



Mt. Ebal Church in Denton was vandalized earlier in the week. Tire tracks are believed to be related to the destroyed altar rail inside. Julia Hudgins/The Dispatch.

Mt. Ebal Church in Denton suffers vandalism

By Julia Hudgins / The Dispatch

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DENTON -- Vandalism this week at the historical Mt. Ebal Church resulted in the destruction of the altar rail. The Rev. Steward Sexton explained that he believes the vandalism took place between Monday and Wednesday. Wednesday morning members of the congregation came to the church to prepare it for an upcoming wedding and discovered deep tire tracks in the grass by the entrance. Upon entering the building they found the original altar rail kicked in and destroyed. The rail was originally crafted in 1883 along with the rest of the church, Sexton said. His great-grandfather, John T. Sexton, helped build Mt. Ebal Church.

"Everything in there was made by hand, and you can't replace it. We can try, but it's impossible," Sexton said. "... I was shocked when I was first told about it."

Mt. Ebal is no longer used for weekly services. Members gather once a year on the first Sunday in June, and the church is also used at times as a venue for weddings. Sexton went on to say that this is one of the more severe cases of vandalism that the church has faced. Other incidents include knocking over gravestone markers and stealing a bell.

Sexton called the Davidson County Sheriff's Office and asked deputies to come out to investigate the incident Friday afternoon. Deputy R. Ramsey is investigating the vandalism. No information about the case was available at this time.

"We hope to find who did the vandalism and get restitution and hopefully stop this from happening again," Sexton said.

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Vandals damage historic Davidson County church



by: [Chris Weaver](#)

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DAVIDSON COUNTY, N.C. -- The century-old Mount Ebal Methodist church near Denton in Davidson County is on the National Register of Historic Places but for the most part sits quiet and empty in its country splendor. Visitors who do stop by the old house of God use it as a quiet place to reflect. It's home to a few weddings a year and in June, family and friends gather for the annual homecoming. But one day this week the sacred site had visitors who were not respectful of the years this building has quietly endured.

Stewart Sexton and his sister Sarah Sexton Morris are the great-grandchildren of the family that built Mount Ebal Methodist Church in 1883 for a just \$60. They got a call that someone had gone inside the building and damaged the area around the altar.

"I knew that I needed to call the sheriff's department and come down here and meet with them and we did -- and now we'll just make a plan on how to get it fixed," Sexton told FOX8.

For a building that is 133 years old, it is remarkably well kept and original but now broken railing, splintered spindles and original handcrafted woodwork are destroyed and left littered about the small sanctuary.

While they work on a plan to get repairs underway, Sexton and Morris do have a message for the vandals. "We don't hold grudges or things like that. We just want them to know what they did was wrong and how it has hurt others," Morris said. "This is definitely holy ground it's been passed down for so many generations and we want to keep it that way."

Anyone with information about the vandalism is asked to contact the Davidson County Sheriff's Office.

<https://myfox8.com/news/vandals-damage-historic-davidson-county-church/?iframe=true>