

Annual Report

Putting First Things First

The Stewardship Committee of St. Mark's Church chose the theme—Putting First Things First—for the 2011 Stewardship Campaign. The theme, however, is appropriate also for this annual report since it summarizes what St. Mark's needs to and has begun doing as it seeks to flourish in the time ahead.

This past year has been a time of turmoil and transition. It included difficult decisions, hurt feelings, and division.

This past year also has been a time of introspection and priority setting. It included difficult decision, reconciliation, and renewal. To borrow the opening of Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*, "It was the best of times. It was the worst of times."

In explaining the steward-

ship theme, Father Zwifka used a graphic where one could see an upscale young woman, with the latest apparel or a humble, elderly woman wrapped in a kerchief. "It's all a matter of perspective," he explained. The same picture can be viewed by two different people in the two different ways.

That may happen with some of the information contained in this year's annual report. Because so much was happening, words and actions might be interpreted differently, "depending on your perspective."

What is truly important is that we turn our faces toward the future, while we recognize the past and where we have been, but

still move deliberately and steadily toward a renewed mentality about the purpose and work of St. Mark's Church.



In this report, we will hear from our wardens concerning the state of the parish at the end of 2010. We will look

briefly at a financial "snapshot" of the parish. We will also hear from our rector concerning his experience of our community and his vision for the future.

Please read the report carefully. As you do so, remember that there are different perspectives and that while we may not all agree on every point, we are all seeking to "put first things first" in our lives individually and as a parish family.

From the Senior Warden

As I look over the minutes and committee reports from last year's parish meeting, I realize how far we at St. Mark's have progressed in the past 12 months. We have a lot to be thankful for as well as optimistic. Fr. David Zwifka was installed as our rector, the first in over two years. Loretta Collins has joined us a deacon. Our Sunday attendance has been on the rise and our finances have been improving. During this time of transition, our vestry worked with the bishop and others from the diocese to maintain our parish life

and its programs of outreach and service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our community and each other as the family of St. Mark's.

The vestry and I would like to thank all of you who helped keep our various programs and services active. During this past year of transition and planning for our future at St. Mark's, your work and dedication have helped us keep our parish moving forward.

Now as Fr. David and Deacon Loretta begin their new ministries with us at St.

Mark's, I believe we too should renew and recommit ourselves to our Lord's work through this parish family. Fr. David has many great ideas for increasing our parish growth both in numbers and spiritually. We all have talents and gifts from the spirit we can share and use for the work of our Lord Jesus Christ. Not only does our work at St. Marks' help others, we also share in its benefits. In today's world of uncertainty, the church offers a place of peace and a source of hope for us all.

Our Worship Life

St. Mark's remains committed to the worship and prayer of the Episcopal Church through its adherence to the norms of the Book of Common Prayer. We began the year with two worship opportunities each Sunday (recited service at 8:00 AM/Choral Service at 10:00 AM). During the period between the departure of The Rev. Lisa Schoonmaker and the appointment of Father Zwifka as rector, the parish experienced a renewal of liturgical prayer by limiting worship opportunities to one Sunday service (9:00 AM). After several months, the experience of one service has benefited the parish by unifying it into one worshipping community.

To provide for the diversity of worship styles among our parishioners, it was decided that worship on the Fourth Sunday of each month would be a recited, Rite I service, except when this conflicted with special liturgical feasts or special days in the life of the parish. While some parishioners still prefer the convenience and quiet of a weekly service at 8:00 AM, there is broad acceptance of the current arrangement.

The parish has worked toward an integrated worship bulletin to make it as "user friendly" as possible for visitors and non-Episcopalians to join in our worship. This change has been generally accepted by parishioners.

With Father David's guidance, the parish has introduced a system of "graded solemnity" reserving the most solemn celebrations for our greatest feasts (e.g. Christmas, Easter, St. Mark's Day, All Saints). Sundays after Epiphany and Sundays after Pentecost will vary in solemnity depending on the message of the liturgical texts and their place in the liturgical and parish calendar. Special seasons will "find their own level" consistent with the overall message of the season (e.g. Advent = watchful anticipation).

