

Young Adults: AFF challenges & opportunities



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Slides:
bit.ly/YAFF

Prayer

Spirit of Wisdom and Truth, you guide adults emerging in a broken and uncertain world: Show them that your ways are ways of life, and that to answer your call means joy and inner freedom. Help them take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for learning and growth. Give them strength to treasure their faith in you, and to sustain their joy in your creation. *Amen.*

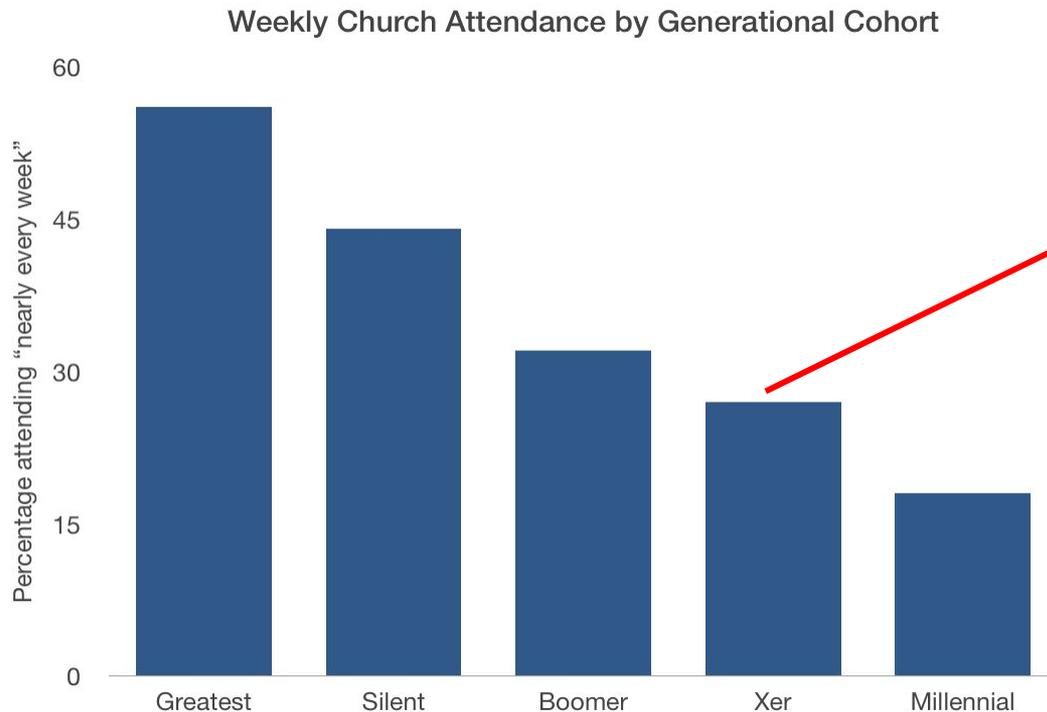
--Collect for Young Adults

(adapted from "For Young Persons," Book of Common Prayer)

Challenge: Demographics

The critical mass issue

Millennials a large cohort attending church at low rates; small subgroup in most churches



Increases in Gen X attendance in last decade remind us trends are generational *and* developmental

Data from "[Religion Among the Millennials](#)"
(Pew Research)

Opportunity: Consider moving toward regional young adult ministries, gatherings

Take a peek: [Commonplace 2014](#)



Additional Resource: [Building Young Adult Networks](#)

Opportunity: Focus on core Christian identity as denominational affiliation wanes

The spirit and direction of the church must be much more focused on basic Christian beliefs and meeting the needs of people to appeal to new members.

~[Lovett Weems, Wesley Seminary](#)

Challenge: Church Culture

The millennials' place in the boomers' church

Millennials often perceive church structures as overly hierarchical, cautious, stifling



Jonathan Melton
@JonathanMelton



Following

To choose to minister w/ young adults is to choose the tension between institution and creative forms of ministry @tombrackett #kindling14

RETWEETS

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FAVORITES

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10:35 AM - 29 Jul 2014



Additional Resource: [\(How\) Will Millennials Change the Church?](#)

Opportunity: Connect through service, asking tinkerers ‘What can we build together?’

