The Windows of the Missouri United Methodist Church

A pictorial survey prepared in commemoration of the Bicentennial of Methodism in the United States.
Symbols of the North Windows
Themes of the Old Testament

Creation
Sin and Sacrifice

The Jewish Temple
The Twelve Minor Prophets
The Methodist Historical Window
The stained glass windows of Missouri United Methodist Church were installed at the completion of the church in 1929. The windows were designed by Dr. Marion Nelson Waldrip and executed by the Jacoby Studios in St. Louis, Missouri. In the design and symbolism of the windows, Dr. Waldrip developed a thematic representation of creation, sin and salvation as told in the Bible. The northside of the church outlines the Old Testament and the southside depicts the New Testament.

The Methodism Window in the west wall of the sanctuary contains portraits of the major figures of Methodist history. The figures in the window are, from left to right: Francis Asbury — first U.S. Bishop, consecrated at Baltimore in 1784. The symbols at the top are: The Open Bible; and Lovely Lane Chapel, Baltimore, where the Christmas Conference convened December 24, 1784, thus forming the organization of American Methodism. The symbols at the bottom are: Bishop Asbury (1745-1816) on horseback, traveling more than 250,000 miles in 45 years; the Trumpets, symbolic of the gospel call.

Susanna — mother of the Wesleys, and of world-wide Methodism. The symbols at the top are: The Seal of Queen's College, Oxford; and the Seal of Charterhouse School, London, attended by the Wesleys. The symbols at the bottom are: The Coat of Arms of the Wesley Family; and Epworth Rectory where the Wesleys were born and reared.

John Wesley (1703-91) Organizer of the Methodist movement. The symbols at the top are: The Official Seal of John Wesley; and the Seal of Lincoln College, Oxford, where John Wesley taught. The symbols at the bottom are: The Oxford University seal, "Methodism was born in this University"; and the Bishop of Oxford's seal, who ordained John and Charles Wesley.

Charles Wesley (1707-88) — is best remembered for his 6,500 hymns. The symbols at the top are: Angel and Scroll, symbol of music; and Christ Church College seal, Oxford, where John and Charles were students. The symbols at the bottom are: The Harp, symbol of Wesleyan stress upon music; and a shield with cross, symbolic of Methodist militancy for the Gospel.

Barbara Heck (1734-1804) — persuaded Philip Embury to preach the first Methodist sermon in 1766. The symbols at the top are: The Saw and the Sword, peace-war symbol. The symbols at the bottom are: The Scissors and Staff, reminder of the role of women in Methodism; and a Clock set at the hour Barbara Heck broke up a card game in New York.

Bishop William McKendree (1757-1835) — first American born Methodist Bishop saw Methodism cross the Mississippi. The symbols at the top are: The Conference Bible, lamp and gavel; and the Circuit riders' saddlebags. The symbols at the bottom are: Typical circuit rider at a river, carrying the Gospel to the frontier; and Historic McKendree Chapel (1806) the first Methodist Church and the oldest Protestant Church still standing west of the Mississippi River, located near Jackson, Missouri.

North Transcept Window
The north Transcept window shows the four major prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, with Moses in the middle. The Star of David at the top, Mount Sinai above Moses' head, and the Torah in Moses' hands dominate the window. The depiction of Moses in the bulrushes continues the theme in the window located below the balcony. (Shown center back cover)

South Transcept Window
The New Testament window in the south Transcept focuses on the Christ figure in the center, with Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John shown on either side of him. The dove of the Holy Spirit descends from the peak of the window. The traditional symbols of the Gospels and the lamb carrying the victory banner with the seven seals, all representing the victory of Christ over evil and death, are found in the window below the balcony. (Shown bottom back cover)
The Incarnation

Themes of the New Testament

Sacrifice and Salvation

The Christian Church

The Disciples
Symbols of the South Windows
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Sources of the text: A Cathedral Church Completes 50 Years, Harold F. Breimyer, History of the Missouri Methodist Church, Frank F. Stephens, and The Windows of Missouri United Methodist Church. Carol Rexrod, are available in the Church library located in the Media Center.