

Blast to the Past



McKendree Chapel Vacation Bible School

Blast to the Past

Vacation Bible School Program

By Doris and Jim Dace

Developed to honor
the
200th Anniversary
of the founding of
Old McKendree Chapel
Jackson, Missouri
May 31, 2018

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This VBS program includes a fun, inactive Blast to the Past. The focus of each day is built around a Biblical memory verse. Join puppet Charlie Chapel as he and the leader host a figure from the past, and connect the past with a present day look at the Bible. There are scripts for each opening, a Bible study outline, and a closing to solidify that day's focus. You will find suggestions for games, crafts and snacks. Correspondingly, you will notice advancement in small ways, like the mouse will change part of his costume each day to fit the time period and guest of the day. As an addendum, there is historical information on each guest for your information.

Day one: Memory verse for the day: "By grace you have been saved." (Ephesians 2:8) Day one introduces us to Charlie Chapel and the guest of the day, Susanna Wesley. The memory verse was chosen because it was the favorite verse of Susanna Wesley. Both the opening exercise with Charlie, and the Bible Study for the day, focus on how God saves us for a purpose.

Day two: Memory verse for the day: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39) The guest of the day from the past is John Wesley. You will hear about his heart-warming experience that changed his life and opened his vision of his and the church's mission to our neighbors. You will notice that Charlie has clergy preaching tabs around his collar. The memory verse was chosen because Wesley was a person who sacrificed earthly riches to spread the Gospel to those who were being overlooked by society. Even the lowliest was his neighbor. This day's opening, Bible study, and closing will focus on loving and meeting the needs of our hungry neighbors.

Day three: Memory verse for the day: "For me to live is Christ, to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21) The guest for the day is Bishop William McKendree, for whom McKendree Chapel is named. McKendree helped to bring the good news of Jesus to our part of the country—even before Missouri became a state. He was the first Methodist bishop who was actually born in the United States. This memory verse was chosen because Bishop McKendree quoted it in his last sermon. It summed up the focus and depths of his faith. The Bible study will focus on sacrificing to help another person. The Good Samaritan stopped to help someone in need. We, like McKendree, should live as children of God. Then, when we do, we will be with God.

Day four: The memory verse is: "While we were sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) The guest for the day will be John Scripps. Scripps, an Englishman, began his ministry in Cape Girardeau, ministering throughout central and southeast Missouri. He started churches in St. Louis, Boonville, and other places throughout Missouri and Illinois. The Bible study and scripts will focus on his and Paul's many travels to tell people about Jesus. Both men were so filled with the love of Jesus that they wanted to share the good news: Christ died for us, while we were yet sinners.

Closing day: Memory verse is: "Mary has chosen what is better, and it shall not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:42) The last day's guest is Mrs. Williams. Mrs. Williams is not a historical figure, but is designed to blast us to the past, to choose what is better, and to join in the enthusiasm of the people of Jesus Christ. Join in witnessing to the transformation of life.

It is our hope that you will use this free Vacation Bible School material, and plan to make a visit to old McKendree Chapel in Jackson, Missouri. Help us to celebrate this 200th anniversary and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, BLAST TO THE PAST STAGING/DECORATIONS

Blast to the Past is not designed to need elaborate stage settings. The most important factor will be a place for Charlie Chapel's operator to hide. This can be done easily in the chancel area of your sanctuary. The leader can use the pulpit, and the "guests" can come in from off-stage, or be seated in an unobtrusive spot.

To hide Charlie's operator, have a hollow structure, like a refrigerator box. Put a chair for the operator inside, and make sure there is a ledge for the operator's arm. Charlie should show enough that his clothes are visible, but not enough that the bottoms of his clothing or the operator's arm show.

You might drape the box with an appropriate blanket or sheet or paint it with a log cabin design. A nice touch would be to set antique articles around the stage area. These could be washboards, cooking pots, scythes, wooden buckets, etc.

Be creative, but don't stress. The children's minds will transform your stage area into the desired setting. The hand puppet, Charlie Church Mouse, is available for loan. Contact Doris Dace at 573-833-6916.

SUGGESTED TIME FRAME

SUGGESTED TIME FRAME for 2.5-hour session. For multiple groups, see the second chart below.

Opening skit and music	6:00-6:25
Bible Study	6:30-6:50
Games	6:55-7:20
Snacks	7:25-7:45
Crafts	7:50-8:15
Closing	8:20-8:30

Time	Group A	Group B	Group C
6:00-6:25	Opening	Opening	Opening
6:30-6:50	Bible	Crafts	Games
6:55-7:20	Crafts	Snacks	Bible
7:25-7:45	Snacks	Games	Crafts
7:50-8:15	Games	Bible	Snacks
8:20-8:30	Closing	Closing	Closing

SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE

Blast to the Past, this summer's Vacation Bible School program, will be held _____. Sessions will run from _____ to _____ each day (evening).

This year's program includes a fun, interactive look at church history. Join puppet Charlie Chapel each day as he and the leader host a figure from Methodist Church history, and connect the past with a present day look at the Bible.

About a month prior to Vacation Bible School, make registration forms available in the church bulletin, church newsletter, and online. Set a reasonable deadline, but know that you will always have a fluid number. There will be ones who register and fail to show up, and ones who fail to register, but come anyway.

REGISTRATION FORM

Student Name _____

Age _____ Birthdate _____

Grade in Next School Year _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell I _____

Allergies and Food Restrictions _____

Emergency Contacts:

Name _____ Phone _____

Church Affiliation _____

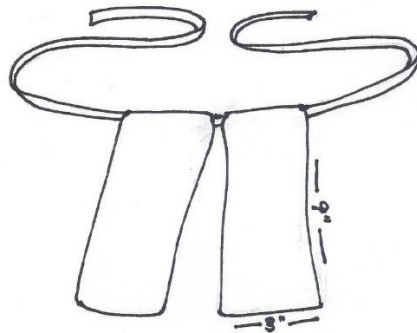
COSTUME SUGGESTIONS

CHARLIE: On the first day of VBS, Charlie wears only his frock coat. On day two he dons a Wesleyan tab collar. Day three he adds a black hat. Day four he adds a knapsack. On day five he has no collar or knapsack, but carries a picnic basket.

LEADER: No special costuming necessary.

SUSANNA WESLEY: Susanna should be dressed in an old-fashioned long dress, and wearing a bonnet. The bonnet, if possible, should have a narrower brim than that of the pioneer woman.

JOHN WESLEY: Wesley wears a white wig with long curly hair, if one is available. He wears a black robe with a preaching tab collar. The collar is made as follows:



BISHOP McKENDREE: The bishop wears a black frock coat, preaching tab collar, and black wide-brimmed hat.

JOHN SCRIPPS: The circuit rider wears the black frock coat, a preaching tab collar, a wide-rimmed top hat, and a knapsack.

PIONEER WOMAN: The pioneer woman wears an old fashioned looking long dress and wide brimmed cloth bonnet.

BLAST TO THE PAST

Sessions Openings

Each session will begin with a leader, a puppet (Charlie Chapel), and a guest from the past. The mouse will change part of his costume each day.

SESSION ONE OPENING



Memory verse for the day: “By grace you have been saved.” Ephesians 2:8

The Leader and Charlie Chapel are in front of the group. Charlie is wearing a frock coat.

LEADER: Hello, everyone! Who’s ready to take a Blast to the Past? I’m (say your name), and I’ll be here each day to greet you and to introduce you to our special guests. You, all of you, are going on this journey to the past with me.

How old is the oldest person you know? (Let children give answers.)

CHARLIE: (Appearing behind screen, etc.) Hello, hello!

LEADER: Whoa, who are you?

CHARLIE: I’m Charlie. Charlie Chapel.

LEADER: Where did you come from?

CHARLIE: Oh, I was born in England. And I think I’m the oldest person here.

LEADER: Really? How old are you? I always thought mice didn't live long. How can you be the oldest person here? Actually, I'm not sure if you qualify as a person.

CHARLIE: Oh, I was born in a preacher's house in 1668.

LEADER: No way! That would make you, let's see, around 351 years old.

CHARLIE: That's right. And, boy, have I seen a lot. Do you know, the human family in the house where I was born had twenty-five children? And you people think mice have a lot of babies. And you know what?

LEADER: What?

CHARLIE: Their last baby was a girl. She was born in 1669 (That's more than 350 years ago.), and she became one of the most well-known women of all time, at least to Methodists. Oh, look, here she comes. (Susanna moves into sight.)

CHARLIE: Susanna, Susanna Wesley. Hi, Susanna!

SUSANNA: Hello, Charlie. Good to see you again! How in the world did you get to America?

CHARLIE: I came on a ship. But I'll tell everyone about that trip tomorrow.

LEADER: Susanna Wesley! You're the mother of John Wesley. We consider him the person who started the Methodist Church.

SUSANNA: That's right. He was my son. Did you know John was my fifteenth child?

LEADER: Fifteenth! Did you have as many children as your parents did?

CHARLIE: I can answer that. She only had nineteen children. She loved each one, but only seven were still living in 1742 when she died. Many children didn't live long three hundred years ago.

LEADER: Wasn't your husband named Samuel?

SUSANNA: Yes. Samuel and I were both preachers' kids. Both sets of our parents had left the official church, the Church of England. Our parents were good people, but many of the other Dissenters did some pretty horrible things. Before Samuel and I met we both had decided to go back to the Church of England.

CHARLIE: Yes, and when they married and Samuel started preaching in a church, I moved with Susanna. Actually, I hid in a box of pots and pans when she packed them. Boy, those pans banged so much I could hardly hear when we got to their new place.

LEADER: How was it being a preacher's wife?

SUSANNA: It was hard. We didn't have very much money and my husband didn't get along with the church members. It was so bad that they burned our flax crop, and twice they set fire to our house.

CHARLIE: Yeah, my tail caught fire once. Was I ever scared!

LEADER: Oh, My! How did you live like that?

SUSANNA: My daily prayer was, "Dear God, guide me. Help me do thy will. Make my life count." I sometimes spent three hours a day praying, and I tried to spend a lot of time with each of my children teaching them to read and write. That included the girls, even though people in those days thought girls didn't need an education.

