



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

SHERIFF PAUL N. WHITE

February 28, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Church Safety & Security Seminar

The Crime Prevention Unit of the Anderson County Sheriff's Department is presenting a Church Safety & Security Seminar on **Friday, April 1st, from 6:00pm until 8:00pm**, and **Saturday, April 2nd, from 9:00am until 4:30pm**, at Second Baptist Church, 777 Public Safety Lane in Clinton. This free seminar is open for all churches and denominations.

The Church Safety & Security Seminar is being presented for area houses of worship to assist with emergency planning. Prior preparation is essential for successful prevention and mitigation of potentially catastrophic events. This seminar will offer valuable information to help prepare.

An effective plan for keeping congregations safe requires a complete team effort and coordination. It involves participation of the pastoral staff, ushers, greeters, parking lot attendants, deacons, elders, trustees, medically trained personnel, and many others. Every member of the church team should make plans to attend this seminar.

This seminar will be held in two sessions. The first will begin Friday evening, April 1st, at 6:00pm with introductory information, continue with a review of current material about church violence incidents, and begin laying the groundwork for a church safety plan.

Starting at 9:00am on Saturday, April 2nd, the seminar will look at several incidents of violence that have occurred over the past few years and what can be learned from them. Legal counsel will present information concerning Tennessee laws and how to protect a church in our litigious society. Other areas of vulnerability in which congregations have been devastated due to lack of preparation will also be covered.

Those wishing to participate in this event may register by visiting our website at www.tnacso.net and clicking on the "**REGISTER NOW**" button. This seminar is free for all persons wishing to attend. **The last day for registration will be Friday, March 18th.**

For additional information, please contact Deputy David Massengill of the Sheriff's Crime Prevention Unit at 865-457-6269, extension 1150.

Deputy David Massengill