To maintain our appreciation of the Divine Office, Morning Prayer has been celebrated on those Sundays when our priest is not available.

Christian Formation



Formation in the Christian life is a lifelong process for the individual and a constant and concerted pastoral activity for the parish community. In 2010 the parish provided the opportunity for children to learn more about their faith in its weekly Sunday School sessions conducted in the parish house education rooms at the

time of the Liturgy of the Word of God at Sunday worship.

More mature individuals were given instruction and participated in discussions surrounding their confirmation and reception into the Episcopal Church.

A Lenten "Soup and Scripture" series was well received by parishioners and provided an opportunity to delve more deeply into the liturgical readings.



The Congregational Development Committee

"Reaching new members and keeping the old."

The following is a listing of activities conducted by the parish's Development Committee.

Outreach (for the Community-at-large):

- Development and maintenance of the parish's first website and maintenance of its "Facebook" page.
- Participation in the annual Lewistown Halloween Parade, emphasizing our worship times
- Participation in the Holiday Parade, emphasizing the work of Mother Hubbard's Cupboard
- Opening up our facilities to assist the organizers of the Annual Ice Festival (first weekend in December) and Lewistown's First Night Celebrations (New Year's Eve).
- Service of more than 1000 individual meals through the monthly Breaking Bread Together Dinners

- Purchase and use of Breaking Bread Together placemats and tent signs at the monthly dinners and other events to underscore the work of St. Mark's Church.

Inreach (for the Parish Community)

- Formation of a Men's Group that meets once per month (fourth Saturday) for breakfast and discussion concerning future projects
- Planning and hosting several special events such as funeral luncheons, welcome receptions for Father David and Deacon Loretta.
- Purchase and distribution of geraniums on Mother's Day.
- Planning and execution of the summer "Church in the Park" picnic lunch (with 48 people in attendance).
- Development of an informational brochure for parishioners and visitors to St. Mark's.

From the Junior Warden

Unfortunately, our Junior Warden recently experienced a period of ill health and is not able to give compose a detailed report of all activities related to the care and upkeep of the parish properties. However, the condition of the properties speak for themselves! The beauty of our Church and the continued use of the parish hall, rectory and parish house require continuous and careful attention.

Ongoing maintenance needs are being met by our Sexton and specialty vendors as necessary. The St. Francis Garden was beautifully mulched and tended in the course of spring and summer in 2010. In late summer two large trees were removed that were poised to cause significant damage to the Church. Trees at the front of the property along Main Street were pruned and cut back. This should

guarantee their continued health and enhance their aesthetic contribution to the property. We hope to conduct a risk assessment survey of the property in early 2011 and create an inventory of capital projects that will enhance our physical presence in the community as funding becomes available.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard and Parish Outreach

Unemployment (and its cousin underemployment) are lagging economic indicators. This means that as the economy takes a downward turn, people only begin to loose well-paying jobs. Once the economy turns upward (as recently indicated by the stock market index, a leading market indicator) one of the last areas to recover is, you guessed it, jobs. In plain language, for people at the base of our economic pyramid, it get worse before it gets better. St. Mark's sees this in a very clear way. Even though the national

economy seems to be entering a slow recovery, people are still hurting. Overall, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard and Parish Outreach have touched 30% more people this year than last. The parish office receives calls almost daily seeking assistance with heating. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners, other individuals and businesses, MHC has been able to

meet the increased need for nutritious food.

St. Mark's is especially grateful for the dedicated volunteers that staff "The Cupboard" on a daily basis. Parishioners from St. Mark's and generous individuals from other faith communities in Lewistown give of their precious time and energy to stock shelves, meet with clients, and keep the records we

Overall, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard and Parish Outreach have touched more people this year than last. And the need increases almost daily.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard - 2010		
Income	\$	27,207.31
Expenses	\$	27,767.14
Net	\$	(559.83)
Individuals Served	3677	33%↑
Family Units Served	1023	17.6%↑

Parish Outreach -2010		
Income	\$	5,288.00
Expenses	\$	6,699.00
Net	\$	(1,411.00)
Family Units Served	96	92%↑

need to manage our limited resources efficiently. And finally, without your generous financial support and the support of others throughout the area, this work could not be accomplished. The

need is great and St. Mark's is proud to be a small part of meeting that need.

