Technology and the Parish
LCC's 2013 Pastors & Deacons Conference

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Intro to Michael

Link to "Medieval Help Desk" on Youtube.

Many of you are here today and maybe you feel like this.

Ton of questions, looking for some answers. Evident in the survey.

It is only a tool.

A tool for what?

Communication!

Over the past few decades, this has been our general model of communication.
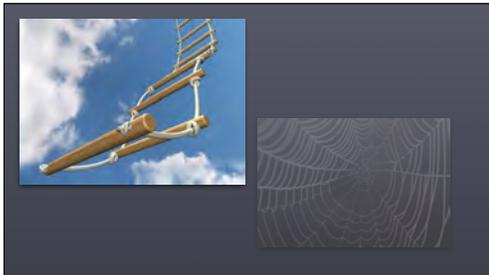
One-way
Shouting as loud as possible
Speaking to no one in particular – hard to measure actual engagement/response

Eg: Cable TV, advertising, etc.

But, this is what more communication needs to look like, and in fact all good communication does.
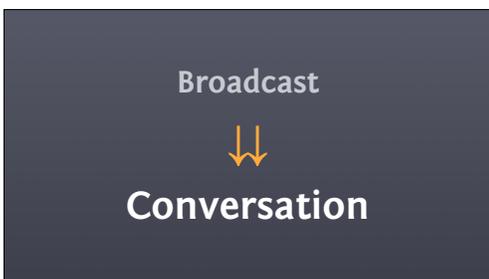
Eg. Network TV = pilot & water cooler model, Netflix = binge
– guessing/sampling (Neilsen) vs. actual huge data collection (streaming)

A metaphor – ladder = linear, one step after the other…

to

Web = a network of interconnected conversations

Broadcast

⇓

Conversation

In sum, our culture has been highly influenced by a Broadcast mindset, and many times in the church we have allowed this to be our thinking too.

But we need to remember that communication is two–way = conversation. Even proclamation should/will ideally lead to dialogue. (Remember Acts 2:37)

Digital Immigrants

⇅

Digital Natives

And, another cultural transition…

Mark Prensky 2001: "Digital Immigrants, Digital Natives". Educational context, but applicable in our ministry contexts.

Maybe this can give us a handle to describe some of the challenges we're facing.
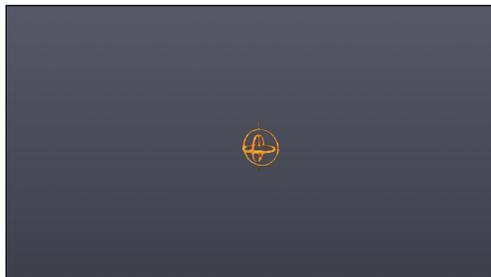
Link to "A Magazine is an iPad that doesn't work" on youtube.

For Dig. Immigrants, an iPad is a magazine on steroids. For Dig. Natives, the frame of reference is iPad first! Not a bad thing, but just a different direction in terms of reference.

How

Why

What

I say all that because it's foundational to the way we need to think about tech in ministry;

Tech is a tool that strengthens communication

Where does it fit in this image? It's the "how". Talking about tech in ministry before the What and Why is like starting to build a house by saying, what kind of framing nailer is the best.

Congregational Web Sites

How

Why

What

Let's apply this to one example: web sites. (Table discussion…)

Congregational Web Sites

How	One-stop Shop DIY
Why	Extend the Gospel New Front Door for Visitors
What	One Way Info Two-Way Engagement

Only after we answer the What and Why questions should we talk about the How.

Projection in Worship

How

Why

What

Another table discussion: the issue of computer projection in worship.

Projection in Worship

Discuss:

Theological concerns with using projection in Divine Service (whether "traditional" or "contemporary").

Why should we use it or not use it, theologically?

I know all theology is practical, so we can't isolate theology from practice. But think more theologically here. Are there any theological deal-breakers against projection?

Projection in Worship

Discuss:

Practical concerns with using projection in Divine Service (whether "traditional" or "contemporary").

Why should we use it or not use it, practically?

My guess is that there are more practical concerns.

