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Mount Evergreen Methodist Church (Toenail)

County Road 244 at County Road 956, Iuka, Mississippi 38852
Directions: Just off Eastport Road

Back in 1918 after Bennett's Chapel School House was built, ministers of every denomination from the Primitive Baptists to the snake-handling "holy rollers" preached at the church. Teachings and doctrine became so confused that R. L. Roler, Billie Sanders, and John Grissom, as trustees of the school, met with Bro. Will Phillips to discuss having a gospel meeting in the vicinity. Bro. Phillips went to Bennett's Chapel and held three to four days and nights of revival services. After the last sermon was given, a vote was taken on whether or not it was feasible to organize a Methodist church in the community. The families got together and began having box suppers, egg hunts, and ice cream suppers to raise money for a church building. Mrs. John Grissom and Mrs. R. L. Roler visited most every house in the community and obtained a hen. With these efforts, a church fund was started. The Mount Evergreen Methodist Church was organized in the summer of 1920 during the meeting that was held in the old Bennett's Chapel School House by Bro. Will Phillips.

Money came in exceedingly slow, but the fund-raising efforts continued. On December 3, 1921, R. L. Roler paid J. C. Jourdan \$106.36; on January 4, 1922, the Iuka Lumber Company was paid \$45.00; and on February 12, 1922, a \$200 bill was paid. After those initial payments, the church construction was paid as it was built and no credit was needed.

Although the church building's construction was not completed, a dedication service was held on the first Sunday in April 1921. Bro. Jaco assisted by District Superintendent Bro. W. L. Robinson and Bro. J. H. Holder dedicated the building to the Lord. The building was completed soon afterwards and stood until the spring of 1945.

The second church facility was built in 1948 when Bro. J. H. Holder was the pastor. It was dedicated at 9:30 a.m. on May 19, 1951. Bishop Franklin and District Superintendent W. L. Robinson, along with Bro. J. H. Holder and Bro. Jaco, were at the dedication service. Trustees in December 1951 were Sam Brown, Bobbie B., and Frank Williams. The third church building was constructed in 1965-1966 when Bro. Jodie Morris was pastor.

Some former pastors at Mount Evergreen were:

Pastor	Date
Bro. Will Phillips	1920
Bro. William Ray	
Bro. Shores	
Bro. E. P. Craddock	
Bro. Jim Nelson	
Bro. L. P. Jumper	1935
Bro. A. C. Bishop	1939
Bro. M. N. Hamill	1940

Note: The information above was obtained from a letter written on May 14, 1959, from Mr. R. L. Roler of Tuscumbia, Alabama, to Mrs. Frank Williams in Iuka. The letter was on Mr. Roler's letterhead as follows: R. L. Roler, Carpenter and Contractor, 405 N. Milton Street, Tuscumbia, Alabama. A photocopy can be found in the historic County courthouse's John Marshall Stone Research Library.