

BY BILL MILLERwmiller@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — A pastor of a Fort Worth church was arrested Monday on suspicion of drug possession, police records show.

It was the second arrest in a month involving Clyde Downs, 48, of Arlington.

Downs has been senior pastor of New Harvest Missionary Baptist Church in southeast Fort Worth since 2006, according to the church's website.

He was stopped at 4:40 a.m. Monday when, according to a police report, he failed to use a right-turn signal while leaving a convenience store parking lot in the 6600 block of Brentwood Stair Road in east Fort Worth.

Officers approached Downs' 2007 Bentley and saw what appeared to be drug paraphernalia on the front seat, police said.

They searched Downs and "found a drug on him," said Officer Sharron Neal, a police spokeswoman.

The paraphernalia was a pipe, Neal said, but she declined to describe the suspected drug because it was being tested.

Downs was booked into the Mansfield jail and was released on \$1,000 bail. He faces a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.

On May 16, Downs was arrested in the 4400 block of East Lancaster Avenue. Officers said they found marijuana and a gun, according to their report. Downs was jailed on suspicion of possession of marijuana and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, records show.

According to state prison records, Downs was sent to prison in 1992 to serve 20 years on three convictions in Tarrant County for burglary of a vehicle and a 1990 conviction of theft of property over \$750. The records show he was paroled in 1997, and that his sentences were completed in August of 2012.

Downs could not be reached to comment on Wednesday.

New Harvest Missionary Baptist Church is on Carol Avenue in the Stop Six neighborhood. Its website states that Downs graduated from nearby Dunbar High School where he played football and ran track.

It also states that he is president of a trucking company and is a graduate of Trinity Valley Baptist Seminary in Kennedale, earning a doctorate in theology.

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