

Culver pastor Haynes ordained in historic rites

CULVER — The Rev. Thomas Erskine Haynes, the pastor at St. Elizabeth's in Culver, was ordained an Episcopal priest in a service at the Academies Memorial Chapel Jan. 14. Attending were 170 people and 20 of those were clergy. Many of those attending were from regional churches, and different faith traditions were represented.

The ordaining bishop was the Rt. Rev. Edward S. Little II, who is the Bishop of the Diocese of Northern Indiana. The Rt. Rev. James Mathes delivered the sermon. He is the Bishop of San Diego. Music was provided by John Gouwens, Academies Organist and the student choir, directed by Stacey Warren. Mary Pat Glaub, the Vocal Director of Plymouth Community Schools was the cantor.

St. Elizabeth's began as St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Rochester, and moved to Culver in 1990. The name was changed to St. Elizabeth's since there was another church named St. Mary's in Culver. In 2006, the church bought the house at 515 State Street and converted the house to a worship space and fellowship room for a Sunday service of 10 to 20. "We are a small church, but we love the Lord, and we enjoy the liturgy in the Book of Common Prayer," said Haynes. Attendance is seasonal with more people attending in the summer, but the church is open all year with a weekly service at 9 a.m.

The Rev. Lloyd Holifield was the priest of this church family from 1987 to his death in 2000. Then retired Bishop Sheridan, who lived in Culver, was assigned as Priest-in-Charge. After his death in 2005, the Rev. Margie Shaw was assigned to St. Elizabeth's, and she served as Priest-in-Charge until she received a call to serve a parish in Essex, N.Y. in 2009. Haynes was named the licensed Lay Leader for the congregation until he was ordained.

