseph Camp I think we realize, It's just sick that they are smiling about it.  
2 · December 12, 2014 at 6:51pm



**Summer Goodlow** This is very creepy  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 5:47pm



**Delene M Miller** Please update the wreck in Union county  
December 12, 2014 at 3:53pm



**Susan Brooks** What??  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 3:36pm



**Angela Armstrong** Don't they look looney??!!  
4 · December 12, 2014 at 3:04pm



**Rebecca Goosby Crosby** Why are they smiling?  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 2:34pm



**Toni Sutton**  
December 12, 2014 at 2:29pm



**Erica N. Usery** Kristie Tipton  
December 12, 2014 at 2:22pm



**Steve Hagerman** Sound like an outright lie  
December 12, 2014 at 12:02pm



**Erica N. Usery** You would say that.  
December 12, 2014 at 2:22pm



**Robby Bellamy** What are they all laughing at?  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 2:18pm



**Theresa Gonet** Seriously? These are mugshots? Whadahel.  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 1:41pm



**Kayla N Adam Holmes** Why are they smiling?!!  
December 12, 2014 at 1:32pm



**Shanay Harrison** Why are they smiling tho?  
December 12, 2014 at 1:32pm



**Paul Turner** Shame on them!  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 1:19pm



**Maryann Grodecki** Mke, thought the same thing, what do they think is so funny...disgusting  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 1:12pm



**Nikki Young** They were trying to purge wasn't they?  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 12:54pm



**Taylor Marie Jenkins** Despicable!!! And They're ALL smiling! SMH At them!  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 12:53pm



**Tammie Stone** People tell the truth about these sick people it's just nobody will do anything to stop this sickness in this county  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 12:47pm



**Shawn Huff** The simple fact that these individuals are ALL smiling in their mugshots is creepy and sordid. Disgusting!!!!!! What a bunch of HICKS!!!!!!  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 12:41pm · Edited



**Kathy Retford Casman** That's not Christian  
December 12, 2014 at 12:39pm



**Lisa Qualls Rowland** Wow  
December 12, 2014 at 12:35pm



**Tracy Fernandez Jamison** Why are those nuts smiling?  
December 12, 2014 at 12:35pm



**Michael Forrester** Look like a clean & happy bunch. Hope they don't catch the Cootie's, ...  
December 12, 2014 at 12:31pm



**Davidand Mary Olsen** Don't know about the accusations, but I've never seen a no trespass sign on church property. Bet attendance is down!  
1 · December 12, 2014 at 12:24pm



**Jason Fite** Choot'em! Choot'em!  
December 12, 2014 at 12:16pm



**Lisa B. Sanders**

WE'LL ALL BE DAMNED



December 12, 2014 at 12:15pm



**Kristy Davis** Why are they grinning from ear to ear?? Never seen such happy mugshots!! Smh

1 · December 12, 2014 at 12:09pm



**Joy McDowell Gossett** WHY ARE THEY ALL SMILING?!!! Disgusting!

1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:55am



**Anthony Guffey** It's the Rutherford County illuminati!!! lol They've been cloak and dagger since I was a kid in the 90's. Word back then was that the sheriff was under they're thumb. Which one was that? Dan Good?

1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:53am



**Jessica Durham** Wow, they were excited.

1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:51am



**Christie D'Orellas** Susan Finley Gregory... Craziness in your little town!!!  
December 12, 2014 at 11:41am

**Susan Finley Gregory** Girl, them people been crazy! LOL

1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:44am

**Susan Finley Gregory** Their attorney is a member there also!!

1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:50am



**Iris Moon Ensley** Scott Poole

December 12, 2014 at 11:49am



**Joni Owens** And they are all smiling like they've done nothing wrong. Strange and creepy.

1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:49am



**Frank Silder** Can you say "cult" ???

1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:49am



**Tracey Bright** Creepy how they're all smiling....

1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:46am



**Tammie Stone** Where is Jane she's sitting back smiling like the rest of her members in the mug shots

1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:46am



**Tammie Stone** She's not a fruit cake she sees wht everybody is talking about the cult in Rutherford county

2 · December 12, 2014 at 11:45am



**Beth Boyd** They are all smiling!

December 12, 2014 at 11:44am



**Carol Hollifield Schultz** So true Angela

1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:44am



**Carol Hollifield Schultz** Finally. Where is Jane?

December 12, 2014 at 11:42am



**Katie Wheeler Harris** I blocked his crazy tail and thankfully can't see his nonsense anymore. Ignorance at it's finest!

