

Arsonist gets 10 years for St. Peters fire

By RYAN SMITH
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Convicted arsonist Therese Salmons was ordered Tuesday to serve 10 years in prison, though her sentence is subject to a possible 120-day release.

Salmons, 43, pleaded guilty July 27 to a first-degree arson charge for setting fires at St. Peter Church.

The Rev. Don Lammers, pastor of the church, testified during the sentencing hearing Tuesday before Presiding Judge Thomas J. Brown III handed down the sentence.

Prosecutor Bill Tackett said Salmons' sentence would allow for her possible release after 120 days, if she exhibits good behavior.

Salmons repeatedly admitted to using a cigarette lighter to

start the fires at St. Peter, and then hiding a fire extinguisher by covering it with cloth and sticking it in a trash can so no one could put out the fires.

Salmons also told police she didn't care about the safety of the people praying in the chapel at the time of the fires.

Investigators said Salmons told them she started the fires was because she was angry at God and the church for allowing the death of 13-year-old Fulton girl Desirae Walker, a step-daughter of Salmons' ex-boyfriend. Walker was killed in a car accident.

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