

## Anglican church being formed in Mathews

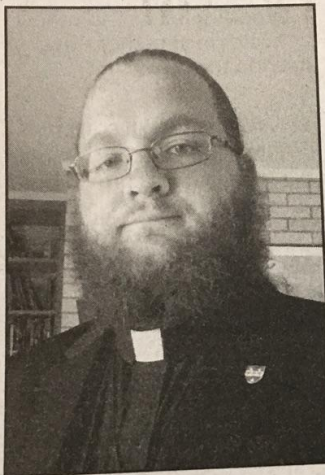
An effort is underway to form St. Thomas Anglican Mission in Mathews, under the guidance of the Rev. Jason Hess, who was ordained a deacon in the Orthodox Anglican Church in April.

Hess and his family (wife Myra and three teenaged children) have resided in the county since 2005. He will oversee the mission as deacon in charge.

He said that he hopes to establish the mission and that "people hurt by the church, hurt by their addictions, their struggles, and their doubt—some of which can be great—will have the opportunity to encounter the risen Lord at our humble mission; to be enveloped by his grace as found in the baptismal waters, and to mysteriously touch Christ through the blessed Eucharist."

St. Thomas would become part of the Missionary Diocese of The Most Holy Trinity of the Orthodox Anglican Church, Hess said.

He hopes to announce a



Rev. Jason Hess

location, time and date for services in a few weeks. "To start, we plan to hold weekly evening prayer services with a time of light refreshments and discussion, and then after a season, transition to doing a Holy Communion service," he said. This would be a "Deacon's Distribution" or deacon-led service.

Hess is now preparing for the priesthood. He said that he has served in ministry positions in North Carolina, Arizona and Virginia, and as a volunteer served at a church planting, and was part of a church revitalization project. He presently serves as assisting deacon at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Richmond.

In 2012 he became a professed Third Order Franciscan in the Company of Jesus (an Anglican monastic order). He has studied at Global University's Berean School of the Bible, and Paten University and is now enrolled at St. Andrew's Theological College and Seminary, pursuing a degree in sacred theology.

He works for a local company as a pest control technician and said he is forming St. Thomas "as a bi-vocational missionary deacon." He said St. Thomas is the culmination of a church planting vision that he and his family "have carried in our hearts

since 2007, despite the fact that for years we didn't know what the work would end up looking like."

Defining "Anglican," Hess said, "Anglican in its historic sense refers to the church as established in England, though their form of worship spread across the globe thanks to the once mighty British Empire. An Anglican is a Christian whose faith—while centered on Holy Scripture—is formed by the three Catholic creeds (Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian), historic episcopal polity (i.e., governed by Bishops), and the pattern of worship (i.e., liturgy) of the ancient church as expressed in the Book of Common Prayer. Here at St. Thomas Anglican Mission we specifically use the American 1928 edition."

For more information, call Hess at 804-413-1718, e-mail [jhess@mathewsanglican.org](mailto:jhess@mathewsanglican.org), visit Facebook or the website, [www.MathewsAnglican.org](http://www.MathewsAnglican.org).

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