

Helpful Tools for Building (Free and Inexpensive) Websites

Website Creation

<http://www.anewvisionforchurches.com/> The best and most inexpensive way to get the website design that you want, with the support and assistance you need!

<http://wordpress.com/> Wordpress.com – free hosting, but limited in power and have to use “wordpress” in your name.

<http://wordpress.org/> Wordpress.org – have to purchase your own domain name, but virtually unlimited in creativity. Both are very user-friendly.

<http://wordpress.org/extend/themes/> Wordpress Free Themes Directory.

<http://www.freewpthemes.net/wordpress-themes/20> FreeWPThemes – some of these are rather good.

<http://www.scrubtheweb.com/abs/builder.html> Scrub The Web Free Meta Tag Generator – only use this app on the site. Easy to use.

<http://www.colorschemer.com/online.html> Color Schemer Online – easy way to get a good color combo for your website.

<http://www.degraeve.com/color-palette/> DeGraeve Color Palette Generator – pick a color that you like and this will make a color combination for your website.

<http://www.cssdrive.com/imagepalette/> CSSDrive – another color palette generator – this one will generate a color palette from any image.

<http://www.colorpicker.com/> Color Picker - Yet another color picker.

<http://htmledit.squarefree.com/> Real-Time HTML Editor – you’ll love to play with this one!

<http://freetextbox.com/demos/Default.aspx> Free Text Box – html editor.

<http://notepad-plus-plus.org/> Free open source html editor.

<http://www.coffeecup.com/> Good html editor. You don’t have to buy the regular editor – just use the free one.

Social Networking Tools

- <http://www.facebook.com/> Everyone and every group is here. Free.
- <http://www.youtube.com/> Famous, and free to sign up for.
- <http://www.godtube.com/> GodTube – family-friendly youtube.
- <http://www.twitter.com/> Free, as long as you can edit your comments to 140 characters.

Podcasts

- <http://www.itunes.com/> Free to sign up. Easiest way to set up your podcasts – most in your congregation will already have an account.

News and Distribution Lists

- <http://www.gmail.com/> The best email out there! Lots of free webmaster tools, and (almost) unlimited storage for your emails.
- <http://www.mailchimp.com/> The best email marketing tool. Free for up to 5000 emails per month.

Online Office Tools

- <http://www.openoffice.org/> Free open-source software – all similar to Microsoft Office.
- <http://www.docs.google.com/> Free open-source software – must have (free) gmail account.

Website Hosting and Domain Acquisition

- <http://www.godaddy.com/> One of the easy ways to buy a domain name. Don't buy any of the extras.
- <http://www.hostgator.com/> One of the very best hosting providers – need to have a moderate amount of website development knowledge.
- <http://www.anewvisionforchurches.com/> If you prefer, A New Vision is the best and one of the most inexpensive ways to purchase hosting without the need of website development knowledge.

Graphics Editors

<http://www.gimp.org/> Gimp – A free open-source image manipulation program similar to Photoshop.

<http://www.picassa.org/> Picassa is a Google product, so it's great!

<http://www.getpaint.net/> A replacement for the Paint program that is installed on your windows machine. Some additional features.

Free Graphics

<http://www.flickr.com/> Lots of free images.

<http://www.fastfreeimages.com/> Fast Free Images – More free graphics, but beware of ads.

<http://www.fci.crossnet.se/> Free Christian Images - A good site for free images, but watch out – they're not all free!

<http://www.patternhead.com/category/freebies/> PatternHead – lots of free graphics.

<http://www.creativemyk.com/> Creative MYK – free graphics of all kinds.

Fun Addons

<http://www.buttonboost.com/index.php> ButtonBoost – a good place to make custom buttons for your website.

<http://www.iconbulk.com/> IconBulk – Free icons, but full of ads.

<http://www.slide.com/> Slide – free way to make a slideshow – you can't get around the ads, but may be good practice.

<http://www.degraeve.com/favicon/> DeGraeve Favicon Generator – make your own website favicon.

<http://findicons.com/> FindIcons – lots of cool things to play with.

<http://cooltext.com/> CoolText – graphics generator.

http://www.rw-designer.com/online_icon_maker.php/ Real World Graphics – online icon maker.

<http://www.maps.google.com/> A free widget to put directions to your church on your website.

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FTP

<http://filezilla-project.org/> FileZilla - One of the best free ftp programs. Good support.

Miscellaneous

<http://www.7-zip.org/> 7 Zip – free file archiver and unzipper.

<http://download.cnet.com/windows/> CNet – good and trustworthy site for program review.

<http://www.google.com/> All sorts of cool things for websites and webmasters. Feel “free” to look around!