



GRACE *and* ST. STEPHEN'S ✦ EPISCOPAL CHURCH ✦

Grace Notes ~ July 22, 2026

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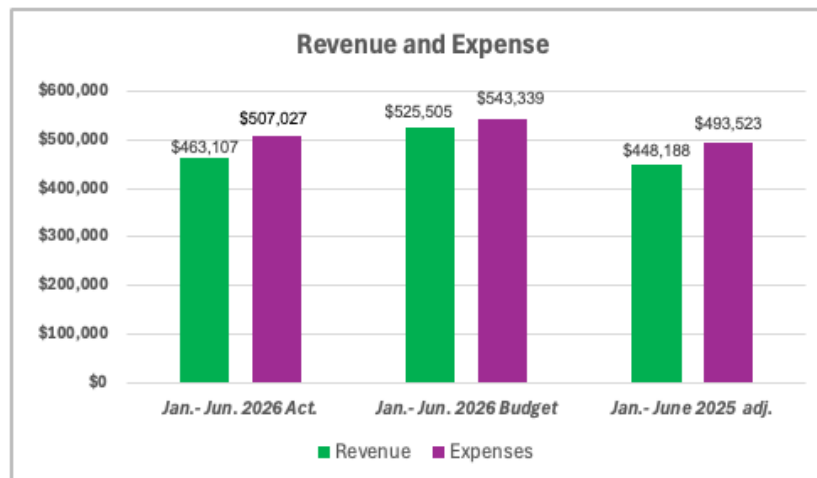
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Treasurer's Update

Dear Friends of Grace and St. Stephen's,

We have completed the first half of the year and we continue to be grateful for the steady and faithful gifts bestowed on Grace and St. Stephen's. Our financial position remains strong, and we are thankful for the ways in which God continues to provide through this community.

Similarly to the first quarter of the year, the second quarter giving fell below budget resulting in a year-to-date shortfall of \$62,398 or 14% below budget. Expenses for the first 6 months were also below budget by \$36,312 or 7%.



Total revenue for the first 6 months of the year was \$463,107 with total expense of \$507,027 resulting in a net operating loss of (\$43,920).

In the second half of the year, we usually receive more donations than we do in the first half, which allows us to narrow the gap and meet our budget needs by the end of the year. This is only possible with your continued generosity and support.

This financial market performance for the first 6 months of the year has resulted in robust growth in our unrestricted cash reserves, which continues to provide a foundation for the unexpected needs that may arise.

We share this not with concern, but with gratitude and transparency, trusting in the generosity and faithfulness that have long sustained this parish. Your support is truly a

blessing—not only to Grace and St. Stephen's, but to the wider community we are called to serve.

Should you have questions regarding the church's financial position please [contact me](#), a vestry member, senior warden, finance committee member, or [Father Robert](#).

With gratitude and hope,

Keith Welsh
Treasurer

EfM: Wide Angle Lens Class

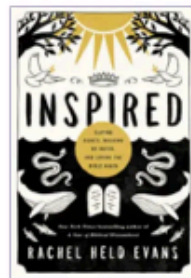
In conjunction with the Classic Education for Ministry Class offered at Grace and St. Stephen's, we're now also offering a 1-year program for those who may want to:

- Try EfM without the 4-year track for the Classic program
- Continue their small group experience after they have graduated from the 4-year program
- Engage in formation learning through a variety of learning resources: Videos, podcasts, blogs, and short readings.
- Limit the reading, watching, and listening prior to the seminar to 60-90 minutes



Throughout this one year program, we'll dive deeper into our own personal call to lay ministry. Here are the readings for the Wide Angle Lens program:

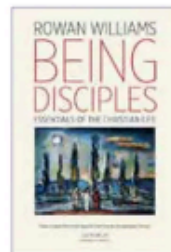
Wide Angle



Evans, Rachel Held. 2018.
Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again.
Cambridge University Press.



Charleston, Steven. 2021.
Ladder to the Light.
Broadleaf Books.



Williams, Rowan. 2016.
Being Disciples: The Essentials of the Christian Life.
Eerdmans.



Chittister, Joan. 2021.
The Monastic Heart: 50 Simple Practices for a Contemplative and Fulfilling Life.
Convergent Books.



Varghese, Winnie. 2016.
Church Meets World.
Morehouse Publishing.

The EfM classes will be limited to 11 students so if the Wide Angle Lens option interests you, please contact: [Martha Basenberg](#)

Where Grace and St. Stephen's will have an EfM group that will begin in September.

When The EfM group will meet on Monday mornings from 9:00 to 11:30.

If you would like to know more about EfM or Sewanee Theological Seminary, you can visit their [website](#). Questions?

Jazz in the Garden - Jeremy Facknitz Band



Jazz in the Garden is excited to introduce Jeremy Facknitz to our audience. Exploring his unique style of high energy jazz with folk and rock roots, Jeremy plays with the soul of an old-time troubadour bitten by a radioactive rock star.

Concerts are free and begin at 7:00 pm in the garden at Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at the corner of Tejon and Monument streets in downtown Colorado Springs. Picnics are welcome and lawn chairs or blankets encouraged.

