

## Bishop Arthur R. McKinstry

1939-1954

Elected on November 15, 1938, Bishop McKinstry later recalled, "I was absolutely stunned. I didn't want to be Bishop of Delaware. I didn't want to be Bishop of any place."

He struggled with his decision and undertook a period of discernment and prayer. One night, after announcing to his wife, "I'm going to pray all night long if necessary" had one of the great spiritual experiences of his life. "I've never had anything quite like it before," he said, "but it came through to me that I should accept it."

Bishop McKinstry finally accepted the bishopric on December 6, 1938, and was consecrated on February 17, 1939. He became a much-loved bishop, saw the diocese through the travails of World War II, and retired in 1954, the first diocesan bishop to retire from office.

Source: *The Episcopal Church in Delaware 1785-1954*, Charles A. Sillman, Copyright 1982 by The Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Delaware.