

Order a Dayton Texas Star for your home or business!



Recent business orders to-date include:

- All Star Dental
- Arnold Construction
- Arnold State Farm Insurance
- Berkeley Eye Clinic
- Brighter Days Assisted Living
- Colbert Elementary
- Custom Cuts
- Dayton Chamber of Commerce
- Dayton Chiropractic Center
- Dayton City Hall
- Dayton Community Center
- Dayton High School
- Dayton ISD Admin. Bldg.
- Dayton Police Dept/Muni Court
- Dayton Seafood & Steak
- Dayton Sports Bar
- Dayton Trading Post
- First Liberty National Bank
- Fordland Estates
- Green Mechanical
- Ideal Protein Weight Loss Center
- Inman Apartments
- J Js Chevron Station
- John Griffin Surveyors
- Jose's Mexican Restaurant
- Liberty/Dayton Chamber
- Mainframe 24 Hour Wrecker
- Marshall Family Practice
- McDonalds Restaurant
- McDowell Construction Co.
- Mike's BBQ Restaurant
- New Day Massage
- Post Oak Bank
- Redizoo
- Richter Elementary

**Interested? Contact Caroline Wadzeck
936-402-3797 or cwadzeck@hotmail.com**

Historical Society

The Society meets in Parker Hall at 6 P.M. the last Monday of each month for a historical program presented by guest speakers. The program is preceded by a Society business/project status meeting and followed by refreshments.

Newsletter or Website Contact Information

Editor: Janette (JC) Goulder-Frick
<http://daytontxhistory.com>

Rent Parker Hall For Your Event

To reserve Parker Hall, contact:
Lee Krigar at 936-776-1161
or **936-257-0330**; or
Felix Skarpa at 936-776-1039.

Old School Museum

The Old School Museum is located next to Parker Hall at 111 West Houston St. in Dayton and is open Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Dayton History News

Early Churches & Religion

European settlers to the east coast of America during the 17th century (1600s) were primarily motivated by the pursuit of freedom of religion and/or acquisition of land and wealth.

Many were Protestants who had been persecuted for non-compliance with European government mandated religions – Roman Catholicism or Church of England – based on the current ruler's preference.

This persecution rested on the premise that there was one true religion and that it was the duty of the civil authorities to impose it, forcibly if necessary, in the interest of saving the souls of all citizens. Nonconformists could expect no mercy and might be executed as heretics.

Spanish territories in North America were referred to as New Spain. They encompassed Mexico, Florida and most of southwest America including Texas.

In contrast to freedom of religion found in American colonies, the Spanish established missions/forts where Catholic priests/friars were assigned to convert all locals to Catholicism.

When Texas was opened to Anglo-American immigration in 1820, Spain stipulated Catholicism as the state religion and all newcomers were required to embrace it.

All other religions were prohibited. Religious-civil rites, such as marriage, were not recognized unless performed by Catholic priests.

Colony empresarios such as Stephen F. Austin were required to enforce the

prohibition. Austin petitioned authorities to send English-speaking priests to the growing Texas colonies to no avail.

Church members who immigrated to Texas under Spanish/Mexican rule complained of a lack of respect for the Sabbath – that Texans paid more attention to recreation than to church-related activities.

On August 24, 1821, Mexico overthrew the Spanish government and gained ownership of New Spain – at which point Spain stopped sending priests.

Although the prohibition did not end, Mexico eventually agreed to allow couples to marry in a civil ceremony on the condition they would have the union blessed when a Catholic clergy was available.

Mexican General Manuel Mier y Teran toured Texas in 1828-1829. He concluded that freedom of religion would be preferable to no religion at all, which seemed to be the predominant case at the time.

The Atascosito Spanish mission/fort territory established in 1757 covered what is now 10 counties – Liberty, Chambers, San Jacinto, Jefferson, Polk, Hardin, Orange, Tyler, Jasper and Newton.

The towns of Liberty, West Liberty, San Augustine, and Nacogdoches were served by Catholic Father Antonio Diaz de Leon until his death in 1834.

Dayton’s First Baptist Church – Established in 1878

The first Baptist church formed in Dayton was established 140 years ago. It is aptly named “First Baptist Church – Dayton”.

On Sunday, October 21, 2018, a 140th anniversary celebration attended by 200+ members and guests was held.

Its origin is traced to 1878 when 10 Christians – men and women from the tiny Dayton community of 50 citizens – who met to establish the new church. Every Baptist church in Dayton is a ultimately a descendent of this church.

Initially, the congregation referred to themselves as “Dayton Baptist Church of Christ”. In 1911, the name was changed to “The Baptist Church”. The origin of the current name “First Baptist Church” is traced to church meeting minutes from August 7, 1929.