1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:41am



**Cindy Ladewig Darr** They are all smiling in these pictures. Looks like they are proud of this and have no remorse. If they are guilty I hope they get many years in prison.

4 · December 12, 2014 at 11:39am



**April McConnell Henderson** Katie go read my comment on what he told you...at least u will chuckle

1 · December 12, 2014 at 11:38am



**Joey Stubblefield** Why are they ALL happy?

December 12, 2014 at 11:24am



**Josh Brown** My initial thought was this was planned beforehand. Smiling faces look less guilty than stern smug pictures. So its an attempt to distract people from judging them too harshly. Honestly not a bad strategy.

December 12, 2014 at 11:37am



**Mary Cannon** All these hateful people who call themselves Christians. Kidnapping and assault are serious charges. Considering there have been prior situations, I believe Mr. Fenner.

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### Citizens Against Corruption and Abuse

December 16, 2014

This by far is the most extensive article that really explains a lot of how things unraveled for Matthew, along with other histories of the church.  
<http://www.thedailybeast.com/.../beaten-by-his-church-for-bei...>



### Beaten By His Church for Being Gay

Matthew Fenner claims members of the North Carolina-based The Word of Faith Fellowship subjected him to a brutal attack. Now the case is going to court.

[WWW.THEDAILYBEAST.COM](http://WWW.THEDAILYBEAST.COM)

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Bernie Mcgee, Candi Hollifield, Benjamin Carmona and 37 others like this.

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**Nathan Ensley** This is where I live, Forest City, NC. This is not a "church", it's more of a cult. It disgusts me in every way to see this in my home town, guess that's why my friend shot the place with a paint ball gun a few years back lol I don't condone it at all, but I think it's a little funny considering I had no clue what the place was when I was younger. They are all super nice people and you wouldn't ever think they would do something extreme like this. When you pull up to the "church", two men come out in trench coats like they are carrying weapons (ar-15s and such). I don't fully understand their beliefs, but it is frowned upon by everyone but red necks here.

3 · December 16, 2014 at 11:27am · Edited



**Amanda McCallister Jackson** That place is not a christian "church"

2 · December 16, 2014 at 10:43am

**Sylvia Price Wilkins** This has been in the Myrtle Beach Sun, twice.

4 · December 16, 2014 at 9:56am



**Amanda Turner** So glad these evil people are being brought to light

1 · December 16, 2014 at 4:31pm



**Gha Davidson** Makes me sick every time they put DSS in their reports. Two heads of the DSS office are members, just another reason for always getting away with what they do.

1 · December 16, 2014 at 12:27pm



**Bernie Mcgee** Freedom of religion? NOT

1 · December 16, 2014 at 10:35am



**Terry Radford Sr.** Whip that ass good

December 16, 2014 at 5:13pm

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- Denise Garnett** Does Matt still need financial backing for his cause? If so I may know someone who is a serious gay rights advocate tha would likely provide some significant help. Message me for more info. I want to see this cult shut down!:)  
10 · January 4 at 9:02pm
- Rachel Atherton-Seagrave** Weird how you can't even eat in Dennys without them pointing and whispering... Matt, you didn't deserve this. I hated it for all your friends when you vanished too...  
2 · January 5 at 10:50am
- Matt Dunivan** Progress...  
1 · January 4 at 11:30pm
- Tina Piercy Haney** Let's hope the justice system doesn't fail him!!  
1 · January 4 at 9:54pm
- Lyddie Shaneberger** Weird how the abusers pic is bigger than Matts, I'm glad he's getting this publicity about his awful event(s) everywhere though!  
6 · January 4 at 9:14pm · Edited



**Tammy Hardin Alexander** Its about time  
2 · January 4 at 8:51pm



**Scott Scism** I hope they finally get what they deserve  
4 · January 4 at 8:32pm



**Benjamin Carmona** Awesome  
4 · January 4 at 8:29pm



**Karla Bradley Oliver** Finally  
3 · January 4 at 9:17pm



**Melissa Mintz Hawkins** Hoping we get this cult shut down. We don't want cults  
In our small town friendly county!!! Everyone press your share button.  
January 14 at 3:51pm · Edited

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KM man killed on US 74 after leaving car

Domestic argument, alcohol may have been factors in Saturday night fatality, police say

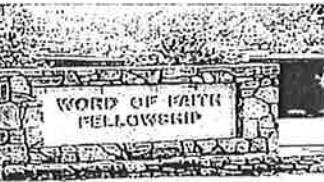
A Kings Mountain man died Saturday night after leaving his car on the side of US 74. Police say a domestic argument and alcohol consumption may have been factors in the Saturday night fatality.

