Summer of 1959 opened with extremely hot weather and very little cooling breeze. Amid the toil and sweat and much physical strength St. Phillips Methodist Church began to develop into a full fledged congregation. Within a few short months the congregation increased from 34 to 60 members. The majority of these new members were received into full fellowship due to personal evangelism, not only on the part of the pastor, but also on the part of many of the men of the church who agreed to sponsor a campaign of two-by-two home visitation teams. Two evenings each week were designated as "Visitation Night" and from 7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. no less than a dozen men actively covered pre-specified areas of the community.

Having functioned under the ruling body of a steering committee for the first three months of its life, St. Phillips now had grown to the point where it was thought advisable to reorganize the congregation into a self-supporting group of Methodists and Dr. Lester Rumble announced that the first Quarterly Conference of St. Phillips would be held on June 22, 1959. Everyone eagerly awaited this date and when it did arrive every family of the church was represented. Interest ran high and after the Nominating Committee brought out the names of persons whom it had considered to fill all the positions of responsibility and leadership for the new church year each party was contacted and advised of the job to be done and its entailing responsibility. There were no excuses or declinations from anyone. There existed the attitude of humble thanksgiving on the part of all that they were even considered worthy to handle the task apportioned them.

Various committees were organized and their leadership established with perfect harmony in every committee. Many of the people actually asked that they be permitted to serve on a committee in which they were particularly interested. From the Church Lay Leader, who stands second to the Pastor, down to the Youth Directors for the M.Y.F., everyone was willing and anxious to get on with the work at hand.
The Sunday School Department was re-organized under the leadership of Mr. H. R. Gresham as Superintendent and it was soon discovered that more age groups were evident than we had space provided for them. The Adult Class relieved the pressure by announcing they would meet in the tabernacle and thus the old farm house could be used by the children. The nursery teachers began collecting toys, cribs, strollers, swings, and the like, for the wee tots and after a concerted appeal to the church ladies more articles were collected than could be used and the appeal was brought to a close. Play pens were needed so the W.S.C.S. decided to use their "S. & H. Green Stamps" to secure these items. Enough "stamps" were collected to assure the purchase of three pens.

Two special youth size church school tables were needed along with twenty-five regular Primary chairs so the wheels of action began to move. The ladies made aprons and "rag monkeys" which they sold and as result of their efforts enough money was at hand to buy four tables or a new table with its compliment of chairs for each of the underclass children rooms.

The Adult Class asked for the privilege of furnishing the first Holy Communion Service for St. Phillips and this was purchased and is used each first Sunday. The M.Y.F. asked for permission to furnish the Baptismal Bowl and this was paid for through their efforts such as car washes, donut sales, and the like.

Fellowship is important in the growth of any organization and St. Phillips set about to provide fine wholesome recreation for the people of its community. In July 1959 St. Phillips invited the members of Calvary Presbyterian Church--another new congregation formed about the same time as the Methodist group--who are across the street from the Methodist Church--to jointly enter a contest of games, supper, fellowship, and the like. They accepted the invitation and over 150 people gathered for the two hours of fun and friendship.
The youth of the church were carried to a nearby beach for a Saturday all-day outing with picnic, swimming, boating, and all that goes to make up a fine outing. This was at Carrollton, Georgia during August.

The Trustees were very active during the summer months with improvements to the buildings and grounds. An old home-place foundation on the premises proved to be an eye sore so it was removed with the help of a borrowed bulldozer, scrape, etc., and two unsightly barns were removed from the area. In spite of all these changes the group of guineas which had only recently been dispossessed of their roost still remained cautiously at a distance and shouted their protest at these strange developments, but like a mighty army that seems to be in need of reinforcements when the battle rages, the guinea flock had also increased during the summer. Twenty-five guinea chicks could be counted along with the old hens and cocks of the group and they too seemed to sense the fact of intrusion upon their privacy. Their high pitched shrill of "pot-rack, pot-rack" filled the air and attracted much attention from the people at work.

Fall is at hand and comes the time of Revival Meetings. Dr. Claud M. Haynes, the newly appointed Executive Director of Methodist Church Extension in the North Georgia Conference, agreed to serve as guest evangelist for the first series of meetings to begin September 27 through October 4th. Preparation was set up to quickly cover every phase of solicitation of the people in the community. Once again the Committee on Membership and Evangelism went into action. Visitation teams worked every night in house-to-house visits extending a personal invitation to all who would visit St. Phillips during the week of Revival. Over 1000 handbills were distributed either by hand or by mail. Every church in the Cobb County area was furnished poster material for their bulletin boards. The ladies were organized into telephone brigades and covered the entire Smyrna, Ga. area
in their invitation to all to attend the revival meetings. The capstone of the campaign was a giant motorcade on Saturday, September 26, when every member of St. Phillips Methodist Church furnished a gayly decorated automobile with huge signs on each side advertising the meetings. This motorcade traversed every street and road within a radius of two miles of the church and attracted considerable interest. Special nights were designated during the meetings such as Tillman Church night, and Fair Oaks Church night, Youth Night, and the like. Special guests each evening furnished solos, and special music. Dr. Haynes delivered wonderful messages throughout the week. We feel certain that the effects of his efforts in this the first revival series will be long felt.

Fall is a time of constant change and often that change is so abrupt as to be almost startling. Bad weather and cold breezes strike a chill almost overnight. The little tabernacle used quite comfortably through the Summer must now be enclosed and heated. The men of the church are busy at the job of creating a comfortable worship center that may possibly carry its members through the winter.

Plans for a permanent church unit have been drawn by Bothwell & Nash Architects of Marietta and have been approved by the church congregation and the Methodist Mission Board, from whom much of the finance of the new unit must come. It is the desire of all concerned with the erection of a permanent fellowship hall-church school building that this new unit be ready for occupancy at the earliest possible moment—perhaps by March 1, 1960. Much of the money for this construction will come through Advance Specials held in the many local church organizations this year. The Mission Board is being asked for a loan and gratuity, and two of the larger and stronger Atlanta congregations agreed to "mother" St. Phillips Methodist Church to the extent of a sizeable contribution over a three-year period. Those churches are Peachtree Road and First Methodist Church of Atlanta.

With God's help and much prayer and hard work St. Phillips Methodist church should soon be on its own footing.