CHARLIE: That's when I learned to read and write. I hid under a chair and listened to the lessons.

SUSANNA: Each of my children had to spend as much time reading the Bible as they did playing.

LEADER: Didn't one of your children almost die in one of the fires?

SUSANNA: Yes. That was John. We called him Jackie. Little Jackie was five years old and we all escaped from the house when the fire was really strong, and we didn't know Jackie was still in the house. The

neighbors helped pull him from the window. I knew right then that he was special, that God intended to use him for a special purpose. I said he was a brand plucked from the burning. By that I meant he was saved from the fire for a reason.

LEADER: It has been good to visit with you, Mrs. Wesley. And, Charlie, you'll be back tomorrow?

CHARLIE: I wouldn't want to miss another Blast to the Past. Do you know what our memory verse is going to be?

LEADER: We're going to learn the verse that was the favorite of Mrs. Wesley. It is from Ephesians 2:8, "By grace you have been saved." Okay, everyone, let's follow our teachers to our stations. We have games to play, songs to sing, crafts to do, and Bible stories to learn. See you at the closing right here. Today in your Bible study you will learn about Miriam, the sister of Moses.

SESSION ONE CLOSING

LEADER: Here we are! After our first session of Blast to the Past! I know you learned a lot. Charlie, what was the memory verse?

CHARLIE: "By grace you have been saved." I'm always going to remember that, because it was the favorite verse of Mrs. Susanna Wesley.

LEADER: It was. Knowing that verse helped her get through many, many difficult times in her life. It can help us, too. It helped her take care of her family.

We also learned about another woman who took care of her family. Who remembers her name from our Bible study time? Miriam! Who were her brothers? Moses and Aaron. Miriam saved her brother Moses in the river, and she was there when the Red Sea was parted.

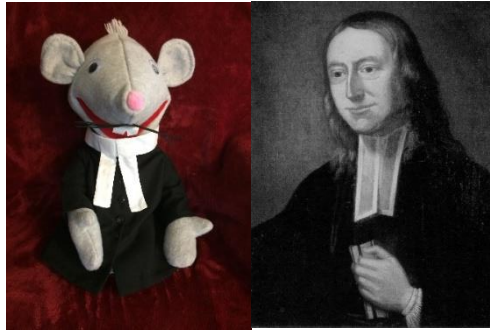
Anything else anyone wants to share about today?

(If there is time permitting each day, sing the song you most want the children to remember from Vacation Bible School.)

Now it's time to go. We'll see you back here tomorrow for another Blast to the Past.

CHARLIE: Bye, bye, everyone.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, BLAST TO THE PAST SESSION TWO OPENING



Memory verse for the day: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:39

The Leader and Charlie Chapel are in front of the group. Charlie has a preaching tab collar around his neck.

LEADER: Good morning (or evening) everyone! Are you ready for another Blast to the Past? Oh, hi, Charlie. Glad to see that you could make it.

CHARLIE: (Hopping around.) Oh, me, too! I’m just so excited! You’ll never guess who I just ran into.

Guess. Guess.

Give up, give up? I saw John Wesley. He’s coming here!

LEADER: Yes, John Wesley is our guest today. Remember the lady who was here yesterday? Does anyone remember her name? That’s right, Susannah Wesley. She was John Wesley’s mother. John was her little boy who was saved from the fire. Do you remember that story? He wasn’t her youngest son; that was Charles. You and Charles have the same name.

CHARLIE: I remember when John was born. I was hiding behind a broom in the corner. When the servant started to clean up, she saw me and screamed. I don't know why she was so upset, but she took the broom and tried to sweep me out the door. I really had to run! Oh, oh! Here he is. Hello, Mr. Wesley.

LEADER: Good morning (or evening), Mr. Wesley. Welcome to our Vacation Bible School.

WESLEY: (Mr. Wesley is dressed in a black robe with a white collar. Directions for making this are included in the Costumes section of the material. If a long white wig is available, it may be used.) Grace and peace to you. My, my. It's good to see so many youngsters gathered together to learn about Jesus and the people in the past who spread the word about him

LEADER: Tell us some things about your life. We know about how you were saved from the fire, because your mother was here yesterday.

WESLEY: Yes. I heard that story myself, many, many times. My mother especially liked to point out to me that I was chosen to do special work for our Lord. My younger brother Charles and I were really guided into preaching by her. When we were older and in college, Charles started a club, called the Holy Club, to study the Bible and to help each other grow in our faith. I was a member. We prayed, reported on what we had done that day, and planned how we would do better on the next day. Because we really worked on these methods, others began calling us "Methodists."

LEADER: Didn't you come to America? Remember, children, Mr. Wesley and his family lived in England. He was born in 1703. That was 73 years before our country declared its independence from England.

CHARLIE: Wow! That was a really, really, really long time ago. Gee, I must be getting old too, since I was born before Mr. Wesley.

WESLEY: Yes, it was. And, yes, I did come to America. I came to one of the thirteen colonies, Georgia, in 1736, as a missionary.

CHARLIE: I remember that trip. I hid in your bag so I could go with you. That was such a scary ship ride! We had a terrible storm. Do you remember, Mr. Wesley? The wind blew so hard it tore the main sail into pieces and flooded the deck. I got so soaked; I was just barely able to hang onto a piece of wood that floated by.

WESLEY: I certainly do remember that day! It really changed my life because I saw how faith in God kept the German passengers, called the Moravians, from being afraid. They were so calm, and all of them—men, women, and children—calmly prayed and were not afraid that they were going to die. After the storm, I talked to their leader, and his faith in Jesus really guided my faith in Jesus.

LEADER: How was your time in Georgia?

WESLEY: It was hard. Charles had sailed with me, but he didn't stay in America long. He went back to England sick and discouraged. I stayed, but things did not go well. I was arrested because I wouldn't give communion to one of the couples in the church. After I was arrested and jailed, I finally got free and had to flee back to England. I was so discouraged. I did get to preach to the passengers on the ship on the way back to England, but I didn't preach to the sailors.

LEADER: Oh, my. That must have been a real test of your faith.

WESLEY: It was. My spiritual thirst became a burning fire. That's when I again visited with the Moravians. I started to change how I preached, but I still felt so empty. Then on May 24, 1738, I was at a Moravian Society meeting on Aldersgate Street in London. When I heard what Martin Luther had written about the Book of Romans, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I knew that my salvation came from Jesus alone. I knew that I was saved by grace.

CHARLIE: Strangely warmed. Every Methodist has heard that story.

WESLEY: Yes, and all Christians know that we can be sure of salvation.

LEADER: What happened next?

WESLEY: One of my friends showed me that preaching out-of-doors was a way to reach people who just weren't a part of regular church services. Many had to work and just couldn't go to church. Most felt they didn't belong with the wealthier people who attended the services in England.

LEADER: I've read that you peached to coal miners right by the mines; that sometimes you had crowds of as many as 3,000 people.

WESLEY: Yes, the poor people were so thirsty for the Gospel. But, not everyone thought what I was doing was a good thing. I couldn't even preach in the old church where my father preached and where I grew up. The preacher there said I was too enthusiastic!

CHARLIE: Enthusiastic! Isn't that a good thing? We want these boys and girls to be all excited about Jesus.

LEADER: You were known for being strict. You said putting backs on church pews was a waste of money. You didn't want the circuit riders serving with you to scream when they were preaching, or to preach longer than an hour, or to pray more than 10 minutes. And you said they should get up at 4:00, and ride no less than 400 miles in a month.

CHARLIE: What's a circuit rider?

LEADER: These were preachers who rode their horses from one place to another where they could hold church services. As a matter-of-fact, we're going to have a circuit rider as a guest day after tomorrow.

CHARLES: Oh, I want to hear what he has to say.

LEADER: Mr. Wesley, you are considered the founder of the Methodist Church. Why did you leave the Church of England?

WESLEY: I didn't want to leave. I wanted to stay, but the Church of England just would not ordain Methodist preachers, so in 1784 I started ordaining them without permission. That's when the separation really was final.

LEADER: You traveled mainly on horseback, more than 250,000 miles, and you preached more than 40,000 sermons. And you gave away almost all of your money.

WESLEY: God was good to me, and I know I will have everlasting life. I'll praise. I'll praise. God bless all of you. Thanks for letting me visit.

LEADER: God bless you, Mr. Wesley. Thanks for coming. Okay, boys and girls, let's go with our leaders to our next activity. Today's Bible study will be about how Jesus fed five thousand people. Remember the Bible verse, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

SESSION TWO CLOSING

LEADER: Here we are, another day of Blast to the Past ending. What was the memory verse? Yes, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." It was so good to have the Reverend John Wesley as our guest. We Methodists consider him the father of our church.

You learned about how Jesus fed five thousand hungry people. What did he give them? Five loaves of bread and two fish. Pretty amazing, isn't it?

Jesus and John Wesley both loved their neighbors, and they worked very hard to help them.

Charlie, we haven't heard from you. What was your favorite part of today?

CHARLIE: I was just thinking how great it would have been to be there when Jesus fed all those people. Think about how many crumbs they dropped. What a feast!

LEADER: Oh, you mice. All you think about is food.

And on that thought, everyone be safe for the rest of today. We'll see you back here tomorrow. Remember, love one another.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, BLAST TO THE PAST SESSION THREE OPENING



Memory verse for the day: “For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.” Philippians 1:21

The Leader is in front of the group.

LEADER: Good morning (or evening) again. Today we got to go on another Blast to the Past. Who remembers yesterday’s memory verse?

CHARLIE: (appearing) I do! I do! Pick me! Pick me!

LEADER: Oh, hi, Charlie. Good to see you could make it. But, let’s ask some of our friends out there. (Looks around and calls a child with a raised hand.) Yes, that’s right. The memory verse was, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” We learned all about that yesterday. Today’s memory verse is, “For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.” That’s from Philippians 1:21.

And we have another special guest today. His name is William McKendree. Actually, he is Bishop McKendree. It’s okay for us to just call him Bishop, or Bishop McKendree. (McKendree appears.) Good morning (or evening), Bishop McKendree.

McKENDREE: Good morning (or evening). I’ve had a long ride on my horse to get here.

LEADER: You spent a lot of years on your horse traveling through different states. Where all have you been?