Beaten, assaulted, strangled

Matt Fenner says he suffered at the hands of Word of Faith Fellowship Church members during a bizarre ritual to cure him of his homosexuality. In December, five members of the Spindale church were indicted for their role in the assault.



Matt Fenner, 34, says he was beaten, assaulted and strangled by five members of the Word of Faith Fellowship Church in Spindale, N.C., in December.



Matt Fenner says he was beaten, assaulted and strangled by five members of the Word of Faith Fellowship Church in Spindale, N.C., in December.

Five members of the church were indicted for their role in the assault on Matt Fenner.

Weather forecast for Halifax, NC, showing temperature, humidity, and wind speed.

The Shelby Star

Here's what's coming up in Monday's Star:
\* Matt Fenner says he suffered at the hands of Word of Faith Fellowship Church members during a bizarre ritual to cure him of his homosexuality. In December, five members of the Spindale church were indicted for their role in the assault. He tells The Star his side of the story.
\* A Kings Mountain man involved in an argument with his girlfriend was killed late Saturday night after stepping out of the car he had been driving and getting struck almost immediately by another vehicle, according to Kings Mountain Police.

Album: Timeline Photos
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Chad Franklin Moss, Bob Reed, Teresa Dodrill and 42 others like this. Recent Activity

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Lora Radford Brown this is not a church this is a cult, they are very abusive to all their members, the number of horror stories I have heard would take me all night to tell.

25 · January 4 at 8:17pm

Tony Hardin If you know this is going on, then don't join this church and then complain about it. That is like joining a snake handling church and then complaining about getting bit.

9 · January 4 at 10:19pm

Andrea Morgan Amen
January 5 at 5:17am



**Nancy Morgan Burnette** Matthew was there with a parent as are many of the children and teens. Sometimes things are beyond our control.

4 · January 5 at 6:05am



**Sonya Torres** exactly, the kids do not have a choice. he is just now speaking out because he is now an adult.

2 · January 5 at 1:14pm



**Lydia Murray** This is not his fault If that is what you are trying to say...

2 · January 5 at 2:15pm



**Tony Hardin** People need to take responsibility for their actions.

January 5 at 2:28pm



**Nancy Morgan Burnette** He is holding them accountable. Maybe the officials who have allowed this abuse to go unpunished for decades are the ones that you need to be talking to Tony, Matthew is doing everything he is supposed to do.

2 · January 6 at 6:09am



**Sonya Torres** Well then his parents should be held responsible because they are the ones who subjected him to these zealots as a MINOR.

1 · January 6 at 9:11am



**Tony Hardin** Thank you Sonya,

January 6 at 9:12am



**John T. Preston** Sounds more like Word of Hate.

6 · January 4 at 8:59pm



**Brian Moran** did anyone bother to ask the church their side of the story? or is this a one sided report ? just wondering?

6 · January 4 at 8:12pm

Hide 12 Replies



**Kristen Thornton** They wouldn't speak to you if they did. They don't speak to outsiders

6 · January 4 at 8:19pm



**Morgan Condrey** This is true! Google and YouTube word of faith fellowship spindle nc I live near it and all allegations are true

5 · January 4 at 8:32pm



**Morgan Condrey** Matthew Fenner Jeanna Powell

January 4 at 8:32pm



**Sonya Torres** Yeah they wouldnt comment before.

1 · January 4 at 8:35pm



**Hunter Yelton** Just google the world of faith spindale....

1 · January 4 at 8:55pm



**Carole Jolley** This isn't the first time they've been in trouble but nothing ever happens because their hands are in everything in Rutherfordton! Did they ask their side! HA! They "allegedly" tied children to chairs and spanked them years ago. Nothing was done!

