

The Heart of the Story

WEEK OF MAY 4, 2015

ACTS 2:14-47

The Church...Then & Now

As I read our scripture passage found in Acts, I couldn't help but wonder if today's church is what God intended it to be.

According to His Word, have we missed the mark? By today's standards, a successful church is often times based on size of its life center, beauty of facility, number of members and how much money is in the offering plate each week. At times it's hard to tell a church from a club with a good cause..

Acts 2:42-47 perfectly describes what a church is & from that we can decipher the difference.

- A club uses its funds to better itself; a church to help others!

"They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need."(vs.45)

- A club advertises to

attract members; a church only needs to proclaim the Good News to increase its size.

"And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved." (vs.47b)

- Club members are loyal cheerleaders of their cause; church members are devoted to His cause!

"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer." (vs.42)

- A club is selective of its members; the church is for all called by the Lord.

"This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God." (vs. 39)

Jesus told Peter that he would be the rock upon which He built His church (Matt. 16:18). I find it so amazing that in turn Peter refers to us believers as the living stones that God is building into a spiritual temple (1 Peter 2:5). As followers of Christ, it is up to you and I to ensure that our churches are more than clubs with a good cause, but that they are truly vessels of His spirit!

"...for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

The Greek meaning of Church? Called Out! We are each called to be His church—His vessel of love and hope!

Inside Story Headline



Caption describing picture or graphic.

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be

used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an edi-

torial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

Inside Story Headline



Caption describing picture or graphic.

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask your-

self if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several

tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.

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GUMC CEC

Primary Business Address

Your Address Line 2

Your Address Line 3

Your Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-5555

Fax: 555-555-5555

E-mail: someone@example.com

Your business tag line here.

This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.



Back Page Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include

a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual

charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.



Caption describing picture or graphic.