McKENDREE: You know, I served as an officer in the Revolutionary War.

CHARLIE: The Revolutionary War!?! You mean the war where our first president, George Washington, was a general? I used to crawl up onto General Washington's back and hide in his wig. He never knew I was there.

McKENDREE: Yes, that's the war where I served. When my time was over there, I began my ministry in the Methodist Church. I was picked by one of the earliest bishops, Bishop Asbury, to start preaching and traveling.

LEADER: You really helped to bring the good news of Jesus to our part of the country—even before Missouri became a state. And we know that you were the first Methodist bishop who was actually born in the United States.

McKENDREE: Yes, I rode my horse and preached in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas. I came into Missouri in 1807 on an official tour.

CHARLIE: Oh, my. You must have gotten tired. Really, really, tired.

McKENDREE: It wasn't an easy life. When Bishop Asbury asked me if I could travel over such a large district, I told him I could if he could furnish me with a horse that could live forever.

It was hard to travel and find the settlers, who often chose to live far apart. I used a compass, and followed trails marked by trees notched with an ax, or trees bent over. When we got to a stream, there was no boat. We had to swim rivers and creeks. We slept on the ground under the open sky and listened to owls, bears, wolves, and panthers cry in the night.

Tomorrow you are going to hear about the life of a circuit rider, so you will learn more about what my own life was like as I made my circuit.

LEADER: We all remember you because you attended an important meeting at a log church near here. You were a bishop by then, and sometime around then the log church was named after you. It became McKendree Chapel.

CHARLIE: McKendree Chapel? I thought it was called Old McKendree Chapel.

LEADER: Oh, it wasn't known as Old McKendree until about a hundred years later when the new church in Jackson was built and was called McKendree also. Now we tell them apart by calling one Old McKendree Chapel and one New McKendree Church.

CHARLIE: Oh, I see. That makes sense.

McKENDREE: I don't really know why the chapel was named after me. I came to the campground to hold the first conference in Missouri on September 14, 1819. I guess those church members just wanted to honor me for that. Before that I had conducted a camp meeting in St. Charles, and had the first service of holy communion celebrated in Missouri. That time my tent was two saddle blankets sewn together, and we used corn bread crusts and polk berry juice for communion.

LEADER: We have read a lot about how kind you were to Bishop Asbury.

MCKENDREE: Bishop Asbury was very important to me; remember, we just said he took a chance on me and approved me to preach. Later, he was very ill and I accompanied him back to the East. I had to lift Bishop Asbury up and down from his horse. I used my blankets to make him a tent. I threw my own cloak over a limb to sleep under. I don't really think I did anything very special; God wants us to take care of each other.

LEADER: Tell us about what you saw when you arrived for the conference in Missouri.

McKENDREE: Well, two acres of land had been given to the group of people who had been meeting since 1809 to study and worship together. The land was given by William Williams and his wife, Elizabeth. In 1818, the class members began building the log church. It was dedicated in 1819. What an impressive sight! It stood on a hill in among old trees. There was a spring just down the hill to the east, to provide water to drink and cook with.

CHARLIE: I've been to that spring. I almost fell in, but somebody caught me by my tail and pulled me back from the edge. That was a close call! I don't like water!

McKENDREE: I was just out there, riding my horse around and remembering. I actually saw several places where there are still stones arranged in a circle. The people who came to the camp meetings built fires in the middle of these stones to cook their food. If you children get to visit Old McKendree Chapel, you can look for the stones on the grounds.

LEADER: What was the church building like that first time you saw it?

McKENDREE: Impressive! It had a huge stone fireplace, wooden pews, and glass windows. In the early 1800s, glass was hard to get, and the fact that this church was in an area that wasn't even a state yet made these windows very unusual. And it didn't have dirt floors; there were plank, or wooden, floors, not puncheon ones like most houses had.

LEADER: There were actually four conference meetings held at Old McKendree Chapel, but you were only at the first one.

McKENDREE: That's right. I was always unable to attend another.

LEADER: You wrote in 1790 that it was unbecoming for a Christian minister to laugh. Do you still think that?

McKENDREE: No, I don't. I have seen lots of changes in how we worship in the last 200 years. I regret saying that.

Well, I need to go. My horse is waiting, and I have many miles to go today. May God be with you until we meet again.

LEADER: Have a safe journey. Thanks for stopping by. Well, boys and girls, we're ready for class. What is today's memory verse again? That's right, "For me to live is Christ, to die is gain." We'll see you at closing.

SESSION THREE CLOSING

LEADER: Welcome back again. Session Three is over. What was your favorite part of today? Who liked the crafts? What did you make today? That was a good toy to make when we're studying about the past. And, who remembers the memory verse? Today's verse was a little harder. Charlie, do you want to help us?

CHARLIE: "For me to live is Christ, to die is gain." That one took me a while to remember.

LEADER: In the Bible study time you learned the parable of the man who was hurt and only one person stopped to help him. Even people who might not have read that story in the Bible use the term "Good Samaritan" to describe someone who helps another person. Bishop McKendree was a Good Samaritan when he helped Bishop Asbury. Look for ways you can be a Good Samaritan.

Charlie, it's time to; say goodbye for another day.

CHARLIE: Bye, bye, everyone.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, BLAST TO THE PAST

SESSION FOUR OPENING



Memory verse for the day: “While we were sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

The Leader and Charlie Chapel are in front of the group.

LEADER: Good morning. (or evening) Hi, Charlie. Let’s go over yesterday’s memory verse. It was, “For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.” We have a new one for our story time today. It is, “While we were sinners, Christ died for us.” That’s from Romans 5:8.

CHARLIE: That makes four memory verses. Wow, that’s almost a whole Bible!

LEADER: Not quite, but we learn these verses to help us know the Bible, and help us to learn about Jesus.

CHARLIE: Do we have a guest today?

LEADER: We surely do! We have a real circuit rider.

CHARLIE: A circle rider? Like on a merry-go-round? I went on a merry-go-round once. It made me sick.

LEADER: No, no, no. A cir-cuit rider. A circuit rider was a preacher a long, long time ago who rode a horse from one place to another to tell people about Jesus. Sometimes he just went to someone’s home and preached to one family. Or they might have invited more people in

to listen to him and to study together. The circuit rider might also stop at a camp meeting like they used to have on the land around Old McKendree Chapel.

The circuit rider would go around to many places and then start the same path all over again. That was called a “circuit.” Some of the circuits were larger than some of the states. In the earliest days, there were only about 10 city churches, so you can see how important the circuit riders were.

CHARLIE: That’s a lot of riding. What happened if it rained, or if it snowed?

LEADER: The circuit rider got wet and cold. Many times, he couldn’t get to a log house and had to camp where he could. Life was very hard and the circuit riders would sometimes get very sick.

CHARLIE: Who’s the circuit rider who is coming to see us today?

LEADER: His name is John Scripps. (Scripps appears on stage wearing a frock coat, a black hat, preaching tabs, and carrying a knapsack.)
Welcome, Reverend Scripps.

SCRIPPS: Grace and peace to you, Brother/Sister _____ and Mr. Chapel.

LEADER: Tell me, Reverend Scripps. How did you become a circuit rider?

SCRIPPS: I really wanted to save souls and tell people about Jesus. To become a circuit rider, I had to read the Book of Discipline and the sermons of John Wesley. I believe Mr. Wesley was here a couple of days ago.

LEADER: Where were you born? Were you married?

SCRIPPS: I was born in England like many of the early preachers. The year was 1785. I came to Missouri from Virginia. Since I was actually raised in Missouri, I’m considered the first young man raised and converted to Methodism in Missouri. I was the first to enter the ministry from Cape Girardeau County.

No, I wasn't married. The life of a circuit rider was so hard that not very many of us were married.

LEADER: We actually know a lot about you, because you kept a diary in which you wrote details about where you traveled and the people you met and worked with. You were so good at taking notes that you were elected the Secretary at the Conference held at McKendree Chapel in 1819. Tell us about a camp meeting. We know there were camp meetings at Old McKendree Chapel. Bishop McKendree mentioned them yesterday.

SCRIPPS: A camp meeting could last several days. There might be several ministers there to preach. We would have a series of sermons beginning in the morning and ending late at night. When the preacher came, members of the household summoned the neighbors for services early the next morning or that evening. Early services meant the settlers could get to their fields early. The preaching might get very emotional and the people might speak in tongues, and fall to the ground, and have the jerks.

CHARLIE: Oh, my. My preacher only preaches for about twenty minutes, and I get wiggly just during that time.

SCRIPPS: Oh, no. We preached all day. People came from miles around and brought what they could to stay in: tents, covered wagons, or whatever kind of shelter they could rig up. The unmarried men and women did not visit with each other, but people visited with other families and friends. These camp meetings didn't happen very often, so it was like a reunion where people were so happy to see each other. These meetings were religious experiences, times for socializing and politicking, and for building relationships with neighbors, near and far.

Some came with livestock like horses and cows, and they brought garden vegetables and baked goods. Sometimes they traded with

other families what they had too much of for something they didn't have.

CHARLIE: I traded my lunch sandwich for a candy bar.

LEADER: Well, that's sort of the idea, Charlie. Did you get paid, Reverend Scripps?

SCRIPPS: Oh, yes. We were supposed to get \$100 a year if we were married, and \$50 a year if we were single. But most of the time we didn't get all of that amount. And out of our salary we had to buy a horse, saddle, bridle, clothes, etc. We had to rely on the hospitality of settlers for food for us and our horses. Usually shelter was a blanket rolled on the floor of a settler's cabin, or in a shed by the house. If there were no house, we used our blankets as a tent in the woods.

CHARLIE: You said you got less than \$50 a year. I was hiding under the checkout counter at the grocery store last week, and most people spent lots more than that just for a week's groceries.

SCRIPPS: Yes. Money did buy more in the early 1800s than it does now. Even so, we weren't paid very much. Something else we did was sell books for the Conference. The money went for the care of "worn-out preachers."

LEADER: What else did you do besides preach at camp meetings?

