

# The Clarion

www.saintclement.org

May 2008

## THE CHURCH OF SAINT CLEMENT

Episcopal + Alexandria, VA

The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee  
*Twelfth Bishop of Virginia*

The Rt. Rev. David Colin Jones  
*Suffragan Bishop*

The Rev. John D. Hortum  
*Rector*

Vestry  
*Elsie Mosqueda  
Martha Crawley  
William DeVan  
Annette Foster  
Brenda Graves  
Michael Gray  
Frances Harbour  
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## Evangelism at the Church of St. Clement

By Dennis Hardy (Vestry Liason for Evangelism)

The Oxford English Dictionary defines evangelism as “the preaching of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness.” It also means “zealous advocacy of a cause.”

The gospel is just “the story (good news, literally) of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ” and our beliefs and ideas behind that story. Zeal can have both negative and positive connotations. On the positive side it means passion, love, enthusiasm, eagerness, or energy and on the negative side it can mean fanaticism.

The above simple definitions generally prove somewhat difficult to most Episcopalians since we are not into public preaching or personal witness about our beliefs about the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. So where does evangelism fit in at St. Clement's?

I think that most parishioners at St. Clement's would agree that they are zealous in a positive sense about the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. So far, so good. It is the preaching and witnessing in public where we tend to bog down. But there are many ways that we can personally witness and preach (besides the great preaching we hear every Sunday during the service) without subscribing to the Hollywood image of the street corner evangelist on a soapbox waving a Bible.

Personal doesn't necessarily have to mean person to person. I am thinking of several times in the last year or so when parishioners and youth helped to distribute many hundreds of welcoming leaflets with dates and times of services at Easter and Christmas to our close neighbors in Park Fairfax and Fairlington simply by placing the material in the door of the homes.

I am also thinking of reaching out to people that pass our church every day through our signage and improvements to the building. Pat Stoffel had the idea of painting the large metal cross on the south wall of the building bright white in order to draw the eye to the fact that we are a church and we are trying to get your attention.

I am thinking about the new re design of visitor cards in the pews done by William DeVan recently. These reach out to visitors who are strangers and invite them to become more regularly involved in the activities and worship of our church. (*see Evangelism on page 3*)

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 10 May     | Life Line Mobile Health Screening at St. Clement                          |
| 16 May     | St. Clement Day School picnic and silent auction 6-8pm                    |
| June 20-22 | Shrinemont (sign up sheets in MR Hall or call Barbara Borden for details) |

## DIRECTED GIVING WELCOME

Ever see something at St. Clements that needs to be fixed or improved upon? While St. Clements is wonderful, sometimes you might notice a small thing that could really make a difference. In recent months there have been several instances of "directed giving". These people saw something at the church they felt could be improved and gave time or money to make it happen.

If you would like to contribute to the church for a specific improvement, please mention it to Father John or any vestry member. We would love to recognize those that have contributed in the Clarion or you can choose to remain anonymous.

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## Health Screening at St. Clement in May

Life Line Mobile Health Screening services will be offered at Church of Saint Clement Episcopal Church 8AM-5:30PM May 10, 2008. Call 1-800-679-5192 for an appointment (pre-registration is required). Over 5 million people have participated in Life Line Screening's ultrasound tests for stroke caused by carotid artery disease, abdominal aortic aneurysms and other vascular diseases. Cardiovascular disease is the #1 killer in the United States of both men and women - and a leading cause of permanent disability.

Consider the statistics:

- Stroke is the number one cause of nursing home admission
- Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States

You may think that your physician would order these screenings if they were necessary. However, insurance companies typically will not pay for screenings unless a person has suffered symptoms. Unfortunately, **50% of stroke victims have no symptoms**. That is why having a Life Line Screening is so important to keep you and your loved ones healthy and independent.

I encourage you to talk to your physician about Life Line Screening. I am confident that he or she will agree with hundreds of hospitals that have partnered with Life Line Screening and suggest that you participate in this health event.

*(Copied from Father John's letter sent to parish members)*

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## Spring Picnic and Silent Auction

Saint Clement Episcopal Day School is having its Spring Picnic and Silent Auction Friday May 16th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. On behalf of the School Director, Dory Herman-Sample, we are inviting all of you to join us for this wonderful gathering. This is a great opportunity to meet the students and their parents. There are wonderful things up for the Silent Auction such as Hotel Accommodations, Tickets to Baseball Games, Restaurants, Boat Rides, autographed tennis shoes by one of the Basket Ball Players, just to name a few.