Up until 1895, the members met in Dayton’s school building.

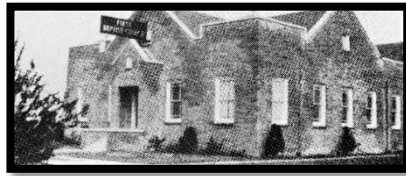
In 1895, the congregation began meeting at the Union Church (aka Wilson’s Church, Community Church) which was located on the southeast corner of Waring and North Main streets.

It was used by multiple churches until heavily damaged on September 8, 1900 by the infamous Galveston hurricane.

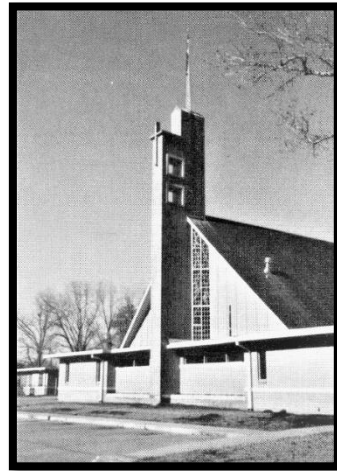
On July 27, 1901, land for a dedicated church building was purchased for \$1. Lumber was hauled 5 miles from Hicks Sawmill and they soon had their own church. It was the first denomination church building in Dayton.

In 1934, the original wooden church was replaced by a brick building.

In 1954, a new church sanctuary and educational building was completed.



First Baptist Church #2 – 1934



First Baptist Church #3 – 1954

In 1981, a Family Life Center with a gymnasium, kitchen, offices and Sunday School rooms was added.

First Facts:

- Highest growth – 1983: members 1,432; Avg Sunday School 415 people
- First preacher – E. M. Foreman, a weekend circuit rider who spoke at different churches
- First dedicated preacher – J. McArthur Black (1883 to 1887)
- First deacons – Zack Jones and William Ritter - appointed in 1897
- First baptisms – Linney Creek. Also in Trinity River, Day Lake and Stoesser Pond until baptistry built in 1916.

Dayton’s First Catholic Church – Established in 1918

The first Catholic church formed in Dayton was established 100 years ago. It is and has always been known as St. Anne’s Catholic Church.

On Saturday, October 20, 2018, a 100th anniversary celebration was held. Its origin is traced to 1915 when the first mass was facilitated by Father Mosler who traveled from Wichita Falls to minister to 6 families at the home of Marcel Janacek in the community of Eastgate.

By November 1917, the Eastgate parishioners concluded that a Catholic church needed to be built in Eastgate. The Catholic Bishop of Galveston, Rev. Christopher Byrne, purchased 2-1/4 acres at the cost of \$10 from the Janacek family.

The church was built at a cost of \$1,665. The furnishings and pews were donated by parishioners. By the time of the dedication ceremony was held on July 26, 1921, the church was debt free.

By 1948, however, the parishioners concluded that they needed a larger church.

Again, Bishop Byrne purchased land from Marcel Janacek to build the new St. Anne’s Catholic Church 200 yards south of the existing church.

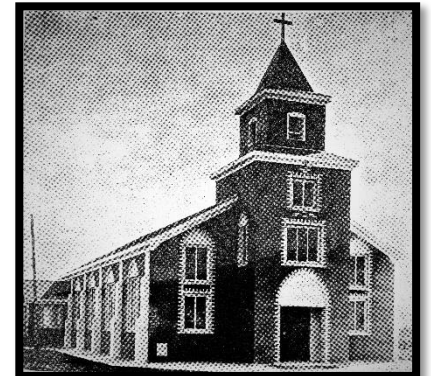
The church was built at a cost of \$20,000 and dedicated on Sunday, October 16, 1949 by Bishop Byrne.

The original church was converted into a parish hall that was used until the 1970s when it was torn down.

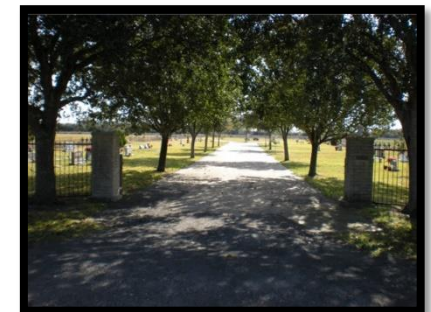
Near the church are two cemeteries – the St. Anne’s Cemetery and the SPJST Cemetery.



St. Anne’s Church #1 – 1921



St. Anne’s Church #2 – 1949



St. Anne’s Cemetery