SCRIPPS: We tried to visit class meetings. These were usually held in someone's home. There were about ten to twelve members who met each week for Bible study, prayer, and help in being a Christian. One person was chosen to be the class leader. I preached where I could. It might be a single room log cabin, an inn, in a courtroom, in a school, on a street corner, in a barnyard, or a clearing in the woods. Wherever I could get people to stop and listen.

It only took me five minutes to pack and ten minutes to ride out to my new circuit. The circuit might be 400 miles in length. I would also

check on any one who became a believer in Jesus at one of the camp meetings.

LEADER: Thank, you Reverend Scripps, for visiting with us today. Be careful with the horse on the streets. Children, let's give him a hand. Charlie, do you remember the memory verse for today?

CHARLIE: Yes, I do. It's, "While we were sinners, Christ died for us."

LEADER: Good job. Okay, everyone, it's time to go to your classes. I'll see you back here for the closing.

SESSION FOUR CLOSING

LEADER: Here we are again. Before we go home let's talk about what we learned today. What was the memory verse? "While we were sinners, Christ died for us." And today we learned about Paul and how he became a Christian.

CHARLIE: Was he struck by lightning? That was such a strong, bright light he saw. I always run and hide in my hole when I hear thunder because I don't like lightning.

LEADER: It was bright and quick, but we usually don't say that it was lightning. Remember our circuit rider, Mr. Scripps? He traveled a long, long way many times to tell people about Jesus. Paul traveled a long, long way many times, also. Both men were so filled with the love of Jesus that they wanted to share the good news.

We'll see all of you back here tomorrow for our last Blast to the Past.

CHARLIE: Bye, bye, everyone.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, BLAST TO THE PAST SESSION FIVE OPENING



(Mrs. Williams is not based on an historical figure, but is a compilation of pioneer women of the day.)

Memory verse for the day: “Mary has chosen what is better, and it shall not be taken away from her.” Luke 10:42

The Leader and Charlie Chapel are in front of the group. Charlie is wearing the black jacket and is carrying a basket with a cloth covering.

LEADER: Hello, Charlie. Hello, everyone! Today is our last day; are you ready? Who remembers the memory verse from yesterday? That’s right, it’s, “While we were sinners, Christ died for us.” Today’s verse is, “Mary has chosen what is better, and it shall not be taken away from her.” We will learn about this verse when we go to our Bible Study time.

Charlie, you have a basket. What’s that for? Are you going on a picnic?

CHARLIE: Hello, everyone. I’m on my way to a camp meeting at Old McKendree Chapel. My dear friend, Mrs. Sarah Williams, is coming to pick me up with her horse and wagon. I’m so excited. I’m going to see people I haven’t seen for ever so long. Miss Sarah, you know, was a cousin to the Williams family who gave the land for Old McKendree Chapel.

Oh, here she is now.

MRS. WILLIAMS: (Dressed in old-fashioned long dress with bonnet.) There you are, Charlie. Are you ready?

CHARLIE: Almost, we need to talk to the children first.

LEADER: Mrs. Williams, welcome to our Vacation Bible School. I am so honored to meet you. You are one of our famous women pioneers.

CHARLIE: Pie-in-the-ear! She doesn't have pie in the ear!

LEADER: No, Charlie, I said "pioneer." That was a person who helped settle the United States one hundred to two hundred years ago. A lot of pioneers came to Missouri. Some stayed, but a lot eventually went on west to California and Oregon.

Mrs. Williams, you were one who stayed. You came from back east. Why did you decide to leave your home and travel west?

MRS. WILLIAMS: My husband really wanted to move out of the city and try his hand at farming, and we knew that we would get free land if we could make it far enough west. When we got to southeastern Missouri in 1823, we liked it so well we decided to stay.

LEADER: How did you get here? Did you walk?

MRS. WILLIAMS: Actually, we came in a covered wagon. That was a wagon bed with round hoops over it that we put material over. We had food, bedding, and our pots and pans, and other things in the wagon. It was pulled by a team of oxen.

We really did walk most of the way, because the wagon ride was just too bumpy on the trails. There weren't any paved roads in those days.

CHARLIE: I came west with Miss Sarah. I had to ride in the wagon because I just couldn't run fast enough to keep up with everyone. There was a

box on the end of the wagon for the pots and pans. I stayed in a pot until Miss Sarah got ready to cook. Then I would hide in a corner of the box. I never told her that I hid in the pan. I don't know why, but people don't like having mice in their pans.

LEADER: What did you and your family eat, Mrs. Williams?

MRS. WILLIAMS: We started out on the trip with a lot of flour and foods that wouldn't spoil. And we did have a cow that walked behind the wagon. Our three children could have milk from her, and we also used the milk for cooking. We sometimes sent the children along the trail to pick berries and greens, and sometimes we had fresh meat from deer or turkeys. When we were close to a creek or river, we tried to fish.

LEADER: How did you cook? What did you use to make fire?

MRS. WILLIAMS: We would set up sticks to hold our pot over a fire, and we burned wood when we could get it. Not everywhere we traveled had trees. Sometimes we burned buffalo chips or grass. The children had to gather these.

CHARLIE: You don't even want to know what buffalo chips are!

LEADER: What was the hardest part of the trip?

MRS. WILLIAMS: Mud or dust. Sometimes it was so wet our wagon would get stuck in the mud, and we couldn't even walk in it. And then there were times when everything was so dry that the dust was so bad we couldn't see to travel.

LEADER: You didn't have schools or churches to attend on the trail. What did you do?

MRS. WILLIAMS: We tried to teach the children while we were traveling, and we could do some lessons in the evenings. All the families in the wagon train would have worship services together. It was always exciting

when a circuit rider would come by our wagon train. He was always invited to preach.

CHARLIE: Remember Mr. Scripps from yesterday. He preached to us several times.

LEADER: Mrs. Williams, I understand you decided to stay in Missouri. Why?

MRS. WILLIAMS: When we got this far, we liked the land, and we especially liked the people at the log church called McKendree Chapel. We wanted to be a part of what they were doing.

LEADER: Oh, yes. We call that place Old McKendree Chapel. It's still standing, you know.

MRS. WILLIAMS: I do know that. Charlie and I are headed there to attend an Annual Meeting. He has his lunch all packed. Come along, Charlie. (She leaves.)

LEADER: Charlie will be right behind you. First, we have to get our students to their next activity.

Okay, everyone. Your memory verse for today is, "Mary has chosen what is better, and it shall not be taken away from her." You will learn more about that in your Bible Study time.

SESSION FIVE CLOSING

LEADER: Hello, children. You just enjoyed your last session of Blast to the Past. Today's memory verse was, "Mary has chosen what is better, and it shall not be taken away from her." You learned about Mary and her sister Martha. They also had a brother, Lazarus.

CHARLIE: I never knew my brothers and sisters. Weren't Mary and Martha and Lazarus blessed to have each other!

LEADER: They were. Today's lesson shows us that they didn't always get along, but they still loved each other.

Okay, everyone, what was your favorite part of this week's Blast to the Past? Which game did you like best?

CHARLIE: I liked Hide-and-Seek. It's really easy for a mouse to hide. We're little and we have lots of practice.

LEADER: Let's hear from everyone else, Charlie. We did a lot this week: games, Bible study, crafts, snack time. Let's share about what we really liked.

We thank all of you for joining us on this Blast to the Past. It's time to say goodbye, Charlie.

CHARLIE: Goodbye, Charlie.

LEADER: Goodbye, everyone. See you next year at Vacation Bible School.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, BLAST TO THE PAST

Bible Study Sessions

SESSION ONE BIBLE STUDY

Memory Verse: By grace you have been saved. Eph. 2:8

At the end of the opening skit, the children were given the memory verse, “By grace you have been saved.” This verse was chosen because it was the favorite verse of Susanna Wesley, the one by which she lived her life.

Begin the session by reading these verses from the Bible, Ex. 2:4, 7-10. (Be sure to use a real book during these Bible studies, not an electronic Bible.)

Engage: Talk to the children about how Moses was put in a basket that was placed in the river to save him from the king. Have them tell what this might have looked like.

Explain: It is important that Miriam, who is such a big part of this story, is not even named here. We have her name because of later traditions. God used a little girl as an important part of this story. Susanna Wesley believed in salvation through grace, and Moses was saved by his sister. Even though God is not mentioned in the story of “Moses in the Bulrushes,” we all feel God’s hand in the events as Moses is plucked from the river. He is saved to become the one who saves his people, just as John Wesley was plucked from the fire to save the souls of people who had not heard of Jesus.

Encourage: Miriam took care of her brother; Susanna Wesley took care of her children. What are ways we can help people, even though we may be a childlike Miriam?

If time allows, read Ex. 15:19-21

Miriam’s name is associated with water, both in the story of the baby Moses and in the later story of the crossing of the Red Sea. By the time of this crossing, Miriam was a leader of her people along with her brothers Aaron and Moses. She

was a source of strength for her brothers, and she was considered a prophet, one of the few women in the Bible called a prophet.

Engage: Have the children act out the crossing of the Red Sea. Moses will stand with his staff ready to signal for the waters to close; Aaron urges everyone to hurry to the safe side; and Miriam is ready to sing and dance when they are safe.

Explain: Miriam's song, "Sing to the Lord for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea," is one of the earliest fragments of Hebrew poetry. In these verses we see that Miriam brought the Israelites together with her music. She sang and danced, and encouraged the others to sing and dance. She waited until the time was right to begin the celebration.

When the Israelites got across the Red Sea and looked back, there came the Egyptians. Then Moses lowered his staff, the sea closed, and the Israelites were saved. They were "plucked" from the sea and saved, just as John Wesley was plucked from the fire and saved. Susanna Wesley rejoiced; Miriam rejoiced.

Encourage: We are saved by grace. Give thanks to God for taking care of us. Remember Moses and John Wesley: two children that God saved for special purposes.

Close: Emphasize the memory verse, "By grace you have been saved." Be prepared to hear about another person from history in the next session.

SESSION TWO BIBLE STUDY

At the end of the opening session the children were given a memory verse, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:39. This is the Greatest Commandment.

This passage was chosen for John because Wesley was a person who sacrificed earthly riches to spread the Gospel to those who were being overlooked by society. Even the lowliest was his neighbor.

Begin the session by reading these verses from the Bible:

Deuteronomy 6:5 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.”