Projection in Worship
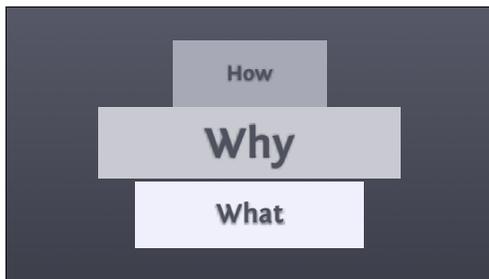
How	Powerpoint (if you must!) Worship Software
Why	Heads lifted / Easier to follow Better engagement
What	Liturgy / Songs / Visuals Themes / Videos / BGs

Some thoughts/examples.

How

Why

What

Now, some of you have already answered the foundational questions, and are ready for the "how".

So let's pretend for a minute that all of you are there, and let's talk about the how.

They say there are three rules of real estate.

I say there are 3 rules of tech in ministry:

Context, context, context!

Context! There are very few universal principles.

It's true that we shape our tools, and then our tools shape us. BUT, how are you going to approach that? eg. If smartphones are re-wiring our brains, how are we going to approach ministering to people with that? Will we use the tech they are already using, or will we intentionally not use it, in order to speak something specific to them?

I can't answer the What/Why/How for every one of you. It's contextual.

Contextual Questions

Where am I at (DI/DN)?

Where are our people at?

What resources do we have (people, stuff, $$, etc.) in our parish?

What's our community like, and how will our use of tech speak to them?

#4 – How will our use of tech speak to them...remember – tech is a tool for communication. Everything we do communicates something!

Example: projection in worship – are you urban where your people are burnt-out on bad Powerpoint presentations? If so, don't use a bullet point presentation to support your sermon! (On the flip side, that doesn't mean, don't use projection at all – could still be valid for other reasons.)

Kinds of Tech

Ordinary/Normal/Everyday
Print material (bulletins, Bibles, etc.), email, audio systems

Teaching/Worship/Online
Web site, Social Media, Projection in Worship, Visuals in study/confirmation/SS/meetings

3-D (N)
Podcasts, phone/tablet apps, flipped classroom, online collaboration, personal workflow

O/N/E
– what we all take for granted

T/W/O
– stuff not everyone is doing, but it's becoming more common

3-DN
– this is stuff that's easy for Digital Natives – it's a normal part of their world, but for Dig. Imimgrants, this is "cutting edge"

Ideas for... Ordinary/Normal/Everyday

Print: outline of sermon research

Email: weekly email news (Mailchimp)

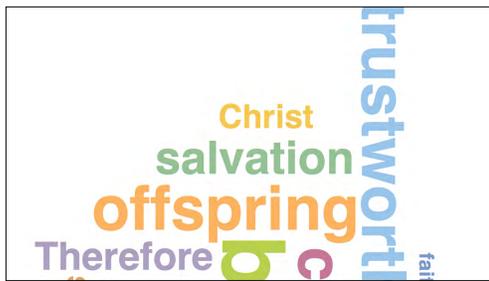Ideas to build/expand/re-think your level O/N/E use of tech in ministry

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Ideas for... Teaching/Worship/Online

Facebook: pics / questions / links

Worship: Prezi-style/Magic Move

Ideas to build/expand/re-think your level T/W/O use of tech in ministry

A Prezi-style mini-sermon using a word cloud…zooming in to different words of focus.

We start in 2 Timothy 2.

Paul directs Timothy to remember, and today we want to do the same…because we are prone to forget. You have forgotten, and allowed so many other things to take God's place in your remembrances…and Paul calls us all to remember:

What is it that Timothy (and we) are to remember?

The Gospel that was preached to you…

That Gospel is the Good News that Christ has come for our salvation!

And that is why Paul is suffering in chains: because of the response of "the world" to this proclamation. He joins His Lord in suffering. Jesus suffered on the cross for Paul and for you and I. And we as Christians will also suffer on account of the Gospel.

But! Paul is elect. Jesus has risen, and through His death and resurrection has defeated death. And He has given Paul, and all of us, the sure hope of eternal life.

Amen!
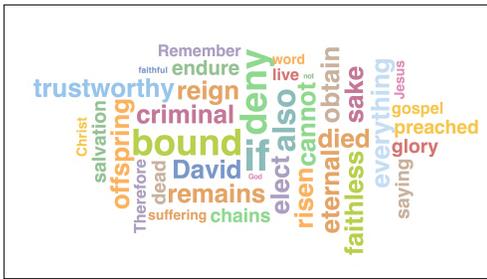
And now, zoom back out for a conclusion.

