

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

2609 North Glebe Road † Arlington, VA 22207
Telephone: (703) 527- 6800 Fax: (703) 527-6853

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to another year of children's chapel! We are blessed to have your children worshipping with us.

A few things you'll notice about chapel this year:

- The order of service is similar to last year. The way your children will participate, however, is slightly different. Kids will be involved in preparing the chapel space for worship and in serving at the altar during the service. Because reading aloud has been a source of anxiety for a lot of kids, however, clergy are taking on responsibility for leading the worship.
- Clergy will provide a more consistent presence in chapel. Rather than rotating the responsibility each week, clergy members will lead chapel for 1-2 months at a time.
- The offering is different! In addition to bringing in their pledge envelopes, **we encourage your child to bring a can of food (or a box of cereal, or some other non-perishable item) every week.** That offering will be brought forward in the nave along with any monetary offerings.
- We're looking at the idea of having "family chapel"—for parents and kids together—on occasion. Look for more information as the year progresses.
- All parents will be asked to assist in chapel every few months, simply providing an additional adult presence alongside clergy and regular chaplains. We do still need one person to coordinate this schedule; please let me know if you can take on this ministry, which requires 1-2 hours of e-mail every few months.

All of the clergy participate in and support our chapel, but I'll be serving as the primary point of contact this year. If you have any questions, or would like to offer your gifts, please be in touch. And, if you are new to chapel, a full description is found on the back of this letter.

Blessings to you as this new school year begins!

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Anne Michele Turner