Take a peek: [Laundry Love](#)



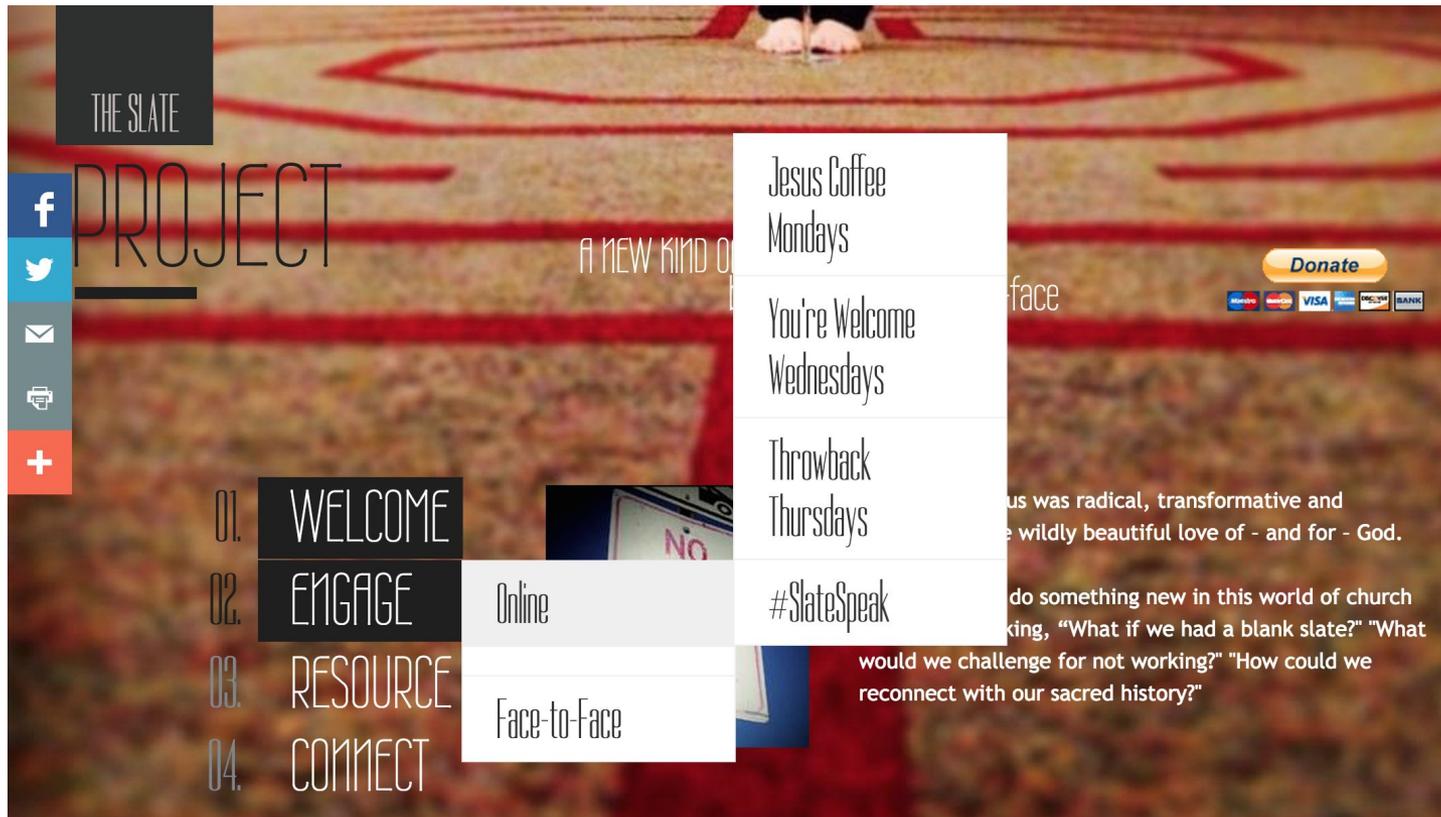
 **Laundry Love**
from **The Episcopal Church** PRO 1 year ago /   NOT YET RATED

The Rev. Jimmy Bartz of Thad's in Santa Monica, CA talks about a monthly "foot washing mission" his congregation offers.

Additional Resource: [Faith-based service programs](#)

Opportunity: Let your community form in-person and online from the start

Take a peek: [The Slate Project](#)



Additional Resource: [Hybrid faith formation chronicles](#)

Challenge: Developmental Needs

Ministry with the transient and self--focused

Millennials are still 'emerging'; many not yet ready for stable family life

Characteristics of Emerging Adulthood

1. identity exploration
2. instability (“in love, work, and place of residence”)
3. self-focus
4. feeling in-between
5. possibilities/optimism

Source: [Emerging Adulthood by Jeffrey Arnett](#)

Opportunity: Let YAFF be low-barrier place of authentic exploration; millennials are *pilgrims*

Take a peek: [St. Lydia's](#)



Additional Models: [Pub Theology/Beer & Hymns](#), [Coffee Shop Hybrids](#)

Questions & Conversation