7 · January 4 at 9:19pm



**David Maxwell** Brian I am from there word of faith is not a Christian church they are a cult. Those of us who are from there know this

6 · January 4 at 9:41pm



**Rhonda Parris Mcmahel** Hell, It's on video! What more proof do you need?

1 · January 5 at 4:59am



**Nichole Johnson** They were smiling in their mug shots.

1 · January 5 at 5:40am



**Sonya Torres** its terrible that people subject their children to these sort of zealots. the minute no.,the second someone in a church choked my kids....they would be hurt. bad.

January 5 at 1:16pm



**Paul Ditz** Their attorney is quoted in the article. So their side is represented.

January 5 at 3:42pm



**Hunter Yelton** And this Jane Whaley, Spindale WOFF:

<http://youtu.be/IPpbmDDRm8M>



**Jane Whaley, Spindale WOFF**

Inside Edition about "blasting" at Jane Whaley's sect in Spindale, NC. Lacy Wien, who escaped the sect and...

YOUTUBE.COM

4 · January 4 at 9:03pm



**Karen Endecott** I moved here from out of state, and I swear sometimes the things I read that go on around here make me wonder if I've gone back in time.

3 · January 5 at 11:52am



**Crystal Jade Oughton Skidmore** Ok. Sure give the church a chance to speak but it's rather obvious they r a damn cult

2 · January 5 at 4:14am



**Tiffany Lynn Davis** Not a church

2 · January 4 at 10:36pm



**Hunter Yelton** Maybe this should be added...

<http://cultbustersgalactica.yuku.com/.../JANE-WHALEY-CULT...>



**JANE WHALEY ~ CULT LEADER ~  
WORD OF FAITH FELLOWSHIP ~...**

[CULTBUSTERSGALACTICA.YUKU.COM](http://CULTBUSTERSGALACTICA.YUKU.COM)

2 · January 4 at 9:02pm



**Paul Ditz** Very proud of Matthew and how strong he has become after escaping from these people.

4 · January 5 at 7:15am



**Sonya Torres** Someone should teach those people what love is. Im glad this man appears to be in good health now. What a horrible thing to do to someone.

4 · January 4 at 8:34pm · Edited



**Meredith Scheneman** Not a church, not a disease and nelther are right!!!!

1 · January 5 at 6:34am



**Brian Hanvy** It's not a disease

1 · January 5 at 5:10am



**Drew Greene** Cult!

1 · January 5 at 3:34am



**Tiffany Lynn Davis** Wtf

1 · January 4 at 10:35pm



**Hunter Yelton** Not all that go to that church are awful there's a lot of good people that go there, but the higher up are what you got to watch for. In the Forest City Walmart you can normally tell who the upper people are as they're dressed to nice and stare you down.

1 · January 4 at 8:56pm





**Shripathi Kamath** · Top Commenter

"A church going too far?" is a question you should ask only if you are uncertain whether kidnapping and assaulting someone is ever justifiable.

I mean, "Christian beliefs" might conjure up some Biblical clause which says so, but seriously, STOP APOLOGIZING FOR THESE CRIMINALS!

Reply · Like · 1 · January 7 at 3:55pm



**John Blackthorn** · Top Commenter

Matt Finner, if you are keeping up with these comments, please know that Jesus loves you and wants you to know that He died for you, was buried, and arose from the dead--so that you could have eternal life. You can't do it on your own. So, come to Him by faith, admit that you have sinned, and ask God to forgive you. He will forgive you and save you. And, He will fill your heart with peace and assurance that you will be with Him when He returns. Praying for you. :)

Reply · Like · January 6 at 7:12pm



**Thea Hardin**

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Reply · Like · January 9 at 4:21am



**John Blackthorn** · Top Commenter

Thea Hardin Have you taken a serious look at the whole issue, or are you picking Scripture out of context to suit your own needs?

Reply · Like · January 9 at 3:01pm



**Frances Lefkowitz Bookhelm** · Top Commenter · University of Maryland, College Park

Why did he go to a church in the first place?

Reply · Like · 1 · January 6 at 8:43am



**Fester Addams**

Because as he said in the article, he and his mom were really close and she had just joined the church and he thought he could keep an open mind and see he could change. Sadly it didn't work out very well for him.

Reply · Like · January 6 at 2:13pm



**John Blackthorn** · Top Commenter

Perhaps he was searching for answers. I hope he doesn't judge real Christianity by what he encountered. Jesus is alive and willing to save all who will surrender to Him.

