

Man pleads guilty to thefts

Stole from several churches, businesses

By Matt Busse

mbusse@newsadvance.com

(434) 385-5533

A Lynchburg man will serve four years and seven months in prison for breaking into local churches and businesses in 2004.

Shawn Wesley Irby, 33, pleaded guilty

Monday in Lynchburg Circuit Court to five statutory burglary charges, five grand larceny charges and a misdemeanor petit larceny charge. He was to face a jury trial today.

Between June 2004 and August 2004, Irby stole computer and video equipment from Heritage United Methodist Church, Unity in the Seven Hills Church,

Lynchburg Church of God of Prophecy, Family Life Ministries and the Lynchburg Oil Company, prosecutors said.

He also stole tools from three trucks parked at Barker-Jennings Corp., prosecutors said.

Most of the break-ins were in the Campbell Avenue area.



Irby

talked to police

The items Irby took were worth about \$5,400 total, said Chuck Felmlee, Lynchburg deputy commonwealth's attorney.

Police recovered many of the stolen items from a home on nearby Mayflower Drive. Irby's girlfriend

fingerprints at Family Life Ministries matched one of Irby's.

Irby's total sentence was 31 years in prison with 26 years and five months suspended. He won't serve the suspended time unless he violates conditions of his sentence.

Irby is already serving a two-year prison sentence for a July cocaine possession conviction.

Irby's attorney, Tom Leebridge, declined to comment.