Beverages are available.

Concerts move inside in case of rain. The first hour of each concert is broadcast on Jazz 93.5.

Up next: The U.S. Air Force Academy Falconaires on August 7.

Thank You Messages!

From Hospitality:

Hospitality gives an extra special shout out to all that helped with Michael's ordination. The serving team, clean up team and all that brought food created a spectacular celebration. A thank you for the flowers too. It created the perfect touch.

From Fr. Michael:

I wanted to express my deep gratitude to everyone who made my ordination so incredibly special and moving. My non-exhaustive list would be hospitality for the great reception, the altar guild for setting up the church, everyone who sang or presented me or read a reading, and likely many more folks who did work I didn't see behind the scenes to make it happen. Thank you all!



Men's Book Group Summer Hike

Join Us for a Sunday Evening Hike!

Take a break from the busyness of the week and enjoy God's creation with friends from the parish! Join us this Sunday at 5:00 p.m. for a leisurely hike at North Cheyenne Canyon. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors, share fellowship, and connect with one another in a relaxed setting.

Whether you're an experienced hiker or simply enjoy a peaceful walk in nature, everyone is welcome. Come ready for fresh air, great conversation, and an uplifting evening together.



For details, including the meeting location and trail information, please contact [Phil Hensel](#). We hope you'll join us!

Diocesan Youth Council Applications Now Open

Would you like to have a voice in your ministry? Would you like leadership, speaking, and event planning experience? Apply for the diocesan youth council (YOCO) and join this dynamic team that has a voice in all youth ministry in Colorado. We meet regularly to plan all retreats and overnight events, and promote youth ministry at the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Colorado. We also have a ton of fun. Youth Council members have input on YES Trips locations and content, pilgrimages, and one-day mission events. YOCO is an opportunity for youth who are active in their church ministries and youth group, have a firm foundation in their faith, and are ready for a larger voice in their own ministry. Please [submit your applications](#) by July 27; announcements will be made by July 30. The first YOCO meeting will be held August 15, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, all other information will be shared upon acceptance. We look forward to reading your applications.



Prayer List

Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer.
ROMANS 12:12



Those in crisis of health or circumstance:
Debbie Barents, David Buckley, Ed Quinn, KJ Ramsey, Anne Trinajstich

Those who have died and those who grieve: Jan McMillin

Those in need of ongoing prayer: Ted Arnn, Gail Ash, Sallie Beattie, Bob Black, Judy Couchman, Stuart Eyman, Eunice Ferguson, Staci Fox, Barb Good, John Hough, Annika Johnson, Maggi Johnson, Sheilah Johnson, Dorothy Kipp, Al Larson, Alex Lindberg, Leigh MacHaffie, Devon

Mack, John McVicker, Debra Millsap, Sinnikka Pember-Coulter, Elizabeth Phillips, Melody Pugh, Edie Reichert, Frank Shelton, Kitty Taylor, Carol Townsley, Jill Wasinger, Pam White, Susan Willet, Alice, Jennifer, Nancy, Nick H., Oliver & Family, Piper, Wes

Those in harm's way: William Brown, Frederick Jones, Bill Mack, Rachel Pearson, Adam Tahyar, Thomas Ward, Nicholas Wolf

This Week's Happenings

Wednesday 7/22

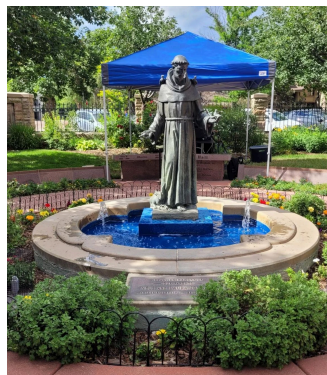
- **Holy Eucharist**, 5pm, St. Stephen's Chapel
- **Men's Book Group**, 6pm, Goat Patch Brewing

Thursday 7/23

- **Morning Prayer**, 9am, on Facebook
- **Centering Prayer**, 11am, Blaik Library

Friday 7/24

- **Chanted Noonday Prayer**, 12pm, St. Stephen's Chapel
- **Jazz in the Garden: Jeremy Facknitz Band**, 7pm, Memorial Garden



Sunday 7/26

- **Singing Rooster Coffee Sales**, 9am-12pm, Parish Hall
- **Rite I Holy Eucharist**, 8am, Nave
- **Nursery Available**, 9am -12pm
- **Rite II Choral Eucharist**, 10:30am, Nave
- **Men's Book Group Summer Hike**, 5pm, North Cheyenne Canyon
- **Choir Camp**, July 26-30, Cathedral Ridge

Monday 7/27

- **Noonday Prayer with the Anglican Rosary**, 12pm, St. Stephen's Chapel

Tuesday 7/28

- **Morning Prayer**, 9am, on Facebook
- **Salsa Dancing with Lambarado**, 5pm Salsa Beginners, 6:15 Salsa Level 2, Parish Hall
- **Jazz in the Garden Steering Meeting**, 5:30pm, McWilliams House (Church Office)

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