Tillman Memorial Methodist Church, located on Concord Road Smyrna, Georgia in Cobb County, was organized February 21, 1954. The Concord Road home of Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Ruff, Sr. was the scene of the organizational meeting and served as the meeting place for the newly formed church for six weeks.

This church was started on its own initiative, to meet the needs of a fast growing community of 450 new homes (today the figure is more than 1000 homes). The challenge was a great one and was recognized by Dr. J.W.O. McKibben, who worked tirelessly with the local church. During the initial period the following persons were elected and appointed to serve as church officials. Trustees: James L. Darby, T.J. Peck, Joe Reynolds, R.L. Ruff, Sr., and Tate N. Wright. James L. Darby was church treasurer; Tate N. Wright was chairman of the Official Board; Mrs. R.L. Ruff, Sr. was pianist and choir director; R.L. Ruff, Sr. was Church School Superintendent with T.J. Peck serving as assistant superintendent. All members over eighteen years of age served on the Official Board.

Tillman Memorial was named in honor of Rev. Charlie D. Tillman, noted singing evangelist, who greatly inspired and influenced this section of Cobb County. This church is actually a revival of the old Tillman Chapel, which was abandoned in the 1930's due to the depression and the subsequent closing of a local cotton mill.

A lot of approximately three acres, two buildings, a ten room residence and a garage, were purchased from the G.B. Brown estate in March of 1954 for $11,500.00.

Also in March the church called W. Hugh Cauthen to serve as pastor. Rev. Cauthen has been Tillman's only pastor, having served with Dr. J.W.O. McKibben, until 1957, and with Dr. Lester Rumble during the past year.

During the early days of Tillman Church the charter members completely remodeled the old residence on the property they had purchased, without hiring any outside help. This remodeled building was used as the church for three years and three months. The men of the church tore down the old garage and built a two room chapel at the rear of the original building, in the spring of 1955, at a cost of $2,000.00.

Ground was broken for the new educational building on February 17, 1957. This building, with a large assembly room (which now serves as the sanctuary), pastor's study, four class rooms, nursery, and two rest rooms, was completed in June 1957 at a cost of $27,800.00. The first worship services in this building were held July 7, 1957.

The parsonage was purchased in 1957 for $7,750.00. The property, adjoining the church grounds, is valued at $9,500.00. The church does not own the parsonage furnishings, but the value of the furnishings of the other buildings is estimated at $8,000.00.
All deeds contain the Trust Clause and all deeds and records are kept in the vault of The Bank Of Smyrna.

There have been many memorable days and activities for Tillman Memorial. July 7, 1957 will be long remembered, as will July 21 of 1957; the day for dedication of memorials in the new building. October 6, 1957 was the date of the lakeside Galilean Service, which attracted worshipers from surrounding towns and counties. Every year at the holy Christmas season a program has been given. In 1957 an outdoor Christmas pageant was given for five nights, portraying the birth of Jesus Christ.

Also outstanding, in the minds and hearts of Tillman's members and friends, are the five revivals that have blessed and enriched the church. The first revival, led by Rev. Neal Windam, was in 1954. In 1955 two revivals were held; one preached by Rev. L.E. Latham and one by the pastor, Rev. W. Hugh Cauthen. Rev. Fred Van Landingham led the 1956 revival, while Rev. Charles Buice, in 1957, led a highly successful revival.

Two pastors have gone out from Tillman Memorial to serve other churches. Rev. Calvin R. Ward, Jr. serves as an associate pastor on the Holly Springs Charge. Rev. Ward is beginning his fourth year as pastor to three churches; Fields Chapel, Lebanon and Big Springs. Rev. A. Roscoe Hutchins, beginning his second year on the same charge, is also an associate pastor serving Shilo Methodist Church.

The Sunday School has organized in April 1954 with four classes in the children's division, two in the youth division and one in the adult division. During the first year attendance increased 25%. Total membership the first year was 95 while at the end of the 1957-58 year the enrollment is 352, with 251 as the record attendance for any one Sunday. There are now five classes in the children's division; three in the youth division, and three in the adult division.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized May 26, 1954 with Mrs. R.L. Ruff, Sr. elected as first president. No exact count of charter members is available, but the present active membership is 25 with a total of $544.50 given for all causes in the 1957-58 year.

May of 1954 also the organizational date for the Methodist Men's Club. H.E. Fuller served as first president. The Methodist Men and the W.S.C.S. have spearheaded numerous programs of improvement and work cooperatively for the betterment of all phases of church and community life.

The total paid from February 1954 through July 1954 was $17,402.00. This included the amounts paid for building and property. In 1957-58 the total expenditures were $13,796.00.

The present membership of Tillman Memorial Church is 219 full members with 55 on the preparatory roll.
The roll formulated in August of 1954 lists the following forty-nine persons as Charter Members of Tillman Memorial Church.

R.L. Ruff, Sr.
Mrs. R.L. Ruff, Sr.
Vicki Lucille Ruff
Rex L. Ruff, Jr.
Tate N. Wright
Mrs. Tate N. Wright
T.J. Peck
Mrs. T.J. Peck
Mrs. R.E. Ruff
J.L. Reynolds
Mrs. J.L. Reynolds
Vera Nell Davis
Mrs. Hollis Dunton
James L. Darby
Mrs. James L. Darby
R.H. White
Mrs. R.H. White
Milo McDaniel
Mrs. Milo McDaniel
B.H. Curtis
Mrs. B.H. Curtis
J.G. Alexander
Mrs. J.G. Alexander
Mrs. L.A. Shankles
Mrs. Lloyd B. Faulkner
Colin J. Coker
Mrs. Colin J. Coker
Henry F. Allen
Mrs. Henry F. Allen
Mrs. Harvey D. Adams
W. Hugh Cauthen
Mrs. W. Hugh Cauthen
H.E. Fuller
Mrs. H.E. Fuller
C.G. Beverly
Mrs. C.G. Beverly
Gray G. Fleming
Mrs. Joe Barnes
J.R. Pendergrass
Mrs. J.R. Pendergrass
W.T. Ellis
Mrs. W.T. Ellis
Mrs. G.W. Marchman
A.J. Ledbetter
Mrs. A.J. Ledbetter
Douglas Curtis
Robert Curtis
D.W. Haygood
Mrs. D.W. Haygood

Mrs. Elbert L. Fields, Jr., Historian
TILLMAN MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

Information obtained from church records, Mrs. R.L. Ruff, Sr., T.J. Peck, and Rev. W. Hugh Cauthen