philly.com

Subscriber Services | The Inquirer | DAILY NEWS

Home | News | Sports | Entertainment | Business | Food | Lifestyle | Health | Marketplace

Collections • **Calvary Church**

By Stephanie Doster, INQUIRER SUBURBAN STAFF

POSTED: February 03, 2001

A volunteer youth-ministries leader at an Upper Bucks County Mennonite church has been arrested on charges that he lured four boys into his home and videotaped them while they simulated sexual acts in a game of Truth or Dare last month, officials said yesterday.

Howard Earl White Jr., 39, of South Main Street in Perkasie, admitted to police that he videotaped the boys performing mock sex acts in his home, according to a probable-cause affidavit.

White, a volunteer at the East Swamp Church in Milford Township for the last several months, is charged with four counts each of sexual abuse of children and corruption of minors. His arrest followed a three-day investigation, according to Bucks County District Attorney Diane E. Gibbons.

White was arraigned yesterday by Warrington District Justice Oliver Groman, who ordered White not to have contact with anyone under the age of 18. Gibbons said White's mother posted 10 percent of $100,000 bail.

No one answered the telephone at White's residence yesterday.

Calling the case "horrifying," Gibbons said White lured the boys, ages 12 and 13, to his home with discussions of religion and sports, videotaped them, and then took them to church. As a youth-ministries leader, Gibbons said, White was supposed to attract youths to church to involve them in religion and church activities.

East Swamp's senior pastor, the Rev. A. Burge Troxel, and the Rev. Andrew T. Gysi, pastor of student ministries, said in a release that they were "shocked and alarmed" to learn of White's arrest.

"Whenever something like this happens, it is always tragic," they said. They planned to meet last night with church parents to explain the situation and offer support.

Perkasie Borough Police Chief Paul Dickinson said none of the alleged activities took place at the church.

According to the affidavit, three of the boys told police they had stayed overnight at White's residence on Jan. 27 and played Truth or Dare. The boys said they were videotaped acting out the dares, officials said.

Dickinson said White told police that he was trying to erase the tape as police entered his home with a search warrant Thursday night. According to the affidavit, White said he had similar contact with another boy three to four weeks ago.

Dickinson said several hundred videotapes were seized from White's home, some of them apparently pornographic. He also said at least one of the tapes corroborated the boys' statements.

White, a landscaper, previously worked as a janitor at Calvary Church in Hilltown, where he also volunteered as a youth leader, Gibbons said. She said police and county detectives would continue investigating.

Calvary Church officials referred questions to Doylestown attorney Leonard Davis, but calls to his law office were not returned yesterday.

White is set to appear before District Justice Ruth C. Dietrich in Perkasie for a Feb. 12 preliminary hearing. According to Dietrich's office, a lawyer had not been listed for White yet.

Stephanie Doster's e-mail address is sdoster@phillynews.com.

FEATURED ARTICLES

'Swiss Cheese Pervert' terrorizes Mayfair

From the Pentagon to life in a van

Bridget Anne Kelly: The aide at the center of the storm

More:

In Bulk Trucking, Chemical Leaman Is Rolling Toward The Top

Frank Nofer, 71, famed graphic artist

George Mattson, 88, Olympian, Crew Coach

De Mazia Art Brings $2.38 Million

Leader Of Jbm Sentenced To Life Aaron Jones Was Convicted Of Conspiring To Distribute $100 Million In Cocaine. He Plans To Appeal.

Jbm 8 Believed Founders

Volunteer Charged In Sex Abuse The Youth-ministries Leader For A Bucks Church Is Accused Of Videotaping Four Boys In His Perkasie Home.

@

We Recommend

'Firehouse' Is Succeeding As Youth-outreach Venture Five Gloucester County Churches Converted The Building To A Recreation Center For Middle And High School Youths.
February 16, 2001

Church Youth Leader Had Been Disciplined
February 6, 2001

Places of worship face tough call: Screening volunteers When the background of a Bucks County church

worker was checked, it seemed OK. Today he will plead guilty to sexually abusing youths.
June 25, 2001

More boys say minister abused them
The Bucks County man is accused of videotaping 16 youths. He is in jail with bail set at $500,000.
March 31, 2001

Find More Stories About

Calvary Church

loading...

Index by Keyword | Index by Date | About Philly.com | Contact Us | Terms of Use & Privacy Statement | Copyright 2014