Leviticus 19:18 “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22:39 “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Then read Matthew 22:35-38.

At the end of the Matthew reading, emphasize the memory verse. Talk about how Mr. Wesley loved his neighbor.

Then read the Bible story for the day, Matthew 14:13-22, The Feeding of the Five Thousand. Jesus’ friend John had been killed and Jesus wanted to go to a quiet place to be by himself. Instead, thousands came to him with their needs. Jesus was kind to them. He healed the sick and really cared for the needs of the people.

Engage: Have the children pretend they were there. They had traveled a long way and their moms and dads had only thought they would be gone from home a few hours. After many hours, everyone was hungry. It was a long way home, and an even longer time until they could eat.

Explain: The disciples were concerned and wanted to send everyone home. This was an opportunity for the disciples to put the needs of others ahead of holding on to their money. (The disciples might have had some money, but the indication is that they didn’t want to spend it to help the hungry crowd.) Jesus wanted them

to think about how to solve the hunger problem. The disciples found the boy with the bread and fish. Jesus had compassion on the hungry people in the crowd. He felt that each one was his neighbor. When everyone was fed, Jesus sent them home.

Encourage: The people in the crowd went home fed, and very aware of the wonderful love of Jesus. Their job, and ours, is to tell everyone about Jesus, and to love our neighbors, and to help where we see the need. We thank Jesus for our food. We do what we can for others. We tell others about Jesus.

Close: John Wesley said, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

SESSION THREE BIBLE STUDY

At the end of the opening session the children were given a Bible verse, “For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.” Philippians 1:21

This memory verse was chosen because Bishop McKendree quoted it in his last sermon, when he was very old and ill. It summed up the depths of his faith.

Begin the session by reading Luke 10:30-37, the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Emphasize: There is a similarity between how the Good Samaritan treated the man who was hurt and how Bishop McKendree took care of Bishop Asbury. Both men sacrificed to help another man in need.

Engage: Assign one student to be the traveler, one to be the priest, one the Levite, one the Good Samaritan, and one the inn keeper.

Explain: Go over the possible reasons those who passed the wounded traveler used to keep from helping him. If the priest touched a dead man, he would be “unclean” for seven days, and then he couldn’t do his job. The Levite seemed to be thinking about other things, and he did not stop, but kept his distance. The only one who stopped was a Samaritan, a person from a group of people the Jews did not like.

This story shows us a loving God, who cares about what hurts us. It shows us how we are to care for others. If we truly want to show love to someone, we have to act; we can’t just walk by without doing anything.

Encourage: Ask, where would we see someone wounded who needs help? How can we do anything? Have students think of situations where they can make a difference. How about if they see someone being bullied; do they ignore it, or help the bullied child? How can they help? How about if their team is so ahead, and there is a player on the other team who has never made a basket? Can you talk to your manager about helping the player to score? What about the new kid who has no one to sit with?

Let your students come up with other situations.

Close: William McKendree was a person who sacrificed to help his friend. The Good Samaritan stopped to help someone in need. Go back to the memory verse and explain that we also believe with William McKendree that we should live as children of God. Then, when we do, we will be with God.

SESSION FOUR BIBLE STUDY

At the end of the opening session the children were given a Bible verse, “While we were sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

This passage—words from Paul—was chosen because The Reverend John Scripps traveled on his circuits to carry the good news of Christ’s redemption, and kept a very detailed diary. Paul also traveled constantly, and wrote so much of what we have as the New Testament.

Read the story of Paul’s conversion in Acts 9:1-9, 17-20.

At the end of this reading, emphasize the memory verse. Point out that these are Paul’s words.

Engage: Have a student play Paul, who is struck by the blinding light. Another student will be the voice of God, and a third will be Ananias, who helps Paul regain his sight.

This was a very dramatic moment where everyone who was there was awestruck and scared.

Explain: Paul was very educated, and really believed what he had been taught. He had heard about the Christians, and he wanted to destroy them. That is what he had set out to do when he headed to Damascus.

Paul was willing to travel great distances to do what he thought was right. But he heard Jesus speak to him through the light, and he realized that he had been wrong. He became one of the leading missionaries of early Christianity.

Paul traveled constantly, as did John Scripps. He also wrote extensively, as did John Scripps. Both men helped many others to learn about Jesus. Even though Paul had been so against Jesus, Jesus had still died for him, and Paul came to realize that.

Encourage: From Paul and John Scripps we learn that everyone can tell others about Jesus and that we can invite others to church where they will learn that Jesus died for them, also.

Close: Jesus died for all of us, as we learned in our memory verse, “While we were sinners, Christ died for us.” We try to change and live our lives as God wants us to live them.

SESSION FIVE BIBLE STUDY

Memory Verse: Mary has chosen what is better and it shall not be taken away from her. Luke 10:42

Begin this session by reading Luke 10:38-42. This is the story of Mary and Martha.

This memory verse and scripture were chosen for the Pioneer Women study because it would have been so easy for a woman on the trail to forget to stop and take care of her spiritual life. She would have had so many constant demands on her time.

Engage: Assign one student to be Jesus, one Mary, and one Martha. Verbally set the stage for the students by telling them that a good host would have hurried to feed her guests. Mary and Martha are spending a quiet day at home, and then there is a knock, and it is Jesus and his disciples at the door.

Explain: Jesus and his disciples were unexpected guests. Martha hurried to feed them, make room for them, etc. For Martha, serving God (Jesus) meant taking care of his needs. For Mary, true discipleship meant stopping everything she was doing and focusing only on Jesus. We call what Mary did "faith." We call what Martha did "works." Someone said, "It is not faith and works; it is not faith or works, it is faith that works."

The Pioneer Woman had to constantly work to keep her family fed, and clean, and going, but we know that she found time to go to church services and to teach her children the stories of the Bible.

Encourage: Even when we have so much to do, like Scouts, or soccer games, or school activities, we need to stop and spend time with God. We do that through reading our Bible, through prayer, and by attending church and Sunday School.

Close: We should remember that what both Mary and Martha did was good, but Jesus said Mary chose what was better, and that gave her a faith that would always be with her.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, BLAST TO THE PAST

SNACK TIME

A big part of the Vacation Bible School experience is snack time. Make this a time to have fun and reinforce the lessons about the lives of the early church leaders. Following are some thoughts about what to call the snack items. Depending on what you serve, you will be able to add more.

Begin snack time by singing the Johnny Appleseed Blessing.



The Lord is good to me, and so I thank the Lord, for
giving me the things I need, the sun and the rain and the
apple seed, the Lord is good to me.

Prairie Dogs	Hot dogs
Old McKendree Spring Water	Any drink
Charlie Cheesies	Cheese and crackers, or any cheese item
Loaves and Fishes	Fish crackers and sandwiches
Trail Mix	Trail Mix, either purchased or home mixed
Johnny Appleseed Food	Apple slices
Buffalo Sticks	Beef jerky
Hard tack	Hard cracker
Susanna's Speciality	Hot cross buns
Horse Rations	Oatmeal cookies

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, BLAST TO THE PAST MUSIC

The suggestion for music is that it be included in the opening sessions. If time allows, you might consider going over the songs again in the closing sessions. You will probably want to pick only one or two to learn.

There are songs included here that will be appropriate for the week's theme.

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

1. I have de-cid-ed to fol-low Je-sus, I have de-
 2. The world be-hind me, the cross be-fore me, The world be-
 3. Though none go with me, I still will fol-low, Though none go
 4. Will you de-cide now to fol-low Je-sus? Will you de-

3
 cid-ed to fol-low Je-sus, I have de-cid-ed to fol-low
 hind me, the cross be-fore me, The world be-hind me, the cross be-
 with me, I still will fol-low, Though none go with me, I still will
 cide now to fol-low Je-sus? Will you de-cide now to fol-low

6
 Je - sus— no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.
 fore me— no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.
 fol - low— no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.
 Je - sus?— no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.

"God Loves Me Dearly"

1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -

va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

Refrain

There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me
 dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Public domain

Father, We Thank You for the Night

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart." ... "Love your neighbor as yourself."
 Matt. 22:37, 39

1. Fa - ther, we thank you for the night, and for the
 2. Help us to do the things we should, to be to
 3. Lord, keep our lips from sin to - day; help us to

love - ly morn - ing light; for rest and food and
 oth - ers kind and good; in all we do, in
 trust and to o - bey. Lord, keep our feet from

lov - ing care, and all that makes the day so fair.
 work or play, to grow more lov - ing ev - 'ry day.
 e - vil ways; and fill our hearts with joy and praise.

God, Our Father, Cares

Charles I. Junkin, 1898. Refrain added

Mervin A. Jones, 1904

1. In the trees the birds are sing-ing, in the mountains and the glens, By the
 2. All the meadows bloom with daisies and with dan - de - li - ons bold, And the
 3. And the clouds of trou-ble gath-er and the storm-y wind is heard, And the
 4. And the world is full of chil-dren, oh, so man - y and so fair! Like the

riv - ers and the brooks and by the sea; . . . But there's food for all the
 clo - ver blos-soms cov - er all the lea; . . . But there's cloth-ing for the
 an - gry tem - pest ra - ges wild and free; . . . But there's shel - ter for the
 sun-beams as they spar-kle on the sea; . . . But there's room for all the

rob-ins and the ti - ny lit - tle wrens, And there's bread in His hand for me.
 lil - ies and the but - ter - cups of gold, And there's raiment in His hand for me.
 sparrow and the lit - tle humming bird, And there's safety in His arms for me.
 children in the Father's ten - der care, And there's room in His heart for me.

UNISON CHORUS

God, our Fa - ther, cares, Yes, He cares for

all; Food and shel - ter He pre-pares, He notes the spar-row's fall.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, BLAST TO THE PAST

GAMES AND CRAFTS

Included are old-fashioned games and crafts. With some, you may have the children make the craft and then use it during the recreation time. For most projects, Elmer's tacky glue is preferred. If you plan to use a lot of white glue (Elmer's), it can be bought by the gallon to refill small bottles, and is a lot cheaper to use this way. These projects are suggested because they have more of an old fashioned flavor, and can be quite economical to do.

