VI. The Church Comes to Life

 A. The beginning of the church

 1. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus

 2. Jesus called people to be His disciples - Matt. 4:19, John 8:12

 3. Jesus taught His disciples and sent them as witness into the whole world

 4. The Holy Spirit was poured out onto Jesus’ believers on the day of Pentecost; we will call this the birthday of the church

1 B. The nature of the church - What is the church?

 1. A special people for God - I Peter 2:9-10

 a. Chosen generation

 b. Royal priesthood

 c. Holy nation

 d. A people who belong to God

 2. A holy temple, the habitation of God - Eph. 2:21,22

 3. Body of Christ - Eph. 1:22-23, 6:29-30

 4. Definition in summary - The church is the community of people who have responded to Christ’s call, been redeemed by His work, and live in renewed harmony with God

 C. The work of the church - What is the church to do? Glorify God

 1. Share the good news - Matt. 28:18-20

 2. Be Christ’s representatives on earth - II Cor. 5:19-20

 3. Grow in Christ’s image together - Eph. 4:12-16

 **Key Thought**

 **The church is the community of people who have responded to Christ’s call, been redeemed by His work, and live in renewed harmony with God. They bring glory to God by sharing His light with and by growing together in the image of Christ.**