(Peek behind the curtain) We shape our tools, and our tools shape us. This tool shaped this outline, because Logos generated this cloud. I didn't arrange it myself. Ii could have taken the time to do it, but just used what was there.

I was going to focus on 1 word in the center of each slide, but brought in related words because they were there.
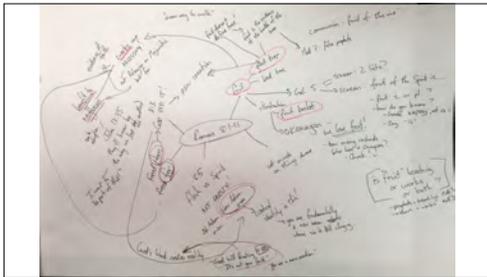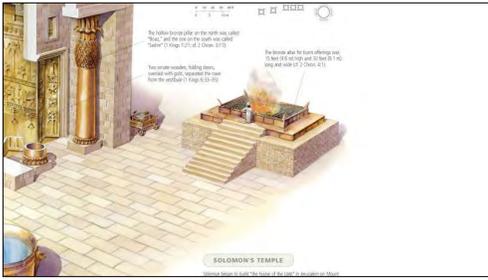

Or, combine a print resource and sharing sermon prep with this style of presentation to zoom around your own mind map.
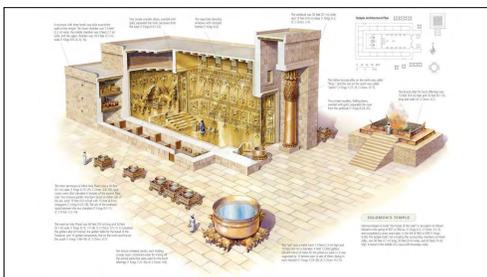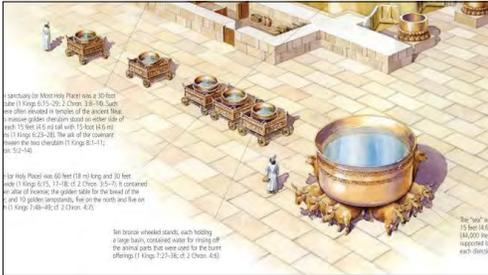

Another example: teaching about the temple.

This is an image of Solomon's temple.

Teach about the altar, horns, etc.

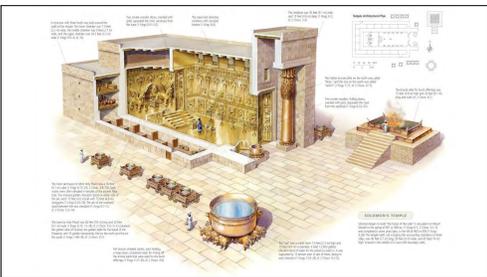

The basins for washing

The temple proper

The Holy Place, furnishings, etc.

Most Holy Place

Summary

Ideas for… Teaching/Worship/Online

Facebook: pics / questions / links

Preaching/Teaching: Prezi-style/Magic Move

Social media: start a blog (blogspot.com, wordpress.com).

Powerpoint: **NO slideuments!**

Blog: allow comments – moderated if you must. But blogs are a two-way avenue, not a one way.

Powerpoint: DO NOT TYPE ALL YOUR POINTS THEN READ THEM OUT (yes, I'm shouting that. No slideuments!)

If you can read them, so can your people, and faster than you can talk. Save them time: if you have a document to share, give them a copy instead. Don't use powerpoint as a document. Use it to complement your talk.

Ideas for… 3-DN

Teaching: flipped classroom

Leadership: Online group (Google+)

Personal Workflow: New tools (!)

1 – Talk to Jonathan Kraemer about flipped classroom – great thing.

2 – Email chains are the worst! Especially for things like documents (eg. minutes of a meeting)

3 – Esp. as men, we love new tools, right? Binford 3000…

In My Toolbox

Logos	Office Suite(s)
Evernote	Adobe Creative Suite
Distance Ed/	Google suite
Conferencing	LSBuilder, PCO

Any questions?

For follow-up:

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Online section for ongoing follow-up. (I'll answer survey questions, link to online resources, etc.)