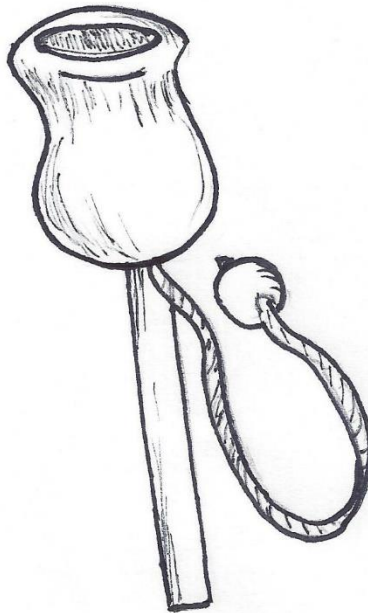
Children of the early pioneer days played chess, checkers, kick-the-can, hide-and-seek, kites, marbles, spinning tops, magic tricks, lead soldiers, tiddlywinks, Parcheesi, dolls, and cats' cradle. You might research those games if you want more choices.

The following crafts can be used for play time when finished.

BALL TOSS (single player)

Needed: Candle cup (wooden bowl shape)
Thin nylon cord, 14 inches long
½ inch wooden bead with a hole through it
¼ inch dowel, 5 inches long

The instructor should pre-drill a ¼" hole in the bottom of the bowl. Students should put one end of the string along the dowel, dip in glue, and insert in bottom of bowl. The other end of the string goes through the bead. Tie a knot in the end. These may be left natural or painted. If painted, do that before assembly to avoid paint on the cord.



RING TOSS or “FRENCH HOOPS” (two players for each team)

Needed: Wooden hoop, about 8”-10” in diameter (The inside ring of an embroidery hoop is inexpensive and ideal.)
 2 dowels ½” in diameter and 18” long

Partially sharpen one end of each dowel. Do not point it.

To play ring toss, two players stand about 10 feet apart. Each has two dowels. Each begins with 20 points. The first player puts a ring over two crossed dowels and pulls the dowels apart quickly. The hoop should fly. It should be aimed at the other player who catches it on one or both wands and returns it. The hoop goes back and forth until one player misses, which costs him/her a point. The first player to zero loses.

THAUMATROPE (single player)

Needed: 3” x 5” card or wooden disks at least 3 inches in diameter
 2 rubber bands or two pieces of string about 6” long

Drill or punch holes on each side of the card.

Students should draw half of a picture on one side of the card, and then flip the card over and draw the other half on the opposite end of the card. (The flip must be made by taking the card at the top and bringing it over to the bottom. If the flip is made from side to side, the thaumatrope will not work.) Insert the rubber bands or string in the holes and spin them to make the picture spin. The front and back sides will visually merge.

BUTTON SPINNER (single player)

Needed: Nylon cord, 20” long
 2 small wooden disks, or small buttons
 1 large wooden disk or large button

Drill two holes in the large wooden disk (spaced like button holes), and drill a hole in each small disk.

Thread nylon cord through one hole in large button or disk, through a small button or wooden disk, back through other hole in big button or disk. Put both ends of the cord together and tie an overhand knot about 2 inches from the end. Thread one of these cord ends through the last small disk or button and knot again.

To play, hold a small button or disk in each hand and twirl the middle disk or button. Then pull and watch the action.

PROPELLER (single player)

Needed: 3/16" dowel cut 6 inches long
 Jumbo wood craft sticks (look like tongue depressors)

The instructor will need to ready the craft sticks. To do this, soak them in water, rig up a system to twist them to resemble a propeller, and let dry. Drill a hole in the center of each stick. Slightly taper one end of the dowel in a pencil sharpener. The students will glue the dowel in the propeller. The toy may be painted or left natural.

To play, begin by rolling the stick in your hands and let it fly. You may invent competitive events, such as which one goes farther, etc.

ZUCCHINI RACES

If you are having VBS during zucchini season, gather one for each child and have a race.

Needed: zucchini
 4 wheels
 2 axles
 Glue
 Craft paint and brushes
 Decorative items like beads, felt, etc.
 Scissors

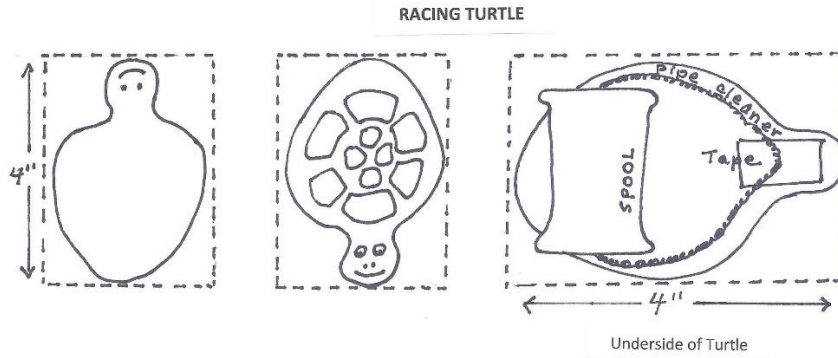
Each child rigs the zucchini with the wheels by pushing an axle through the lower half of the zuke. It must have clearance from the floor. Then decorate, let dry, and race.

RACING TURTLE

Needed: Empty thread spool
 4 inch square of card stock
 Pencil
 7 inch long piece of pipe cleaner (chenille wire)
 Felt markers
 Scotch tape

Draw and cut out a turtle on the card stock the length of the 4 inches and decorate with felt markers. Put the pipe cleaner through the spool and twist the ends together. Be sure the pipe cleaner clears the spool so it rolls freely. Glue and tape the turtle to the pipe cleaner just under the neck.

To race, draw starting and finishing lines. Line up the turtles and have each child push his/her turtle with a pencil toward the finish line. First one over the line wins. (Push the head of turtle toward the finish line first.)



HAMSTER HOOP (teams of two)

Needed: Large embroidery hoops, one for each team
 String
 Small balloons

Inflate balloons and draw eyes, mouths, etc. on the tied end. This is the hamster. Tie strings to the embroidery hoops and suspend them to about shoulder height by hanging to a tree limb, clothes line, etc. Twist the hoop and let it twirl. One player bats the hamster around until he/she can put it through the hoop. The other player bats it back through the hoop. Each team tries to reach ten times through the hoop first to win. If the hamster hits the floor, the score goes back to zero and that team starts over.

TOMBSTONE RUBBINGS (single player)

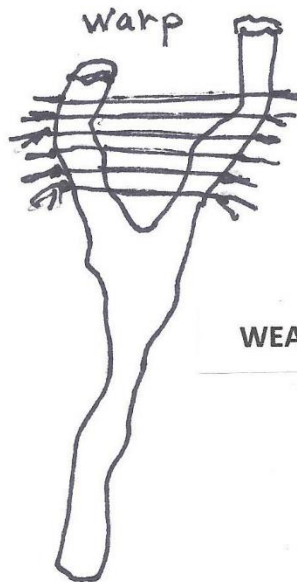
If you visit Old McKendree Cemetery, have the students make rubbings on the tombstones. Use rice paper (or whatever paper you can come up with that is fairly thin and pliable).

Put the slightly larger paper over a tombstone design, and tape it on the sides. With light, even strokes, rub the paper with rubbing wax or a flat crayon or conte crayon. The design will appear. Rub to desired shade.

WEAVING ON A BRANCH LOOM

Needed: Y-shaped branch
Yarns of all colors and kinds

The branch should be green wood so it is pliable and not brittle. Cut two pieces of yarn longer than the space across the branch and tie on either side. Leave the ends hanging, as this makes a fringe. When you have enough warp threads, begin weaving up and down through the warp threads. Be creative! Leave ends hanging for interest.



WEAVING ON A BRANCH LOOM

SPOOL TOP

Needed: Empty spool, like threads comes on
 $\frac{1}{4}$ " dowel, 5 inches long
 String, 3 foot long
 Sandpaper
 Paint, if desired

Sharpen the end of the dowel. (This can be done in a pencil sharpener.) Cut the dowel down to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the sharpened end. Hammer this end through the spool until the point sticks out. It should fit the hole, but if it doesn't, sand it until it does. If desired, paint the top with whatever design is desired. Tie the string to the spool, and then wind it around the spool. Hold the point of the dowel to the table or floor, pull the string, and watch it spin.

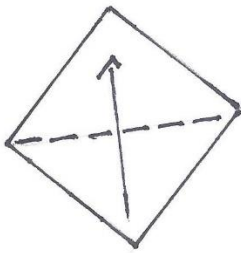
You can have contests between players if you want.

DRINKING CUP

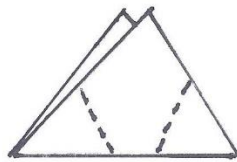
Needed: Heavy white paper

Cut paper into squares. Follow the diagrams to fold the paper into a temporary cup. If you want to go vintage, use brown kraft paper.

HOW TO FOLD A DRINKING CUP

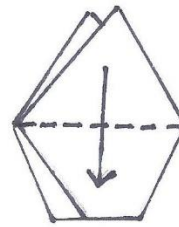


Step 1



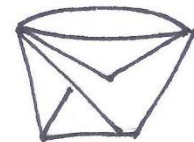
Step 2

Fold left flap toward right and right flap toward left.



Step 3

Fold the front top flap forward and the back top flap behind.



Step 4

Drink up!

ROCK CREATURES

Needed: Smooth stones
Items to decorate stones like ribbon, pompons, felt, eyes
Craft paint
Brushes

Paint the rocks to resemble animals, etc.

MAGIC SALT CRYSTAL GARDEN

This is an oldie that is always fun. Try to do this the first day or so, so it can grow before the end of VBS.

Needed: Water
 Table salt
 Mrs. Stewart's Bluing
 Glass or plastic bowl for each child
 Piece of coal, porous brick, cement, sponge, etc.
 Mercurochrome, food coloring, or ink

Day 1: Pour 2 tablespoons of water, 2 of salt, and 2 of bluing over base material.

Day 2: Two more of salt onto base.

Day 3: Into the bottom of the bowl, and not over the base material, pour 2 tablespoons each of salt, water, and bluing. And then add a few drops of mercurochrome, vegetable coloring, or ink to each piece. If the flower-like growth doesn't appear, add bluing, salt, and water from time to time.

