



## Helen W. White

September 30, 1931 - January 11, 2018

Helen Louise Whyne White, 86, died peacefully on January 11, 2018, in Philadelphia. Beloved by her family, Helen is survived by her children, George (and Lee), Gregory (and Patricia), and John (and Loran); and her four cherished grandchildren, Brian, Ellen, Emmett, and Sydney (aka, “The BEES”); and four generations of her dear Oklahoman nieces and nephews.

Born in Ardmore, OK, on September 30, 1931, to John R. and Ethel Whyne, Helen - along with her older sister Lillian - were third-generation Oklahomans. Helen graduated in 1949 from Tulsa’s Central High School, and the University of Tulsa in 1953, where she completed a Bachelor of Arts in music performance. She moved to Philadelphia and attended graduate school in music pedagogy at Temple University. There she met her loving husband, George H. White, Jr., and they were married in 1956. George passed away in 2008.

Helen was an accomplished concert violist. In addition to private violin and viola lessons, she also taught music and performance at Thomas Williams Junior High School in Cheltenham, and Chestnut Hill Academy in Philadelphia.

Beginning in the ‘70s, Helen developed a new career as an educator in the Episcopal Church. In 1985, she became a member of the Bishop’s staff and

the director of the Christian Education Resource Center at the headquarters of the Diocese of Pennsylvania in Center City. After retirement in 1997, Helen has continued as a renowned teacher of the Gospels, and also served as a sought-after parish consultant for adult Christian education. Helen was a long-time parishioner at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, in Chestnut Hill; a supporter of Christ Church & St. Michael's in Germantown; and a member of The Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross. In November, 2017, at the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania Convention, Helen received the distinguished Bishop's Medal.

In addition to her love for her husband and family, her friends, and music, Helen was an avid traveler and philanthropist, and a long-time loyal and forgiving Phillies' fan. She enjoyed the community at Cathedral Village after moving there with George in 1998.

Her enthusiasm and boundless joy was an inspiration to all who knew her.

The family will host a viewing at Chadwick-McKinney Funeral Home, 30 E Athens Avenue, Ardmore, PA, on Thursday, January 18, from 6-8pm. A Celebration of the Resurrection will be held at The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, 8000 St. Martin's Lane, Philadelphia, PA, on Friday, January 19 at 1pm. Interment and Committal will follow at St. Thomas Church of Whitemarsh. A reception in Helen's honor will be at Cathedral Village, 600 E. Cathedral Road, Philadelphia, PA, at 4pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either: Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields (<http://www.stmartinec.org>); Episcopal Community Services ([www.ecsphilly.org](http://www.ecsphilly.org)); or the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross ([www.companionsweb.org](http://www.companionsweb.org)).

# Cemetery Details

**St. Thomas' Episcopal Churchyard**

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

JAN 19. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Martin in the Fields  
8000 St. Martin's Lane  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

# Tribute Wall



“ I am Helen’s cousin from Oklahoma City, OK. We did not know of Helen’s death till I looked her up on line, only to discover her death in 2018. We were saddened to learn of this but had lost contact with her. We visited with her and her 3 sons when her sister, Lillian, died in 2008. Our love to her 3 sons and families as I know you have missed her greatly. Nellie (Whiteman) Martin email nelway@att.net

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**Nellie Whiteman Martin** - January 23, 2020 at 04:00 PM



“ Helen always had this beautiful smile. She was so warm & friendly. Helen had achieved so much in her life time. It is amazing. I know all of her family is so proud of her. My sincere condolences to all of her family.

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**Bonnie Worley** - January 19, 2018 at 09:52 AM



“ How do I sum up a woman that wasn't just the mother to George, Greg & John, but also a good portion of the Mayflower & Colony Road kids? I guess by noting that Mrs. White (and Mr. White too) always seemed to have a big smile for me when I made my way down to their house. As I got older, I learned those smiles weren't just for me, but MANY others. I've come to think the greatest gift you can give another person is your time & attention. Mrs. White ALWAYS had time for me & made me feel special. God bless you Helen. Say hi to my Mom up there, and know down here you were LOVED.....!!!