Reply · Like · January 6 at 4:25pm



**Shripathi Kamath** · Top Commenter

John Blackthorn Why not? This is real Christianity. Who are you to say otherwise?

Reply · Like · 1 · January 7 at 3:56pm

[View 7 more](#)



**Bill Dunn** · Top Commenter

Go away, homophobes. Yours is the behavior that's evil.

Reply · Like · 1 · January 6 at 6:25am



**John Blackthorn** · Top Commenter

Bill Dunn, God is against the homosexual lifestyle. Do you consider Him a "homophobe"?

Reply · Like · January 6 at 4:30pm



**Shripathi Kamath** · Top Commenter

John Blackthorn Yup. God is a fictional character, and his character is homophobic.

Reply · Like · January 7 at 3:57pm



**John Blackthorn** · Top Commenter

Shripathi Kamath "God is a fictional character"? How did you arrive at that conclusion?

Reply · Like · January 7 at 7:23pm

View 4 more



**Judy N. Disguise** · Top Commenter · Works at Mental health

Matt and other LGBT young folks, please don't go where people want to "blast" you. You don't have to accept that to believe or to worship. I am sorry this happened Matt and I wish you well. Go where there is love. You don't need blasting.

Reply · Like · January 5 at 5:55pm



**John Blackthorn** · Top Commenter

I have not an advocate of abuse in any form, but true love is telling the truth in love. God loves mankind enough to tell the truth about homosexuality and its effects on mankind (Romans chapter 1). Positive changes would be made if people would take Him serious.

Reply · Like · January 6 at 7:39am



**John Blackthorn** · Top Commenter

Judy N. Disguise 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 is God's definition of love, and His words are the ultimate authority on the subject.

Reply · Like · January 6 at 10:30am



**Judy N. Disguise** · Top Commenter · Works at Mental health

I love that verse. Wrote a song about that whole chapter. I do believe God is love and that love is patient and kind...

Reply · Like · Edited · January 6 at 1:38pm



**Judy N. Disguise** · Top Commenter · Works at Mental health

I am grateful that more and more, individual beliefs about what love is are respected. Thank you Mr. Blackthorn for "speaking of the pomptice of love". Steve Miller would dig it. Peace.

Reply · Like · January 6 at 2:02pm



**John Blackthorn** · Top Commenter

Judy N. Disguise But the question is: Do you love every verse of God's word? And, are you willing to submit to God's word as your ultimate authority?

Reply · Like · January 6 at 4:17pm



**Judy N. Disguise** · Top Commenter · Works at Mental health

Do you? There's an awful lot of them that nobody seems to want to do anymore. But it's not something I need to discuss with you John. I do hope the young man has found a community where he isn't being blasted.

Reply · Like · January 6 at 4:39pm



**John Blackthorn** · Top Commenter

Judy N. Disguise You still have a problem answering simple questions. But, your answer is an answer in and of itself. Yes, I love God's written word and use it as my ultimate authority. If you change your mind, I will be glad to discuss the Bible with you, and answer any questions you may have. :)

Reply · Like · January 6 at 6:56pm



**Judy N. Disguise** · Top Commenter · Works at Mental health

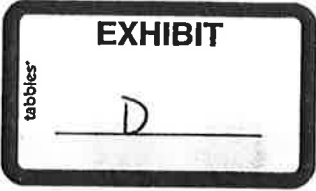
No thank you. God loves you too Mr. Blackthorn <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLEtGRUrtJo>

Reply · Like · Edited · January 6 at 7:23pm



**Shripathi Kamath** · Top Commenter

John Blackthorn Except in these comments, you are



TV Station Profiles & Public Inspection Files

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WLOS ASHEVILLE, NC

Virtual Channel 13 RF Channel 13 Facility ID 56537

Navigation icons and search bar for WLOS Station Profile

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Search input field for finding a station