Episcopal Church Women

During the past year, St. Mark's Episcopal Church Women have been very active. Regularly scheduled activities that keep us "hopping" are:

- monthly meetings
- five very successful soup sales
- two Salad Bar sales
- the Halloween Parade Bake Sale
- the annual St. Nicholas Day party

- Mother's Day Appreciation Banquet
- Shelter Services Ingathering
- Spring Diocesan ECW Retreat.



More important than all these "activities" is the opportunity for real fellowship and the development of lasting friendship that these activities provide. Stories, both funny and serious, are shared over the "chopping block."

Most importantly, ECW provides an opportunity for women of the parish to testify to their faith and their dedication to the life of St. Mark's Church in our community. Membership in ECW is open to all women in the parish. If you haven't been active in a while or are seeking a new way to get involved, consider joining us. You are always welcome!

(Financial Report on following pages)

Stewardship & Parish Finance



The Stewardship Campaign for Fiscal Year 2010 was conducted in late 2009. We set an overly ambitious goal for 2010 that, because of the weak national economy and other factors in parish life, was not attained.

However, the dedication and commitment of the parishioners of St. Mark's Church was again made clear as they lived up to and *exceeded* the pledge commitments made for 2010. By the end of the year, the amount received through regular giving was 5.36% *over* the total amount pledged for the year. Certainly, this demonstrated that the people of St. Mark's Church are as generous as ever, as long as we continue to set *realistic* goals. Even so, the parish did not erase the annual deficit that has been the cause of so much concern over the last few years.

The Vestry, with the help of the Finance Committee and diocesan staff members, made some hard decisions over the last year to help put the parish once more on a solid financial footing. Among these decisions was to cut one of our major expense areas, namely, personnel. During 2009, the Vestry decided that St. Mark's needed

to come to terms with the fact that at present, we can only afford to engage a rector on a part-time basis. The Finance Committee continues to explore other ways in which we can balance our budget and reverse the trends that caused us to dip into our endowment funds to meet operating expenses.

Our budget deficit for 2009 was moderated somewhat with the departure of our full-time priest-in-charge on April 30. During the next several months, our personnel expenses dipped dramatically because we had responsibility only for a supply priest to meet our sacramental needs. However, all concerned realized that this could be only a temporary measure and engaged Father David Zwifka as our half-time rector beginning on November 28. Even so, we face a budget deficit for the coming year, albeit less than in the previous two years. With Father Zwifka's assistance, the Stewardship Committee mounted its campaign for 2011, *Putting First Things First*, which made us realize that we cannot see our stewardship commitment merely as an "add-on" to our personal budgets but as an essential element just as important as our mortgage, groceries, or utility bills. As a result, annual pledging rose by 14.67%. Not only did the number of dollars pledged rise, but more importantly, the number of pledging

units went up. This shows that St. Mark's is alive and well.

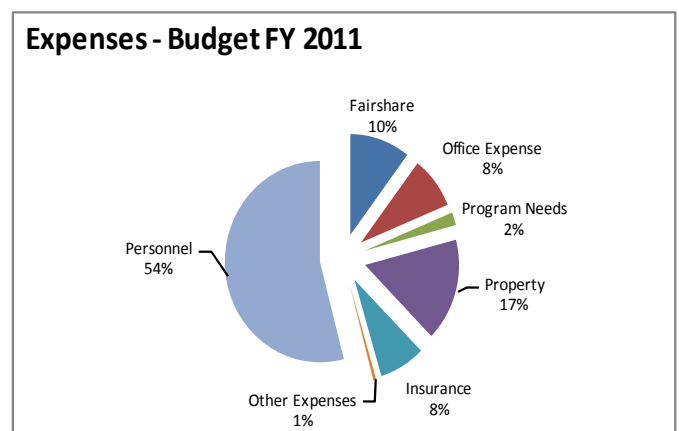
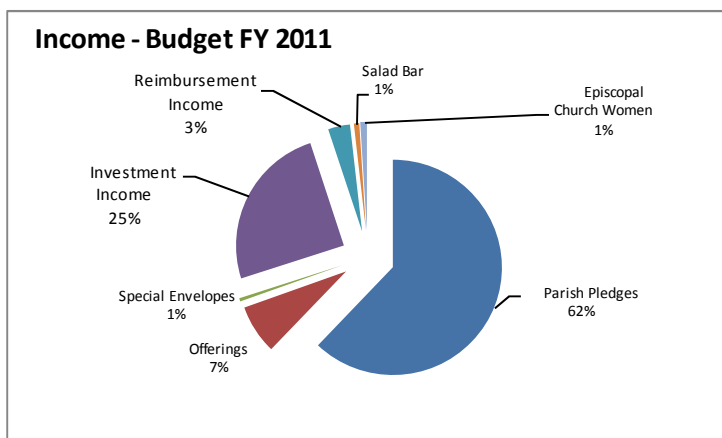
Still, many challenges remain. The budget prepared for Fiscal Year 2011 still shows a deficit of \$10,303. That is down by 17.67% (FY 2010: \$12,535). Now THAT is real progress, BUT we still have a way to go.