LEAF PRINTS

Needed: Cardstock paper
 Leaves
 Tempera paint, or you might try craft paints
 Brushes
 Newspaper for work surface

Fold the paper in half to make a card. Place the leaf, vein side up, on newspaper and dab paint on it. Pick leaf up and put paint side down on card and rub to make a print. Or, instead of using paint, place leaf inside a card and rub the outside with a crayon. The leaf should show up on the card.

DOUGHS To be used in place of play-dough.

WHITE BREAD DOUGH

Needed: 1-2 slices of white bread with crust
Bowls
1 tablespoon white glue
Craft paints and brushes
Gloss (equal parts glue and water)
Liquid detergent, if needed

Shred the bread, add glue, and mix with fork. Knead until it is elastic and not sticky. A squirt of liquid detergent will help the dough lose its stickiness. Make object and let air dry 1 to 3 days. Paint. Coat with gloss.

SAWDUST CLAY

Needed: Large bowl
2 parts clean sawdust
1 part all-purpose flour
Water
Wooden spoon or stirrer

Mix all together and stir in water until clay is squishy but stiff. If too crunchy, add more flour. Shape into figures, bowls, etc., or roll flat and cut shapes with cookie cutters. Put hole in with soda straw before dry. Can be sanded and painted when dry.

OVEN-BAKED DOUGH

Needed: 3 cups all-purpose flour
 1 cup salt
 1 cup water
 Food coloring or acrylic paints (optional)

Combine all and knead until dough is smooth and rubbery. Shape to make figurines. Bake on a cookie sheet at 250 degree. Cool. Paint.

BASIC PLAY DOUGH

Needed: 1 cup all-purpose flour
 1 cup water
 ½ cup salt
 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
 ½ teaspoon cream of tartar
 Food coloring

Mix all in a saucepan except food coloring. Cook until it holds together, then cool and knead on a floured surface. Divide into small balls and add food coloring. Store in airtight containers.

NO-COOK DOUGH

Needed: 1 cup all-purpose flour
 3/8 cup salt
 3/8 cup hot water
 Food coloring

Mix flour and salt in a bowl. Pour in hot water. Stir well. Knead on a floured surface, working in food coloring. Keep in plastic container in refrigerator.

GOO

Needed: 8 ounces white or carpenter glue (i.e. Elmer's.)
Food coloring (optional)
1 cup water
2 tsp 20 Mule Team Borax

Mix together glue, food coloring, and $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water in bowl. In a separate bowl, mix 1 tablespoon borax and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water. Add borax mix to glue mix, stirring until a blob forms. Remove the blob. Repeat until all glue is gone. Keep the blobs together and store in airtight containers.

SEED CAST TILES

Needed: Low-fire potters clay (Find in craft store. Be sure it can be baked at home.)
Rolling pins (or use glass bottles with smooth sides)
Table knife
Board or table top for kneading
White chalk
Acrylic matte medium for glazing
Brushes

Knead the clay. Roll out to $\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick. Cut into squares or rectangles in the size you want the finished project. Press a seed head into each tile. Wear gloves or hold with towel if necessary. Lift off and bake tile. If you wish, poke a hole in one side so the tile can be hung. A soda straw is good for doing this.

GAMES

HIDE-AND-SEEK

Don't forget this old time favorite for a group game.

Choose the player who will be "it." Next, pick the base that the other players can tag to be safe. "It" closes his/her eyes and counts to an agreed upon number while the other players hide. The seeker ("it") then opens his/her eyes and tries to find the hidiers. The first one found is the next "it," and the last one is the winner.

NUTS IN MAY

Children are divided into half and stand on either side of a center line. They sing, "Nuts in May" and at the end of the words, "We're sending _____ to fetch her away," the named child steps onto the line and tries to pull the child standing opposite over the line. If he/she succeeds, the other child is out. The game continues until only child is left. That one is the winner.

Lyrics: (Sung to tune of "Mulberry Bush")

Here we come gathering nuts in May, nuts in May, nuts in May.
Here we come gathering nuts in May on a cold and frosty morning.
Whom will you have for nuts in May, nuts in May, nuts in May
On a cold and frosty morning?

We'll have _____ for nuts in May, nuts in May, nuts in May
On a cold and frosty morning.
Whom will you send to fetch her away, to fetch her away, to fetch her
away?
Whom will you send to fetch her away, on a cold and frosty morning?
We're sending _____ to fetch her away on a cold and frosty morning.

THROW A SMILE (suitable for all ages)

For four or more players. One player is “it.” That player smiles. The smile can be any kind: sly, goofy, small, large. The other players have to remain straight-faced and somber. The “it” player uses his/her hand to “wipe” the smile from his/her face and pretends to throw it to any of the other players. That player “catches” the smile and puts it on his/her face and smiles as much and how he/she wants. Any player who even smirks during this exchange is out of the game.

FRENCH TAG (group)

(You may have to explain what a miller is.)

The players take partners—all except the miller, who takes his/her stand in the middle, while his/her companions walk around him/her singing:

There was a jolly miller, who lived by himself.
As the wheel went round, he made his wealth.
One hand in the hopper, and the other in the bag.
As the wheel went round, he made his grab.

At the word “grab,” everyone must change partners. The miller then has the opportunity of seizing one; if he/she succeeds in doing so, the one necessarily left alone must become the miller, and so on.

DROP THE HANKERCHIEF (group)

One player runs behind the other players as they stand in a circle and drops a handkerchief behind one of them. That player must pick up the handkerchief and run around after the first player and try to tag the first player before he/she gets to the vacant place in the circle left by that second player.

Historical Information from readings and internet

Susanna Annesley Wesley

BIRTH: 20 Jan 1669 in London, England

DEATH 23 Jul 1742 in London, England

BURIAL: Bunhill Fields Burial Ground, London Borough of Islington, Greater London, England

Susanna Wesley was the daughter of Dr. Samuel Annesley and Mary White. "...although she never preached a sermon or published a book or founded a church, she is known as the Mother of Methodism. Why? Because two of her sons, John Wesley and Charles Wesley, as children consciously or unconsciously will, applied the example and teachings and circumstances of their home life." Susanna Wesley was the 25th of 25 children.

Susanna was educated at home, with her lessons supplemented by the intellectual atmosphere of her father's many scholarly visitors. One of these was the son of a Dissenting minister, Samuel Wesley, then a student. She and Samuel Wesley were married on 11 November 1688. Samuel was 26 and Susanna was 19. Samuel was Anglican cleric and poet. Susanna and Samuel Wesley had 19 children. At her death, only eight of her children were still alive.

Susanna experienced many hardships throughout her life. Once, when her husband was absent, he asked her to stop leading a Bible study that was larger in attendance than the church service, she responded: "If after all this you think fit to dissolve this assembly, do not tell me you desire me to do it, for that will not satisfy my conscience; but send your positive command in such full and express terms as may absolve me from all guilt and punishment for neglecting this opportunity for doing good when you and I shall appear before the great and awful tribunal of our Lord Jesus Christ." To her absent husband, she also wrote:

I am a woman, but I am also the mistress of a large family. And though the superior charge of the souls contained in it lies upon you, yet in your long absence I cannot but look upon every soul you leave under my charge as a talent committed to me under a trust. I am not a man nor a minister, yet as a mother and a mistress I felt I ought to do more than I had yet done. I resolved to begin with my own children; in which I observe the following method: I take such a proportion of time as I can spare every night to discourse with each child apart. On Monday I talk with Molly, on Tuesday with Hetty, Wednesday with Nancy, Thursday with Jacky, Friday with Patty, Saturday with Charles.

She was the primary source of her children's education. "Under no circumstances were the children permitted to have any lessons until they had reached their fifth year, but the day after their fifth birthday their formal education began. They attended classes for six hours and on the very first day they were supposed to learn the whole of the alphabet. All her children except two managed this feat, and these seemed to Susanna to be very backward." Susannah, who knew Greek, Latin, and French, methodically taught them for six hours. "The children got a good education. Daughters included, were well tutored in the classical studies that were traditional in England at that time."

She worked the gardens, milked the cow, schooled the children and managed the entire house herself. So, she decided to instead give the Lord two hours a day in prayer! She struggled to find a secret place to get away with Him. So, she advised her children that when they saw her with her apron over her head, that meant she was in prayer and couldn't be disturbed. She was devoted to her walk with Christ, praying for her children and knowledge in the Word no matter how hard life was. Is it any wonder with a mother that used a such a method her children would become "methodists?"

Rev. John Wesley

BIRTH: 17 Jun 1703 in Epworth, North Lincolnshire Unitary Authority, Lincolnshire, England

DEATH 2 Mar 1791 in London, England

BURIAL: Wesley's Chapel, London Borough of Islington, Greater London, England

John Wesley was a minister in the church of England and theologian who, with his brother Charles and fellow clergymen, founded Methodism. Educated at Charterhouse School and Christ Church, Oxford, Wesley was elected a fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford in 1726 and ordained as an Anglican priest two years later. He led the "Holy Club", a society formed for the purpose of study and the pursuit of a devout Christian life; it had been founded by his brother Charles and counted George Whitefield among its members.

Following his father's death in April 1735, John was persuaded by an Oxford friend, John Burton, and Col. James Oglethorpe, governor of the colony of Georgia in North America, to oversee the spiritual lives of the colonists and to lead a mission to the native Americans as an agent for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. Accompanied by Charles, who was ordained for this mission, John was introduced to some Moravian emigrants, during a storm at sea, who appeared to him to possess the spiritual peace for which he had been searching. The mission to the Indians proved unsuccessful, nor did Wesley succeed in love life or with most of his flock. John returned to London and attended a religious society led by Moravian Christians. On 24 May 1738 he experienced his "heart strangely warmed." Wesley taught that each person has human freedom in the context of God's grace that runs before them; preparing the way. We can either accept Christ or reject Him - and our eternal destiny depends upon our free response to God's offer of salvation and are honoring of that responsive covenant with our actions.

