

Woman Robs 4 Churches, Also Charged With Child Endangerment

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A South Carolina woman was arrested and charged with four counts of third-degree burglary and a single count of unlawful conduct toward a child earlier this week. She is accused of stealing items from four Lexington Country churches.

reported that Leslie Reese, 42, broke into Gilbert United Methodist Church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Bethel United Methodist Church and Samaria Baptist Church.

A press release on the Lexington County Sherriff's Office website revealed that Sherriff Jay Koon says the unlawful conduct toward a child charge against Reese stems from her having her own child with her during the church break-ins.

"Reese signed her own child out of school and took the child with her to break into the churches and take things," Koon said. "A book bag containing a folder belonging to Reese's child was found inside Samaria Baptist.

A Gilbert resident, Reese was released from the Lexington County Detention Center after meeting conditions of her bond.

"After reviewing security camera footage at Gilbert United Methodist Church, property crimes investigators confirmed Reese broke into Bethlehem Lutheran and Gilbert United Methodist Church," Koon says. "The security camera footage showed Reese breaking into a window to get into both churches and taking various items such as a cross, candles and Christmas ornaments." {eo}

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