

## Former Church Employee Faces 19 Counts

Written by Steve Frank

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A 15-month investigation has led to a church employee being charged with a total of 19 counts, including embezzlement. November 21st, 2011, The Watauga County Sheriff's Office received an initial report of possible misappropriation of funds from the Deerfield United Methodist Church, alleging that approximately \$118,000.00 had been misused by an employee of the church, beginning in late 2008. Sheriff Hagaman reported that the Watauga County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Unit conducted an investigation into the incident at the Deerfield Road church, and as a result, Treva J. Jones, 44, was charged with one count of Felony Embezzlement on December 21, 2011. Treva Jones was arrested on December 22, 2011 and set a \$25,000.00 secured bond. This charge is still pending in Watauga County Superior Court, as the church gave Jones an opportunity to pay back missing monies. But on January 3rd, 2013, Watauga County Sheriff's Office received an additional report of possible misappropriation of funds from Deerfield United Methodist Church, alleging another \$48,000.00 had been misused by the former employee of the church. Again, the Watauga County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Unit conducted an investigation to the incident, and have now charged the 4090 Jakes Mountain Road, Boone woman with another 18 counts—six counts of Felony Obtaining Property by False Pretense, six of Felony Forgery, and six counts of Felony Uttering a Forged Instrument. Treva J. Jones was arrested yesterday and set a \$25,000.00 secured bond with a court date of March 26, 2013.