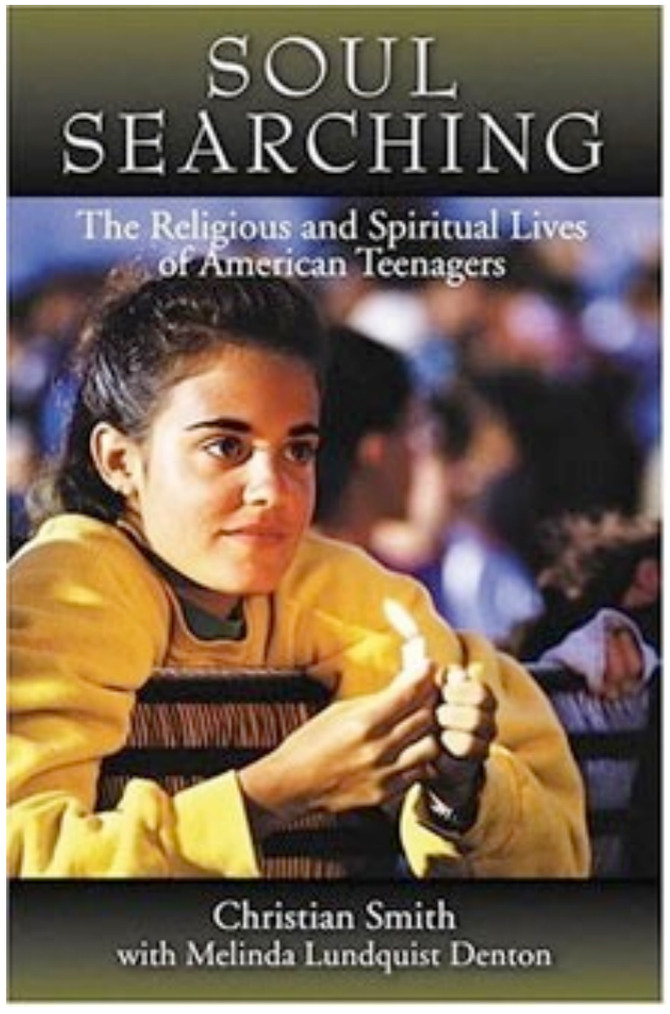
digital storytelling as a form of faith formation

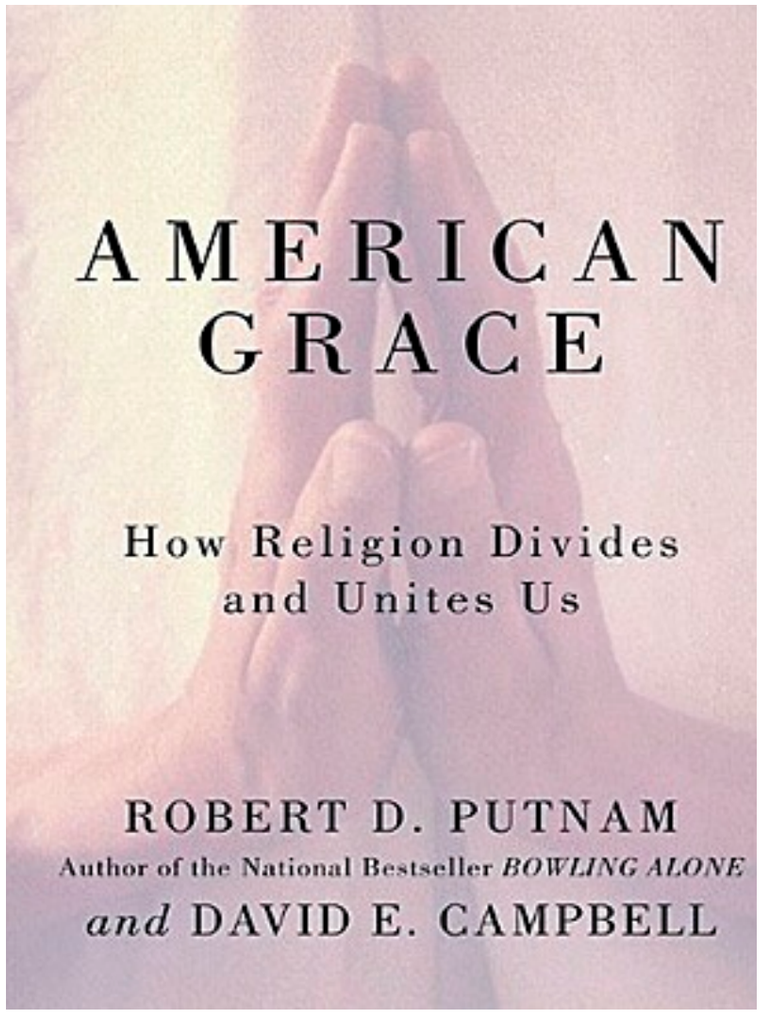
namle meeting / philadelphia, pa / july 2011