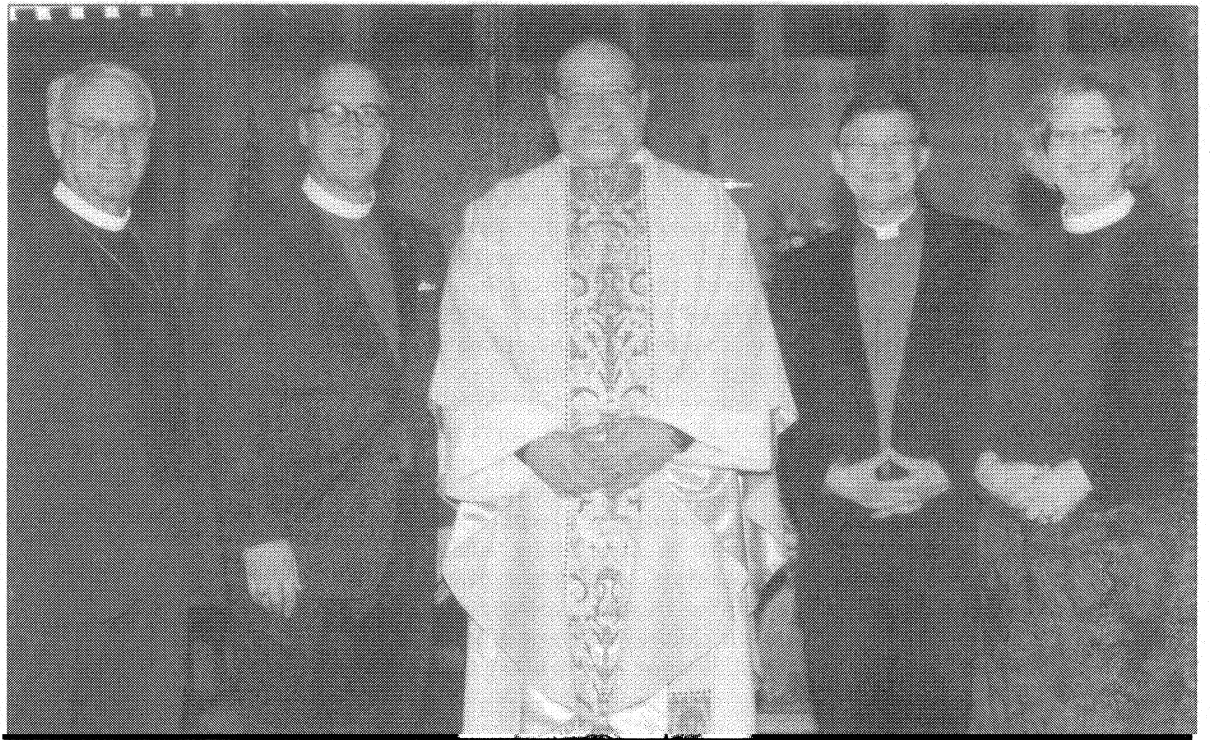
The Priest-in-Charge for this

congregation has always been a part-time position, and Bishop Mathes's sermon at the ordination addressed the tentmaker-priest and its tradition in the Church. "Many churches are looking at yoked parishes or different ministry models," said Haynes, "but there have always been bi-vocational clergy. It works well for us, and it allows me to teach math at the Academies and work with Spiritual Life there too. There is a sense sometimes that a bi-vocational priest has a diminished role, but really I find it enhances what I do to have a foot in the church, and a foot in the community. It is all a matter of finding opportunities for ministry."

Asked how he decided he was called to the priesthood, Haynes talked about the spiritual journey. He initially began the process to be ordained in the 1970s but decided he was not ready. He came from a family of clergy on both sides, and his great-uncle, Robert Erskine Campbell, was an Episcopal monk (Order of the Holy Cross) who was consecrated Missionary Bishop of Liberia where he served in the 1920s and 1930s.

Haynes was a teacher, but he was active in school ministry and served as Chapel Coordinator at the Webb School in Bell Buckle, TN. After coming to the Culver Academies in 2000, he worked with Religious Life under Chaplain Thomas Steffen and taught math. He was named Interim Director of Religious Programs in 2007 and helped coordinate the search which hired the Rev. Johanna McCune Wagner as Chaplain in 2008. Haynes has served as Chaplain Wagner's Assistant Director since 2009 in addition to his teaching responsibilities.

Asked how his ordination will change the nature of his ministry, Haynes identified a sacramental role that comes with the priesthood. He will be able to better assist Chaplain Wagner with services and will be a resource espe-



Pictured following what was surely ranked as one of the most historic gatherings of clergy assembled in Culver (including no less than three Episcopal Bishops in the same service), are (from left to right) Bishop Frank Gray (retired Northern Indiana),

Bishop Jim Mathes (San Diego), the Rev. Tom Haynes, Bishop Ed Little (Northern Indiana), and the Rev. Susan Haynes (Rector of St. Paul's Mishawaka and Tom's wife).

PHOTO PROVIDED

cially for the more liturgical Christians on campus. He has become increasingly active with ministry to the faculty, staff and emeritus faculty in the past year and expects that to grow now that he is ordained. He will be able to take funerals and weddings in the Chapel as well as celebrate Holy Communion at St. Elizabeth's. "It is really a win-win-win in every way," Haynes said. "The Academies will get a new priest, and St. Elizabeth's will have an ordained pastor to lead this faith community and administer sacraments. I am answering a call, and this is something I have wanted to do for a long time."

Haynes talked about his call, and he said that many people imagine that the clouds open and a booming voice tells you what to do. He said that while this happens to some people and it happened to St. Paul on the road to Damascus, it is not a universal experience. In his case, he felt that

he had been prepared by life experiences for this role.

He explained, "It is as if God is building a foundation through the way we live our lives. We grow in the faith through the practice of it, and the foundation begins to take form. Soon others can see what is being built, and finally you see it yourself. In the Episcopal Church, there is a formal discernment process, and you spend about a year with the help of a group to go through a series of questions and some serious self-examination. You share your faith journey and meet with various groups who question your motives and try to determine prayerfully for themselves God's will for you. It is a humbling experience and a blessing in many ways."

After discerning a call, with the approval of the bishop, the person preparing for ordination begins formal preparation. In this diocese, there is a "local formation" option with candidates reading books and

writing papers under the direction of the Vocations Director. This process is intended to take about three years. Haynes also took classes at Notre Dame and Virginia Theological Seminary, in Alexandria, Va. in the summer to satisfy some of the requirements. At the end candidates are examined for competency in seven areas by a diocesan panel of Examining Chaplains.

Asked what his plans are, Haynes said that he is ready to take on new roles at the Academies and St. Elizabeth's. He will continue to study and work to become a better teacher and priest. He is working on a Doctor of Ministry degree at Virginia Theological Seminary in Educational Leadership. "This is a great degree program for people involved in school ministry, and I hope to finish in 2012," he said. "I have a reading list for the summer term and need to start reading soon to get ready."

Community Calendar