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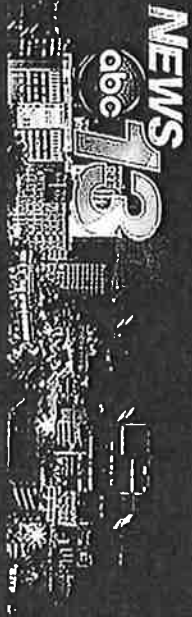
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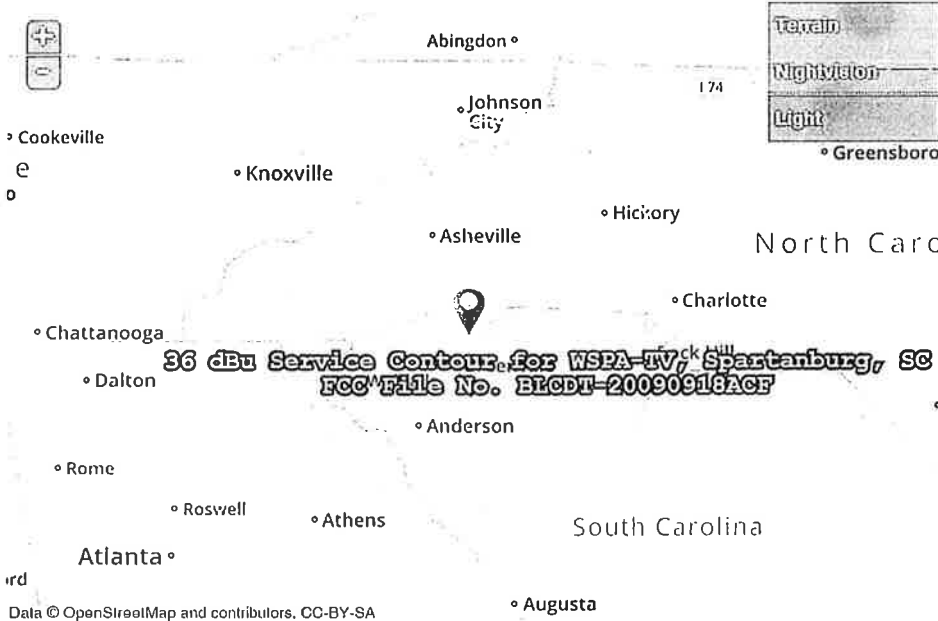
WSPA-TV SPARTANBURG, SC

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Navigation icons and search bar: Search WSPA-TV Station Profile

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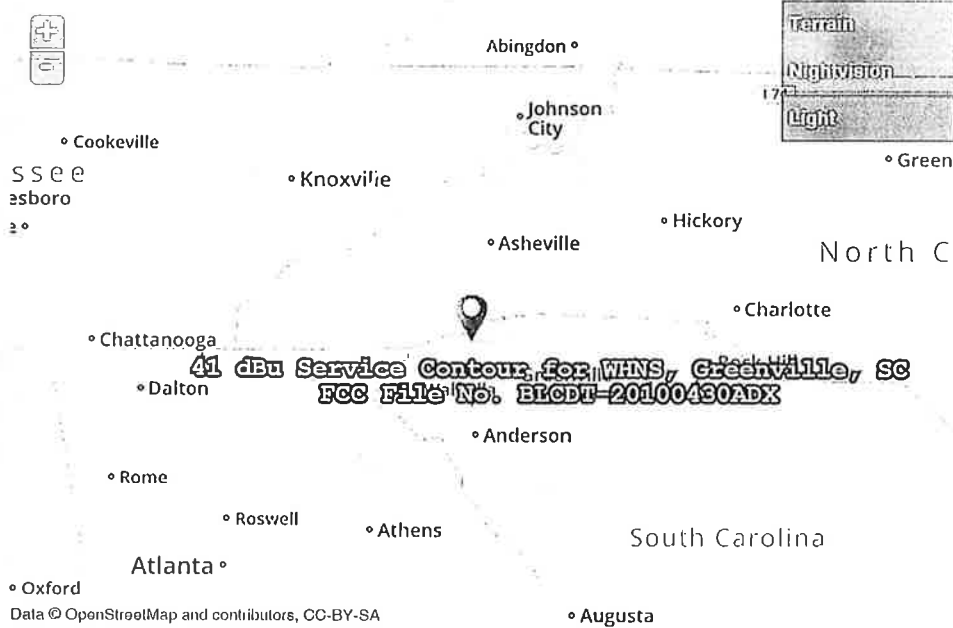
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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF RUTHERFORD

2015 FEB - 5 AM 11:13  
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION  
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, C.S.C. FILE NO. 15 CRS 153

BY 

THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

vs.

ROBERT LOUIS WALKER, JR.

Defendant.