It is fairly clear that we cannot simply continue to cut expenses. Otherwise, we might become like the camel driver who was astonished when his last camel died of starvation — "He was doing so well on three pieces of straw a day!" This means that we must turn our attention to the tasks involved in increasing revenue. Discussions have begun to see how we can diversify our revenue streams by undertaking some productive fundraisers, how we might fund some parish ministry through grants, and how we might increase our stewardship base.

In any event, we could not have come this far with out the committed generosity of our parishioners. Parish leadership has now seen that good things are still possible and that, while the potential may be limited by factors beyond our control, we can venture out with the confidence that "God will provide" as long as we remember that God works in and through His Church, that is, us.

A Budget Snapshot

They say a picture tells a thousand words. Here is an illustration that shows where our revenue comes from and where we spend it. This is based on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2011.



The Numbers – FY 2011 Parish Budget

Income		Expenses	
Parish Pledges	\$ 62,500.00	Fairshare	\$ 11,440.00
Offerings	\$ 7,435.00	Office Expense	\$ 9,480.00
Special Envelopes	\$ 500.00	Worship	\$ 750.00
		Program Needs	\$ 2,350.00
Building Use	\$ 250.00	Utilities	\$ 15,000.00
Building Use		Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 2,500.00
Checking Interest	\$ 100.00	Pest Control	\$ 750.00
Endowment	\$ 500.00	Cleaning Supplies	\$ 300.00
Fellowship		Total Property	\$ 18,550.00
Investment Income	\$ 25,000.00	Insurance	\$ 8,700.00
Literature	\$ 100.00	Convention	\$ 300.00
Reimbursement Income	\$ 2,500.00	Misc Expense	\$ 250.00
Salad Bar	\$ 800.00	Total Other Expenses	\$ 550.00
BBQ Chicken	\$ 800.00	Subtotal Expense	\$ 51,070.00
Episcopal Church Women	\$ 1,000.00	Personnel	\$ 60,875.00
Total Other Income	\$ 31,550.00	Total Expenses	\$ 111,945.00
Total Income	\$ 101,485.00		

Total Income	\$	101,485
Total Expenses	\$	111,945
THE BOTTOM LINE	\$	(10,460)

ECW Financial Report

Beginning Balance Jan 1 2010	\$ 2,643.26	UTO	
Ending Balance Dec 31 2010	\$ 1,489.27	Spring 2010	\$ 147.00
		Fall 2010	\$ 157.00
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 390.00		
Donations to Church		Profits from Soup Sales	\$ 1,210.10
Fall Salad Bar 2009	\$ 750.00	Postage	\$ 639.77
Fall Salad Bar 2010	\$ 1,000.00		
For Office Supplies	\$ 500.00		
Altar Linens	\$ 250.00		
Weed Wacker	\$ 119.00		

Minutes—Annual Meeting — February 28, 2010

Present: 40 Members

Mother Lisa called the meeting to order at 10:40 AM with prayer.

Remembrance and prayer for members who died in 2010.

Minutes of last year's meeting reviewed and approved.

Mother Lisa reviewed her report.

Senior Warden's report: submitted by title.

