

Atonement offers new children's and youth programs

TENAFly – Church of the Atonement (Episcopal) announces its new fall programs for children and teens, starting Sunday, September 7. There is a group for every young person at Atonement -- a diverse, welcoming and growing Christian congregation.

The Playroom/Nursery for infants is supervised by Maryann Silver, R.N. This is where young people first learn that they are cared for and loved by God and God's people. Babies are always welcome to stay in church with their parents, and parents are always welcome in the nursery.

This fall Atonement offers a new Toddler Program for two to four year olds, led by Vanessa Roshong Moore and Rebecca Tarantino, Atonement's on-staff Children's Music and Education Director. Each month, youngsters will learn a Bible story through the Godly Play Method and engage in a craft or song that reinforces the lesson's main point. Godly play helps them to wonder and connect to the story, biblical characters, and others in their lives through the use of their imagination. The Toddler Program will kick off on September 21, with an introduction to prayer.

The Church School, led by Ms. Tarantino and experienced volunteer teachers, provides weekly sessions for children in Kindergarten through sixth grade. Each week children experience Bible stories and Christian traditions through learning, art, music and outreach to others. They also participate in the worship service, including the Collect (Prayer) of the Day, the Lord's Prayer, and Holy Communion. The Youth Ensemble sings at family services, and rehearses special music most weeks after church. Children 4th grade and up are invited to serve in family worship services as singers, servers, readers and ushers.

The Confirmation Class, led by Carol Petrovich, M.Ed., has weekly sessions for young people in sixth through ninth grade that encourage learning through discussion, sharing and doing. The Episcopal Bible-based curriculum includes two series of classes, "Wholeness and Holiness" and "Changing the World" - along with sessions on the sacraments, prayer and liturgy. Teens also help each other with hands-on projects, including cooking for the homeless, caroling for the homebound, "Creation care" environmental actions, and leading music and worship.

Atonement's Youth Group is for teens 6th grade and up. The Group meets monthly on Sunday afternoons for fun, fellowship and service.

These programs for young people are joined by extensive adult education offerings throughout the week including Bible Study, Book Group, Discovery Nights, Quiet Days, and Sunday forums.

For more information about Atonement's youth programs and all of its ministries of education, spiritual growth, arts and music, environmental care, outreach and social gatherings, visit on the web at: www.atonement-tenafly.org or contact Pat D'Anna in the parish office at 201-568-1763 or parish.admin@atonement-tenafly.org.