

[Proverbs 3:1-6](#)

[2 Timothy 3:14-17](#)

[Matthew 9:9-13](#)

[Psalm 119:33-40](#)



## St. Matthew's Cathedral eNews

### Christ + Compassion + Community

#### *From the Dean*

#### **St. Matthew's Day**

*Note: This Sunday we celebrate the 158th anniversary of our founding. September 21st is remembered on the Episcopal Church Calendar as the Feast of St. Matthew.*

In 1856:

- Franklin Pierce was President of the United States, followed by James Buchanan.
- The City of Dallas was incorporated as a city.
- In Paris, Louis Pasteur discovered that bacteria carry infections and that disease is spread by germs in the air.
- US population was approximately 25 million; today, approximately 318 million.
- There were 30 states in the United States.

And, St. Matthew's Parish was started in Dallas, Texas, by the Reverend George Rottenstein on May 25, 1856. The services were held on the second floor of a general store. At the time, Dallas was a town of about 400 people. The small congregation grew, and Mr Rottenstein submitted Articles of Association to the Episcopal Church for the creation of the Episcopal Church of Saint Matthew to be effective September 21, 1857. In 1875, Bishop Alexander Garrett named Dallas as the see city of his Diocese and St. Matthew's as his Cathedral. The Reverend Silas Davenport was the second rector and first dean. (Thus, the number of rectors exceeds the number of deans by one). The congregation has had four different "permanent" locations. In 1893 the congregation built a large stone edifice in downtown at the corner of Elm and Lamar. It was relocated to the corner of Ross and Henderson in 1929 to save St. Mary's college from financial ruin. The chapel was enlarged to serve as the Cathedral. Few things in Dallas have been around as long as St. Matthew's. (For example, First Baptist of Dallas was formed in 1868; the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Virgin of Guadalupe dates from 1869; First Presbyterian also dates from 1856). St. Matthew's Parish had the first full-time resident priest in the City of Dallas.

This is not just history; it is our story. The walls of this Cathedral are soaked in the prayers of saints for over 100 years. As God has been faithful in this place since 1856, we can trust his faithfulness for the next 158 years as well. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who have been St. Matthew's Cathedral before us. May we leave this Cathedral—and this community—in a better place than the one we inherited.