**REQUEST FOR VOLUNTARY DISCOVERY**

Pursuant to Article 48 of Chapter 15A of the North Carolina General Statutes, the above-named defendant, by and through the undersigned attorney of record, respectfully requests the District Attorney's office to provide discovery voluntarily in the above-captioned case as follows, to wit:

1. Make available to the defendant the complete files of all law enforcement agencies, investigatory agencies, and prosecutors' offices involved in the investigation of the alleged crimes committed or the in the prosecution of the defendant, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § A-903(a)(1).
  - a. The term "file" includes the defendant's statements, co-defendant statements, witness statements, investigating officers' notes, results of tests and examinations, or any other matter or evidence obtained during the investigation of the offenses alleged to have been committed by the defendant. If any matter or evidence is submitted for testing or examination, in addition to any test or examination results, make available all other data, calculations, or writings of any kind including, but not limited to, preliminary test or screening results and bench notes.
  - b. The term "prosecutor's office" refers to the office of the prosecuting attorney.
  - c. The term "investigatory agency" includes any public or private entity that obtains information on behalf of a law enforcement agency or prosecutor's office in connection with the investigation of the crimes committed or the prosecution of the defendant.

2. Reduce all oral statements of the defendant, co-defendants, and witnesses to written or recorded form and include such statements in the complete files for disclosure, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 15A-903(a)(1).
3. Allow the defendant to inspect and copy or photograph any materials contained in the complete file of all law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies involved in the investigation of the crimes committed and the prosecution of the defendant, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 15A-903(a)(1).
4. Pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. § 15A-903(a)(2), give notice to the defendant, within a reasonable time prior to trial, of any expert witnesses that the State reasonably expects to call as a witness at trial, as well as the expert's curriculum vitae, the expert's opinion, and the underlying basis for that opinion.
5. Pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. § 15A-903(a)(3), provide the defendant, at the beginning of jury selection, a written list of the names of all other witnesses whom the State reasonably expects to call during the trial.
6. Promptly notify the defendant of the existence of additional evidence or witnesses that are or may be subject to discovery or inspection, pursuant to the continuing duty to disclose of N.C.G.S. § 15A-907, and provide disclosure of such evidence or witnesses as outlined above.
7. Provide in written or recorded form any written statement or any oral statement, or any other information, examination, test, paper, document, or the like, pursuant to the decisional or statutory law of this State or of the United States, specifically including but not limited to any statements made by the prosecuting witnesses, or other evidence which
  - a. which exculpates or tends to exculpate the defendant;
  - b. which may be or are known to be material to the guilt or innocence of the defendant;
  - c. which may be or are known to be relevant to any possible punishment of the defendant; or
  - d. which is favorable to the defendant.
8. Provide any exculpatory information in the possession, custody, or control of the State, the existence of which is known or in the exercise of due diligence may become known to the State, required to be produced by the decision of the United States Supreme Court in Brady v. Maryland, 373 U.S. 83, 83 S. Ct. 1194, 10 L. Ed. 2d 215 (1963).



9. Provide any evidence of other crimes, wrongs, or acts alleged to have been committed by the defendant known to the State, or which may later become known to the State, and which the States intends to use in evidence at the trial as proof of motive, opportunity, intent, preparation, planning, knowledge, identity, or absence of mistake, entrapment or accident.
10. Reveal any agreement, promise, deal, or consideration made between the District Attorney's office or any other law enforcement agency and any prosecution witness that could conceivably influence the witness' testimony or affect the witness' credibility, including, but not limited to, whether, in return for testifying or providing information, the witness has received or will receive any consideration concerning pending or potential charges, or has been granted immunity from prosecution.
11. Communicate with all law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies involved in the investigation of the crimes committed or the prosecution of the defendant to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements of disclosure.
12. Make any other disclosure which the District Attorney wishes to make in the interest of justice.

This Request for Voluntary Discovery is made within ten (10) working days of service of bill of indictment on Defendant.

This the 5 day of February, 2015.

TOMBLIN, FARMER & MORRIS, PLLC

By:



Mark Morris, NC Bar # 32846

Attorney for Defendant

P.O. Box 632

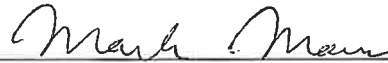
Rutherfordton, NC 28139

Tel: (828) 286-3866

Fax: (828) 286-4820

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that a copy of this request was served upon the District Attorney by hand-delivery to an employee of that office on this 5 day of February, 2015.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Morris  
Attorney for the Defendant