George Whitefield influenced Wesley to travel from place to place and preach outdoors. Moving across Great Britain and Ireland, he helped form and organize small Christian groups that developed intensive and personal accountability, discipleship and religious instruction. Most importantly, he appointed itinerant, lay speakers to travel and preach as he did and to care for these groups of people. Under Wesley's direction, Methodists became leaders in many social issues of the day, including prison reform and the abolition of slavery. Wesley's followers first met in private home "societies." When these societies became too large for members to care for one another, Wesley organized "classes," each with 11 members and a leader. Classes met weekly to pray, read the Bible, discuss their spiritual lives, and to collect money for charity. Men and women met separately, but anyone could become a class leader.

Wesley then organized his followers into a "connection," and a number of societies into a "circuit" under the leadership of a "superintendent." Periodic meetings of Methodist clergy and lay preachers eventually evolved into the "annual conference," where those who were to serve each circuit were appointed, usually for three-year terms. Over his life time Wesley traveled about quarter of million miles via horse and preached 40,000 sermons.

Wesley emphasized two qualities: holiness and happiness. Wesley defined holiness, not as achieving sinless perfection, but as having one's heart fully fixed on God, setting aside all other affections. He often said that the mission of Methodism was to "spread scriptural holiness throughout the land."

For Wesley, the impact of the Christian life was never to stop within the body of believers, however joyful its fellowship. From his Holy Club days at Oxford through to the end of his life, he insisted on the importance of works of mercy. While not a doctor he wrote a book called "*The Primitive Physick*" a medical handbook for the everyday man and started clinics for the poor. He and his fellow Oxford Methodists gave significant portions of their income to minister to the poor and spent much time ministering to condemned prisoners. By the close of the nineteenth century, the Salvation Army, a Wesleyan denomination, was doing more for the poor in America than any other group. The Seventh Day Adventists, the Nazarenes, the Pentecostals are all grounded in the Methodist tradition, as well as Goodwill. Their impact has been profound.

Wesley's passion for education. Wesley encouraged early Methodist societies to sponsor school primary. He wrote and provided copies of educational materials for educational institutions under his care, Kingswood School-Bath being the primary. Wesley insisted all his preachers read, and he equipped each of them to sell the books produced by the massive Methodist publishing enterprise—is reflected in many American colleges and universities. This focus on education also transformed the church itself, through the agency of the Sunday School—an institution that owed much of its nineteenth-century dominance and modern shape to such Methodist leaders as John Heyl Vincent, founder of Chautauqua. Wesley's intellectual interests included a lifelong engagement with the ideas and activities of scientists of his day. He encouraged his preachers to become conversant with science, incorporated scientific topics in his sermons and other writings.

Last, but decidedly not least, the richly theological hymns of John's brother Charles, and the later compositions of Wesleyan hymn writer Fanny Crosby, continue to enrich the hymnals of churches far beyond the bounds of Methodism. In these and many other ways, John Wesley changed the United States—and the world. We would be poorer had John Wesley not lived.

Bishop William McKendree

BIRTH: 6 Jul 1757 in King William County, Virginia, USA

DEATH 5 Mar 1835 in Fountain Head, Sumner County, Tennessee, USA

BURIAL: Old Fountain Head Cemetery, Sumner County, Tennessee, USA

William McKendree was the fourth person elected Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the first Methodist bishop born in the United States. He was elected in 1808.

William was born in King William County, Virginia, the son of John and Mary McKendree. His parents were both of Scottish ancestry. As a young man, McKendree served in the Virginia militia during the American Revolutionary War. He entered the ranks as a private, but eventually served as an adjutant in the commissary department. He was present at the siege of Yorktown and the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. After the war, he returned to private life.

William was converted to Christ in 1787. Shortly thereafter he began conversing with his friends on the subject of the Christian faith and making them the subjects of his fervent prayers. He soon volunteered to take part in public religious meetings, and his addresses produced a powerful effect.

In 1788, while living in Brunswick County, Virginia, William was received on trial into the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Unusually, he was admitted without first obtaining a License to Preach and without anyone's recommendation. Bishop Francis Asbury appointed him as junior preacher to Mecklenburg circuit and he served for several years on neighboring circuits.

The Rev. McKendree continued as an itinerant preacher until November 1792, when, having been influenced by James O'Kelly to join in certain measures of pretended reform, he was greatly disappointed by their failure at the General Conference. Mr. O'Kelly withdrew from the M.E. Church. Mr. McKendree, sympathizing with him, sent in his resignation as a minister. But the Conference agreed that he might still preach among the Methodist societies.

Rev. McKendree soon obtained leave to travel with Bishop Asbury, that he might ascertain for himself whether his impressions had been well founded. In a short time, he was convinced he had been deceived. He therefore devoted himself to a careful examination of the Rules and Discipline of the Church as drawn up by John Wesley, and as established by the General Conference in the U.S.A. McKendree became fully convinced both of their harmony with the primitive church and of their particular adaptedness to the circumstances and wants of this nation.

In 1793 the Rev. McKendree was sent to South Carolina, but returned the next year. For the next three years, his circuit was vast—extending from Chesapeake Bay to the Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains. In 1796 he became Presiding Elder. In 1798 he was appointed to the Baltimore conference, and in 1800 he went with Bishop Asbury and Bishop Richard Whatcoat to the Western Conference, which met that year at Bethel, Kentucky.

Rev. McKendree was appointed the Presiding Elder of the Kentucky-Holston District, 1800-01. In 1801, the conference sent McKendree to oversee the church's efforts in Southeastern Ohio, Kentucky,

Tennessee, and western Virginia and part of Illinois. He subsequently became Presiding Elder on the Cumberland District. He served as a circuit preacher in addition to his organizational efforts, becoming a respected figure in the region. He was the leader of the Great Revival in the West.

The Rev. William McKendree became widely know and most highly esteemed because of his popular talents in the pulpit and his faithful attention to every part of his work. Consequently, the 1808 General Conference of the M.E. Church, meeting in Baltimore, elected him to the office of Bishop. Indeed, when called to preach before the General Conference, such was the power and unction connected with his sermon, that Bishop Asbury was quoted as having said at its close, "That sermon will make McKendree bishop."

From that time, then, Bishop McKendree traveled with Bishop Asbury, or alone, over every part of the Church. His first episcopal tour of 1,500 miles extended through Virginia, Tennessee, Missouri, and Illinois. After 1816 he was Senior Bishop for nineteen years.

Bishop Matthew Simpson wrote of Bishop McKendree: He was a man of great energy and genius, and was deeply pious and modest almost to timidity. His mind was clear and logical, his knowledge varied and extensive, his imagination lively but well regulated, and his eloquence was unusually powerful. He was careful in the administration of discipline, and introduced system into all the operations of the church. Bishop McKendree was considered one of the greatest Bishops of the M.E. Church.

Bishop McKendree never married. His family had moved to Sumner County, Tennessee about 1810. So, when the bishop was not traveling, he also called that area home. He died 5 March 1835 at the home of his brother, Dr. James McKendree, in Sumner County near Nashville. One of his last expressions was said to have been, "All is well."

Rev. John Scripps

BIRTH 26 Aug 1785 in London, England

DEATH 26 Jul 1865 in Rushville, Schuyler County, Illinois, USA

BURIAL Rushville City Cemetery, Rushville, Schuyler County, Illinois, USA

Rev. John Scripps was born in London, England, August 26, 1785; he was self-educated; a man of steadfast will and drive. His early vocation was aimed at becoming a tanner. However, he became a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church. When he was 24 Rev. Scripps moved with his family to Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The first known Methodist sermon in Cape Girardeau was in 1809 in house of John's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Scripps, by Samuel Parker the presiding elder of the Indiana District. As early as 1812 he had been given a license to preach, and in the fall of 1814, he had been appointed by the Presiding Elder of Illinois to travel the circuit while the ministers went to conference. Without his knowledge his name was presented to the conference, and he was assigned to the Indiana circuit.

The following year he was transferred to Illinois, and one of his stations was Kaskaskia, afterwards the first capital of the State. In 1816 his circuit covered a portion of Missouri, and to him belongs the honor of holding the first Methodist service within the city limits of St. Louis. There was no church in the city and the meeting was held in an old dilapidated log building used as court house, legislative hall and theater. There, amid the rude scenery of the theater, he preached to a large audience comprising the entire American population. 1817 he began the church in Boonville. In later years he traveled a circuit in Arkansas, and in 1823 returned to the St. Louis circuit. In the years 1820 and 1824 he was a member of the General Conferences. He served as conference secretary for at least twelve. A colleague wrote, "I cannot well pass the name of brother Scripps without digressing long enough to record my recollections of his peculiarities and excellencies. He was by birth an Englishman. As a minister of the Gospel he was emphatically a Methodist, everything being done after the strictest method. When he started around a new circuit he would copy into his hand-book a complete list of the members of the Church, writing the names of the females with red ink and of the males with black ink. He would also map out on his hand-book the route from appointment to appointment, so that every crossroad or fork of the road were indicated. At each visit to each appointment he revised and perfected the class-book, making it and his own correspond, and when he left a circuit he left to his successor complete information in regard to every interest of the Church. He was once, if not oftener, a delegate to the General Conference, small in stature, but large in intellect, and valuable in labors." The Methodist Conference in Illinois was not formed until 1824, and Rev. Scripps continued a member of the Missouri Conference until the division of the church in 1845. Refusing to go South with his conference, he was transferred to the Illinois Conference in 1846 and placed on the superannuated list.

Rev. James Leaton, in writing of Rev. Scripps in Rushville, says: "The coming of such a man and Christian minister into the young society at Rushville was hailed as a providence; God's hand was seen and recognized in it. His long experience in the itinerancy, his intimate acquaintance with the working of Methodism, his personal acquaintance with the ministry, and his influence with the Bishops pre-eminently fitted him for a counselor and leader in the young society. How much he loved, how wisely he planned, and how well he built, is attested by the permanent and efficient character of the church today."

Rev. Scripps edited and published, in Rushville, The Prairie Telegraph newspaper. The Scripps Family imparted to their descendants a talent for journalism, reflected in many prosperous Scripps newspapers and the founding of the United Press Associations by Rushville native Edward W. Scripps.

Married on November 25, 1824, at Corrieville, Il., to Agnes Corrie, who was born at Kirkcudbright, Scotland, June 13, 1800; settled in Rushville, Il., in July, 1831; died there July 26, 1865.