



Sheriff J. Al Cannon, Jr., County of Charleston, South Carolina

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PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
July 29, 2018**

Threats at Johns Island Church

(Johns Island, SC) On July 29, 2018, around 9:00 a.m., deputies responded to the St. James United Methodist Church (1139 Main Road, Johns Island) for a subject who entered the church and threatened to kill church members for reasons unknown. Multiple churchgoers, arriving for the beginning of services, heard the subject make the threats. The subject left the church at their request, at which time the concerned citizens contacted the Sheriff's Office. Minutes later, deputies located a subject matching his description at a service station at Main Road and Bohicket Road. The subject, identified as Lester Frederick Simmons, was in possession of a machete. After investigating the matter and confirming his involvement, deputies took possession of the machete and arrested Simmons.

Lester Frederick Simmons, 51 years old, of Johns Island, was arrested for Assault and Battery 3rd Degree.

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