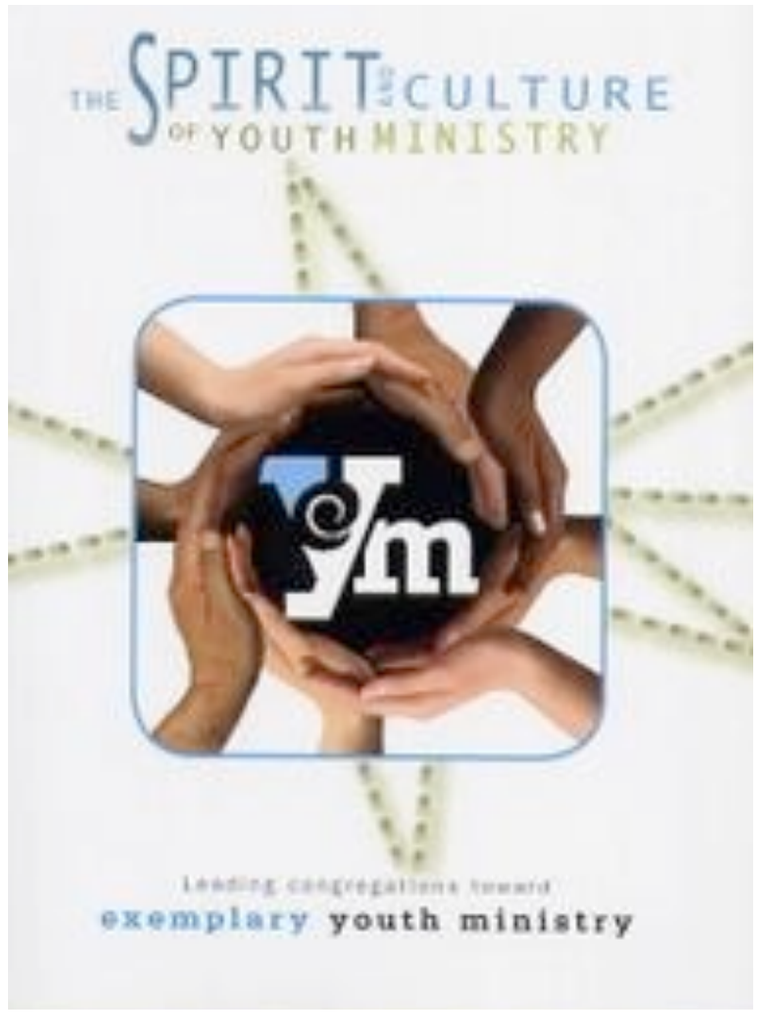
introducing me

back in the 90’s I worked on media literacy within religious education

now it’s become important to do even more basic faith formation,
simply learning the central stories of faith and shared practice







lots of studies recently on the landscape of faith formation

birth of web 2.0 and participatory technologies

key shifts in how we understand authority, authenticity, agency

faith formation is both personal and collective (or communal)

digital storytelling ...

- is first and foremost about storytelling (which includes story creation and story sharing)

- draws on digital tools in the creation process and in the sharing process

- lends itself to what Wesch calls “context collapse”

- may be part of what SeelyBrown and Thomas describe as “indwelling”

examples

- these were created for public sharing
- appropriate consent was given
- where music or other images that are not original are used, the argument of the creator is that this is permissible under *fair use*
- the links to the full versions are on the website for this presentation

Anabel Proffitt

moving from personal to collective/communal stories

Temple Friedman

Christ Lutheran

moving from personal to public stories

Jacquelin Rostad

tentative findings

- inviting people to tell faith stories in digital media is a prompt that many, who have rejected other kinds of faith formation, find exciting

- telling your own story, creating with others a shared story, and sharing these stories publicly taps into all three dynamics of authority, authenticity, and agency

- digital storytelling at its best is a multigenerational form of faith formation

- there is a delicate and difficult balance to be maintained between the received story of a particular tradition and its current story emergence

- teaching people how to create digital stories develops a strong degree of media critical engagement

tentative findings from other researchers

- identity that is “defined socially not merely because it is reified in a social discourse of the self and of social categories, but also because it is produced as a lived experience of participation in specific communities” (Kaare & Lundby)

- “Articulacy fosters reality. A major challenge ... helping teens to *practice talking about* their faith...” (Smith)

- digital storytelling provides a tangible means of both personal and collective agency on the discursive terrain of the community’s practices of faith (Clark&Dierberg)

more information here:

http://www2.luthersem.edu/mhess/web/NAMLE.html

Frank Johnson’s project