



JANUARY 14, 2018

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# 2018

will be an exciting year for the **Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem** as we welcome in our IX Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem. The **Search Committee** continues to work tirelessly to select the final slate of Bishop candidates. The **Transition Committee** has started important preparations for upcoming events once the bishop candidates are named. We look forward to sharing this joyous occasion with the members of our diocese.

### Upcoming Events

**January 18-20:**  
Discernment Retreat

**Mid-February:**  
Announcement of the Slate

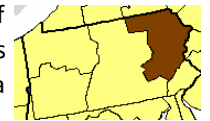
**April 15-20:**  
Walkabouts

**April 28:**  
Electing Convention



*As we look forward to our future, we celebrate our past . . .*

Our initial roots of the Episcopal Church in Pennsylvania trace back to 1785 when **William White** organized a unique conference of both laymen and clergy to formally organize the Episcopal Church in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. William White went on to become the first elected bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania in 1787. It was not until 1871 when the **Diocese of Central Pennsylvania** was formed. This Diocese comprised of what is today the current Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and the **Diocese of Bethlehem**. We recognize the first three bishops of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania as our initial foundation of the **Diocese of Bethlehem**.

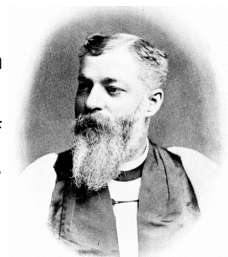


Current location of the Diocese of Bethlehem



**Mark Anthony DeWolfe Howe (1871-1884)** was the first elected bishop to the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. He was instrumental in laying the work of the **present day hymnal**. A parishioner once described him as “Strong in his convictions, but never arbitrary; deep in his realization of things divine and eternal, yet genial and humorous never sad, but always sympathetic, dignified; but coming close to the hearts of his people-surely his was a rare nature, and one to leave its impress, as it did, upon high and low, rich and poor . . .”

As second Bishop of Central Pennsylvania, **Nelson Somerville Rulison (1884-1897)** was a strong proponent of education. He helped to further develop Kenyon College, where he received his Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) degree. He also served as the President of the Board of Trustees and was a member of the Executive and Library Committees at **Lehigh University**. A series of Rulison’s lectures were published in their original form after his death, called **A Study of Conscience**.



**Ethelbert Talbot (1898-1927)** was the Bishop during the transition from the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania to the Diocese of Bethlehem. He is known for his sermon to a group of Olympic athletes and officials at St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. “. . . the lesson of the real Olympia — that **the Games themselves are better than the race and the prize**. St. Paul tells us how insignificant is the prize. . . and though **only one may wear the laurel wreath, all may share the equal joy of the contest**.” His message has been the basis of the modern Olympic Game ideals.