Junior Warden's report: submitted by title.

Financial Report:

- Reviewed investments for 2010
- Motion to approve 2010 Budget by

Jane Smith. Seconded: Elta Lauver.
Motion carried.

Development Committee, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, Parishioners Outreach Committee Reports submitted by title.

Senior Warden, Blair Hannon, thanked everyone for their help the past year.

Election for Vestry member held. Those members elected were: Joyce Hart (3 year term), Carey Anne Harpster and Jane Smith (2 year term), and Tony Hatfield-Nicholson—1 year term.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM with prayer.

Submitted by,
Deb Vaughn
Clerk of Vestry



Communications and Public Relations

One of the key elements of the Church's mission is the proclamation of the Gospel. As has been asked, "Who can hear if we do not preach? Who can act, if they do not know?" Getting the word out about the life we share at St. Mark's Church is essential to our success as a parish community.

In 2010, St. Mark's initiated its first website: www.stmark-lewistown.org. The website seeks to tell the story of St.

Mark's Church from several perspectives and can be a valuable tool for communicating not only with our own parishioners but also with the community-at-large. This initial foray into cyberworld has met with some challenges but plans are underway to refine and upgrade our "web presence." St. Mark's has also initiated a social networking effort in its Facebook page. Many of the more "real time" elements of our work is described there. All one needs to do is have a Facebook ac-

count and "friend" us at "St. Mark's, Lewistown".

More traditional efforts at communicating our life and work have been chronicled in our bi-monthly newsletter. It provides an alternative for those of us who are "techno-challenged" and prefer our reading on a paper page rather than a screen. Either way, St. Mark's continues to explore the most effective ways of telling out the goodness of the Lord in our midst.

Diaconal Ministry

In 2010, St. Mark's was blessed to receive word of the appointment of The Rev. Loretta Collins as parish deacon. Ordained to the diaconate at St. Stephen's Cathedral in late October, Deacon Loretta has become an integral dimension of ministry at St. Mark's.

Deacons are generally involved in ministry to the marginalized and the neglected in our communities. Deacon Loretta's

outreach to members of our parish that are homebound or are experiencing health difficulties has already been a rich blessing. Late in 2010, Deacon Loretta initiated efforts to reach out to the residents of Kish Apartments since many of its residents are mobility challenged and find it difficult to come to Church. She has undertaken regular visitation to the sick in our parish. In coordination with our priest, she hopes to create a greater

sense of awareness of the needs of our own parishioners as well as those to whom we minister in the community.

The parish has been inspired by her sermons and her reverent presence as a minister at the altar.

Deacon Loretta remains fully employed outside of her Church ministry. St. Mark's is grateful for how her dedicated ministry has already enhanced our lives.

From the Rector

When will the honeymoon be over? That is a question often asked concerning a new love relationship. My answer? I hope never. Not because am I naïve or overly optimistic about the ups and downs of parish life but because the love relationship being built here is not one that arises merely from our emotions but one that arises out of the very command of Christ: to “love one another as I have loved you.” When this report is submitted, we will have just experienced a “Celebration of New Ministry” as it is called in the *Book of Common Prayer*. Such celebrations mark significant turning points in the life of a community. This celebration isn’t only about getting a new rector. It is about understanding the complex relationships that characterize the People of God – how we come from such varied backgrounds and experiences and meet at the centerpoint: the life of Christ. We do this every Sunday as we meet for prayer, teaching and worship. From that centerpoint we leave the confines of the Church to carry what we have learned and experienced to a world that yearns for the grace and love of our God. You are the means by which God works out the redemption of the world. “New Ministry?” Perhaps new in time – but it is the same ministry accomplished by our ancestors and the same ministry that will comfort our descendants. It’s form may differ in each generation, but it is the same God that accomplishes it in us.

I came to St. Mark’s in May, 2010 as an unsuspecting “supply” priest that was quickly seduced by the tenderness, warmth and love of this parish. Within the first month, I was smitten and the dance of courtship began. As the summer progressed, it became clear to me that we were no longer merely dating, that it was more than merely providing priestly services. I had become one of you. When Bishop Baxter and I discussed my continuing role in St. Mark’s, he cautioned that I should carefully consider if I could commit to this parish family in the way necessary for one to become rector. “Otherwise,” he said, “I would be happy to name you priest-in-charge if that is what everyone wants. So think about it and let me know.” By the end of that conversation, I no longer needed to think. I had concluded that as one of you, I was called to be a priest among you. I would accept a call as rector if given. The rest is, as they say, history.

