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Up	<h2>MOUNTAIN WEST HISTORY</h2>
Weekly Schedule	<i>1959-2005</i>
Worship	<p>The story of the Mountain West Church of God can best be told in terms of faithfulness: faithful people participating in a plan of ministry given and sustained by a faithful God. Receiving direction and assistance from the mother church, Avondale Estates Church of God, an infant church was established in May of 1959. Twenty-nine people first met in the home of Thomas and Betty Mize. Under the leadership of Pastor Clyde Hannah, a church building located on one of the main thoroughfares of Tucker was soon acquired. As the vision grew, a new sanctuary was added to the existing building. In 1974 a completely new church structure was built on Hugh Howell Road in Stone Mountain, and the Tucker Church of God became the Mountain West Church of God. The first service was held on December 24, 1974 with Pastor Hannah presiding.</p> <p>In February of 1979 the church was nearly destroyed by fire. Pastor Mike Lawson, who had arrived six months earlier, summed up the attitude of the Mountain West family: "We are going to build the church back. We will take it a day at a time and do as much as we can until it is rebuilt and we can once again worship there." On November 25, 1979 that faith statement became visible reality as a faithful congregation celebrated a miracle and</p>
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dedicated their newly rebuilt facility to a faithful God.

Pastor Donnie Smith became a part of the Mountain West story in September 1981. Under his ministry the church again expanded its facilities by construction of a Family Life Center which was completed on October 10, 1985. During Pastor Smith's thirteen year tenure, the church experienced numerical growth and a vision for outreach ministries which is continuing to impact upon congregational life.

In recent years Mountain West has had two pastoral changes. Pastor Harold Jones served a one year tenure which ended in August of 1995, and on September 11, 1995, Pastor Ron Harvard arrived. Under his leadership, a plan for revitalization was established. It was determined that Acts 2:42-47 should serve as a foundation for understanding God's plan for the body of Christ. That decision has provided the impetus for Mountain West to transition into a style of ministry that can best be described as Spirit formed, purpose driven, and seeker friendly.

As can be seen, the Mountain West story cannot be told with finality: it is a work in progress. In May of 1959 twenty-nine people began a journey. Today, six are still active members: Sybil Bryant, Bertha Dixon, Louis Hoffman, Wilma Meeks, Ann Price, and Mae Vigneault. As the challenges of the twenty-first century take shape, a renewal of the original vision is coming into focus: God is

continuing what he started. Lives are being impacted as present participants in the journey add their contribution to the foundation which was laid by those twenty-nine people in 1959.

You are invited to become part of that family...