

# Establishment and Diversity

## Religion in America

### Church of England

- ▶ Beginnings in Virginia
- ▶ Hierarchy and order; elite control vestry
- ▶ Poor quality of clergy, under Bishop of London
- ▶ SPG: Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts
  - ▶ From converting Indians to sustaining Anglicanism
- ▶ By 1750 strong, well-established across the South

### African American Religion

- ▶ African religions fail to survive in America
- ▶ Little interest in conversion of slaves
  - ▶ Can Christians be enslaved?
  - ▶ The literacy issue
  - ▶ Anglicanism does not appeal to most slaves

### Unintended Diversity

- ▶ New Amsterdam: Dutch Reformed Church, 1624
- ▶ Jews to New Amsterdam, 1654
  - ▶ Sephardic Jews from Spain via Brazil
  - ▶ Newport, R.I., 1677
- ▶ Maryland, 1635
  - ▶ Refuge for Catholics
  - ▶ Religious freedom, 1649-1691
- ▶ Huguenots, 1685
  - ▶ South Carolina, New York

### Model of Toleration

- ▶ William Penn establishes Pennsylvania, 1681
  - ▶ Refuge for Quakers
  - ▶ No established church, no persecution

### Pennsylvanian Diversity

- ▶ Scotch-Irish Presbyterians along the frontier
- ▶ German Pietist sects immigrate
  - ▶ The Moravian brethren

- ▶ Personal relationship with God
- ▶ Strict discipline of moral piety
- ▶ Vigorous evangelizing about need for conversion
- ▶ But Pennsylvania was a disappointment to Quakers

## Baptists

- ▶ From out of Separatism
  - ▶ Early appearance in Rhode Island: Roger Williams
  - ▶ The Great Awakening: spectacular growth
    - ▶ Emphasis on conversion & evangelism
    - ▶ Farmer-preachers, not educated; no "hireling preachers"
    - ▶ Discipline: focus on individual sins (dancing, drinking, etc.)
  - ▶ Constant battles with Congregational authorities
    - ▶ Found Brown University in Rhode Island, 1764
- ▶ Expansion into the South, 1750s
  - ▶ Growth despite violence and persecution in Virginia