But here we are now, waking up together just days after the wedding. Perhaps there will be questions (“My God, what have we gotten ourselves into?”). These are normal and necessary for us to grow and mature in our new relationship. What is most important is that we remain in love with each other. We can do that only if we heed Jesus own words: “Abide in me as I abide in you . . . As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.”

This space in a parish’s annual report is usually dedicated to a description of ministry accomplished in the last year and a call to envision what the future may hold. At this point, I think it best that we begin the search for the future of St. Mark’s together. That we listen to each other, think, and respond. We all need to take time to hear what each of us has to say. There is time enough for planning, strategizing, and doing – and that we will do aplenty. But for now, let’s just stop, take a deep breath, and savor the moment - a moment of new beginnings.

In the love and grace of our Lord Christ, I remain

Yours,

David+

Your Vestry

Blair Hanon,	<i>Senior Warden</i>
Carey Anne Harpster	<i>Junior Warden</i>
Elta Lauver	<i>Treasurer</i>
Deb Vaughn	<i>Clerk</i>
Joyce Hart	
Tony Hatfield-Nicholson	
Jane Smith	
Jeff Wilson	

During 2010, Leslie Pitzer also served as Vestryperson until her resignation in mid-August.

The parish acknowledges and is grateful for the commitments of time and energy that Vestry membership require. These feelings are deepened when considering the important role of leadership exercised by the Vestry in 2010 during challenging times of leadership transition. As the parish’s “Board of Directors,” the Vestry exercises responsibility for all areas of the parish’s life in collaboration with the rector, our pastor. Once again, THANK YOU to all!



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Lewistown, PA 17044

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www.stmark-lewisotnw.org
E-mail: stmarkslewisotnw@verizon.net

***Seeking always to know, to love,
and to grow in Christ for others.***

We're on the Web!
www.stmark-lewisotnw.org

St. Mark's Episcopal Church arose from the first meetings of Episcopalians in the Lewistown area in 1813. By 1823, a parish was chartered and clergy appointed. The community continued to grow and has worshiped at the current site of the parish complex ever since. The parish was named the first Jubilee Mission Center in the Episcopal Church, attesting to its continual concern for marginalized people in our community.

Among its many outreach activities, the parish conducts Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, a primary source of nutritious foodstuffs for the hungry in Lewistown, and extends an invitation to all members of the community to share in its monthly Breaking Bread Together Dinners.

St. Mark's Church is part of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, participates in the Altoona Convocation of Parishes and the Lewistown Ministerium.

Agenda

The AGENDA for the
ANNUAL MEETING of
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Sunday, February 27, 2011, 10:30 AM
St. Mark's Parish Hall

- Opening Prayer
- Remembrance of the Departed
- Approval of Minutes of Annual Meeting 2010
- Reception of Written Reports
- Comments on Reports
- Presentation and Discussion of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2011
- Ratification of Budget
- Elections for Vestry
- Acknowledgements
- Comments from the Assembly
- Unfinished and/or new Business
- Doxology and Benediction
- Adjournment

Parish Leadership

Rector— *The Rev. Dr. David A. Zwifka*

Deacon — *The Rev. Loretta Collins*

Christian Formation — *Rev. Dr. David Zwifka*

Altar Guild — *Carey Anne Harpster*

Director of Music — *Joyce Hart*

Communications — *Joyce Hart*

Congregational Development—*Jackie Leight and Tony Hatfield-Nicholson*

Finance — *Jeff Wilson*

Investment — *Bob Welham/Bob Wilson*

Master of Acolytes — *Blair Hannon*

Ministry to Sick & Homebound — *Rev. Loretta Collins*

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard — *Carey Anne Harpster*

Parish Outreach — *Elta Lauver*

Sexton — *Traci Rhodes*

Sunday School — *Angela Kaler*