

## **Intergenerational Considerations**

### **Generalized characteristics of generational cohorts**

#### **GI Generation**

- Born between 1900 and 1924 (age 82 and older)
- Lived through the depression and World War II
- Sought the "American Dream" of college, family, home
- Loyal to institutions
- Possess an attitude of the probability of accomplishment
- Want to "save money for a rainy day"
- GI Women had been deeply involved in RE and other groups
- Willing to defer gratification

#### **Silent Generation**

- Born between 1925 and 1945 (age 61-81)
- Lived through the depression, but too young to fight in WWII
- Too old to fight in Vietnam
- Grew up seeking to maintain the stability created by the GI Generation
- Prefer formal liturgy and an intellectual approach to programming
- Loyal to institutions

#### **Baby Boom Generation**

- Born between 1946 and 1964 (age 42-60)
- Immense influence on the culture, the marketplace and the church
- Willing to accept contemporary worship elements
- Currently serving as leaders in congregations that they abandoned in the 60's and 70's
- Returned to church for their children, but will quickly leave if their experience becomes negative.
- The "Sandwich Generation"

#### **Generation X**

- Born between 1965 and 1983 (age 23-41)
- Their lives are mirrored in the popular media
- Many were Latch-Key kids
- Least financially well-off group of adults
- Live in the shadow of the Baby Boomers
- Not attracted to mainstream congregations

#### **Millennial Generation**

- Born after 1983 (age 22 and younger)
- Born into the age of technology, so it is taken for granted
- Have interests in the mystical and the development of an interior life
- No conflict between science and religion.
- Explore religion through dance, drama, and other participatory means.
- Hold an identity of consumer