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**Pete Thompson** - January 19, 2018 at 03:20 AM

“ I had the good fortune to begin attending one of Helen's groups back when George was also helping out with the tasks of leading, and so got to meet them both. We read the Book of Job, and it was a revelation to experience the quality of the discussion she facilitated among us. That got me started in her groups and I continued for 15 years or more, until 2016. They were wonderful times with many different people sharing experiences and interpretations; I will never forget them, one of the great adventures of my life. Helen made them adventures! The synoptic gospels were probably Helen's favorite discussion texts; yet I especially liked getting to the Old Testament and working through the vivid stories of Genesis and Exodus. "We don't hear that one in the lectionary, do we?" she would comment, to guffaws, on some of the more lurid episodes.

*Her gift for leading these groups was extraordinary. Helen always invoked her original mentor Mary Morrison, and the rules for small groups, and those were important; but her dexterity with people was delightful to witness. I remember snapshots from those times, such as when she would lean a little forward over the table as someone ventured a reaction to the text: "Say more," she might encourage. Or, if the go-round had really gone around enough, there was "Hold that thought." She had techniques for almost every situation. And the consensus of all those who attended a group had to be almost unanimous that these were great, provocative, revealing discussions that made the Biblical texts come alive for each of us, far more than our own individual readings were likely to match. It brought something forth out of each personality, shedding a little extra light, stimulating new thoughts and ideas of the full meaning stored within those ancient words. When people marveled at the end of a good meeting, Helen would simply say, "It is alive. You can never get tired of it."*

*Her calm cheerfulness was remarkable and set a wonderful tone for meetings. It was a great, great experience for me to share all those hours with Helen White. My sympathy and condolences go to all the*

*members of this unique woman's family, along with a heavy dose of appreciation for what Helen did for so many. Yours, Michael Woods*

**Michael Woods** - January 18, 2018 at 06:18 PM

SA

“ *My deepest condolences to the family. May God grant you comfort and peace during this difficult time. Resting peacefully, safe in God's memory; Helen is gone but will never be forgotten. The precious memories you shared will be the greatest treasures of your heart. Isaiah 41:10; John 6:40.*



**Sharon Allen** - January 18, 2018 at 02:32 PM



“ . *purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Helen W. White.*



. - January 17, 2018 at 10:57 AM

CG

“ 1 file added to the album Helen White 3



**Cathy Glazer** - January 17, 2018 at 08:25 AM

PS

*Helen was so proud of the fact that for this luncheon we had full attendance plus Cathy. We wouldn't have missed it for the world. June 1, 2017.*

patricia A Silva - January 17, 2018 at 02:54 PM

CG

“ *I'm Free*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call,  
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that place at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah yes, these things, I too, will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free.  
Author Unknown*

Cathy Glazer - January 17, 2018 at 07:21 AM

CG

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**Cathy Glazer** - January 17, 2018 at 06:00 AM

CG

“ 4 files added to the album Helen White



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**Cathy Glazer** - January 17, 2018 at 05:37 AM

MD

“ *I remember both Mr. and Mrs. White. My parents were their friends and Helen was involved in music with my mother, Gail Mickelson. What a lovely lady.*

*Marta Mickelson DeGisi*

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**Marta DeGisi** - January 15, 2018 at 06:10 PM

AS

“ I remember Mrs. White from my childhood. A favorite memory - on Halloween she would make Rice Krispy treats; as we mapped out our trick-or-treat path we always made sure we stopped at the White's house at just the right time - after the treats had been made, but before they ran out! Your family will be in my prayers.

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**Adele Hoffman Schneider** - January 15, 2018 at 06:06 PM

GW

Thank you, Adele! George

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**George H White** - January 22, 2018 at 11:13 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Helen W. White.



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January 15, 2018 at 12:51 PM