

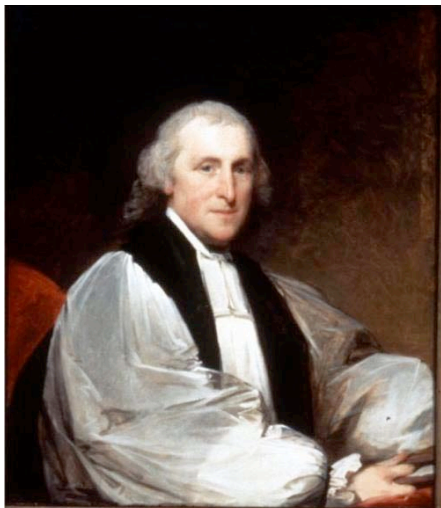
Who's Who in the Prayer Book
July 17, William White (Ca. 735-804,)
Bishop of Philadelphia.

William White was born in Philadelphia and attended Philadelphia College (later the University of Pennsylvania) from where he obtained his degrees, including Doctor of Divinity. He was ordained in the Chapel Royal of St. James Palace London in 1770, and consecrated bishop in 1781 by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Bath and Wells and the Bishop of Peterborough.

While serving as the first and fourth presiding bishop of Pennsylvania, White was rector of both St. Peter's and Christ's Church for 57 years. He also served as Chaplain of the Continental Congress from 1777-1789, and later as chaplain to the Senate. He was the only Episcopal priest in Pennsylvania to side with the revolutionary cause.

Bishop White founded the Episcopal Academy in 1785, and the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, later known as the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, in 1820. He served as president of the latter school for the next 16 years. Bishop White also participated in prison ministry in Philadelphia, becoming the first president of the Philadelphia Society for the Alleviation of Miseries of Public Prisons. He was a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania

Bishop White was the brother-in-law of Robert Morris, signer of the Declaration of Independence.



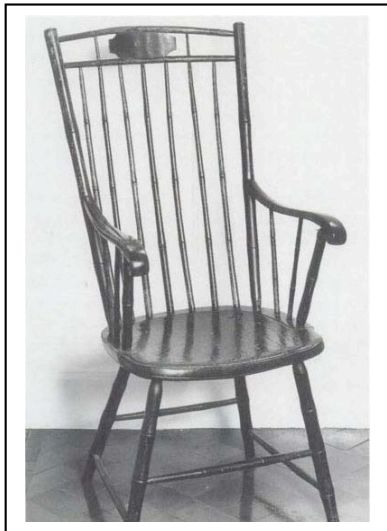
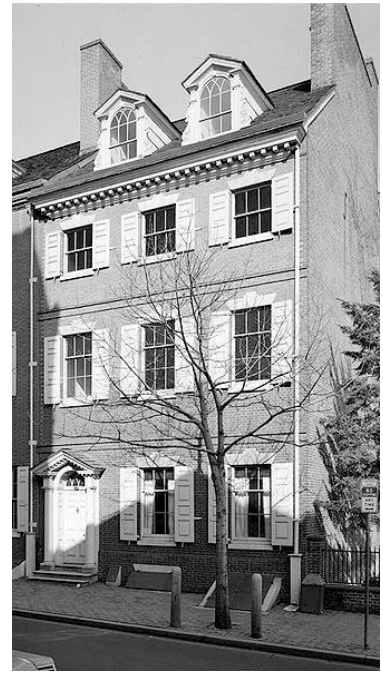
Top Right: Bishop Wright appears in a panel in York, PA, painted in connection with the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the Articles of Confederation in 1927.

Below Right: Christ Church, Philadelphia, where he is buried. *Left:* Portraits of Bishop White by Gilbert Stuart and Charles Willson

A Charitable Work

Bishop William White and a number of other clergymen and concerned citizens founded the Magdalen Society in 1800 to rescue and reform “fallen women.” It was the first organization of its kind in the United States. A later focus was the prevention of delinquency. Today, as the White-Williams Foundation, it awards monthly stipends to high-achieving, low-income public high school students.

Right: Bishop White’s house at 309 Walnut Street, Philadelphia. Built in 1797, it was home to the bishop and many of his 25 grandchildren. Site chosen because equidistant from the two churches he served. It is a tourist attraction.



Left: Bishop White’s “throne” was an oversized Windsor chair made for him in the 1780’s. It is preserved at Christ Church. From a photograph by Louis W. Meehan in *Christ Church, Philadelphia: the nation’s church in a changing city*, by Deborah Mathias Gough, 1995.

Bishop White and St. John’s

Bishop White consecrated St. John’s, Norristown, on April 6, 1815. On that occasion he said: “. . . the size and beauty of the building does great credit to the zeal of the few members of our communion resident in the small town and its vicinity.”

Collect

O Lord, in a time of turmoil and confusion you raised up your servant William White, and endowed him with wisdom, patience, and a reconciling temper, that he might lead your Church into ways of stability and peace: Hear our prayer, and give us wise and faithful leaders, that through their ministry your people may be blessed and your will be done; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



Bishop White’s Study. An engraving from the painting by Sartain in the *Memoirs of Bishop White*. 1839