Please come and show your support to our school. The proceeds will go toward the new library, the automatic soap and water dispenser for the bathrooms, the new outdoor classroom and many more. Hot dogs and Hamburgers will be provided. Please bring your favorite beverage when you come, coolers will be available. Yes, that includes beer and wine. We also have a one man band show.

Come and enjoy. We hope to see you there! Brenda Graves

## Birthdays in May

5/1  
Terry Border  
5/5  
Dennis Hardy  
5/10  
Naida Fisher  
5/11  
Lindsey Crabill  
Titus Schultz  
5/12  
Cecilia Yarngo  
James Payne  
5/13  
Bridget Conlon  
5/16  
Frances Harbour  
5/17  
Ishmael Ganame  
5/21  
Margaret Connor  
5/25  
Brenda Graves  
5/26  
Todd Bolen  
Courtney Darlington  
Marty Clark  
5/27  
Fiona Catherine Brown  
5/29  
Danielle Frye  
Dylan Wearing  
5/30  
Emily Calabria  
5/31  
Marion Hinchman  
Mangus

***(Evangelism continued from page 1)***

I am thinking of the great job done by Christine Crerar and Lee Lavinder on the web site for St. Clement's ([www.saintclement.org](http://www.saintclement.org)) which reaches out to the whole world and tells everyone that we are here and we want them to feel welcome to join us every week and participate in the life of our parish.

Recently, Father John contacted me with the idea that we need a definite plan about how to reach out to visitors who actually show up on Sunday. Right now there is no "plan" and even though we are one of the friendliest congregations in the Episcopal church (that I know about), we really have no definite plan about who should do what to whom (the visitors) and even who should do the following up. Such a plan could involve ushers, or the vestry members, our rector, or parishioners in general. If you have any ideas about what would be effective ways to actively reach out to visitors in our midst please email me ([kashardy@msn.com](mailto:kashardy@msn.com)) or Father John and let us know what you think.

As far as the coming year regarding Evangelism efforts at St. Clement's I have asked William DeVan and Pat Stoffel (the previous two vestry liaisons in this ministry area) to continue to help me brainstorm about ideas. We have begun to record some of Father John's amazingly good sermons and put them on the St. Clement web site. What we need to further evangelize this is a new sign on Quaker Lane asking the tens of thousands who drive by each day to "Hear Us On the Web – [www.saintclement.org](http://www.saintclement.org)" to complete this idea. Another idea being discussed is new signage, with changeable lettering (manual or electric) that would announce to passers by the current activities going on or advertising for ALIVE and other outreach missions of our church.

I would like to put in place a very large (but relatively cheap) distribution of fliers perhaps 3 times a year every year, given the very high turnover rate of our local neighborhood. On average we get a completely new set of neighbors about every 7 years and these new people have not been welcomed to Saint Clement's yet. The fliers could be distributed within a ½ mile radius of the church in the spring (advertising Easter services and day school registration), in the late summer (welcoming all the new people who mainly move here in the late spring and summer), and in the late fall (advertising Advent and Christmas services and activities. The distributors would be volunteers and would hopefully include teens and younger parishioners as well as all who are interested. The cost last time this was done was about \$50 for 500 fliers and resulted in one of the most well attended Easter services ever (in 2007). Contact me if you are interested in pursuing any aspect of this idea. It can only be accomplished by a team of volunteers who are zealous about witnessing to the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

Finally, I welcome all ideas that anyone may have about our common goal of Evangelism at St. Clement's. Just contact me by email or phone at any time.

Dennis Hardy

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## **Help Wanted**

**Photographs/Photographer:** If you have any good pictures of recent events, please drop them off in the front office so that we can post them in MR Hall. If you would like to take pictures at future events, please submit your name to Lee Lavinder and he will put event organizers in touch with you.

**Chalicers/Lay Readers:** Please contact Frances Harbour if you would like to volunteer your time for either of these roles.

<p><b>CLARION SUBMISSIONS:</b> Submissions for the Clarion should be made to Lee Lavinder either by email (<a href="mailto:lavinder_lee@yahoo.com">lavinder_lee@yahoo.com</a>) or by dropping it off in the church office.</p>
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