

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Parish
Finance Committee
Report June, July & August
September 23, 2025**

Members:

Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
J. Christopher Perry, M.P.H., M.D., Treasurer
John Garinther, Sr. Warden
Don Phipps
Josie Ellis

Report

The Finance Committee did not meet in September, as Bishop visited during the day of the meeting, and several members of the committee were not available for another time. This is a catch-up report reviews relevant events, facts and or figures for the month of August and September to-date.

Events.

1. In the second week of September I (JCP) requested an 18-month contract from NRG for natural gas for heating, as the price per D-Therm was the lowest since we began surveillance. This contract was not obtained as only 2 committee members replied in time. We obtained the next contract this past week at \$ 7.93 per D-Therm beginning Oct 1, 2025, going through to March 30, 2027. This will lock in the price for two heating seasons, minus the shoulder months (April and May 2027).

2. We finished our natural gas contract at the end of the heating season and are now paying Berkshire Gas Co. (BGC) rates until we sign a new contract. The last monthly charges seem excessive (\$1,980.84), so we looked for an explanation. It is that once we went off our NRG contract in the Spring, Berkshire Gas has been charging us as if we are on a monthly payment plan. So this money will be recouped in the charges going forward once the new Gas contract kicks in.

Finances.

1. Our Parish's total net worth at the end of August 31, 2025 is: \$1,459,107.10 down \$ 14,675.25 from July's \$1,473,782.35

2. Our Year to-date Budget

Income is 13,343.69 in the red compared to what we had expected to expend.
Expenditures (operating) is 2,342.13 in the black (less) than we expected to

spend.

Net: we are (\$11,001.55) behind where we expected to be.

2. For the Operating Budget:

	July	Year-to-date	Δ from Budget
Income:	33,518.08	223,498.75	+ 877.17
Operating Expenses:	33,328.71	270,411.72	- 1,464.20

A reminder of the 12 month operating budget

Budget (hoped for) income:	381,637.00
Budgeted expenditures	466,073.00
anticipated deficit:	(84,436.00)

The current deficit (7/31)is: (46,912.97) - 2,341.36

On the face of it, we are doing well: 2,341.36 less than our projected budget deficit at this point. However, two factors on the income side have “front-ended” some of the income. First, pledge receipts are usually proportionally larger early in the year, and second, we have received 3 of 4 planned disbursements from endowment, with only one more to come (October). Therefore the income in the next 5 months will be proportionally lower than in the first 7 months.

3. Unbudgeted and Capital Budget.

We have a spreadsheet that included capital contributions and expenditures. However, it also contains other items, such as income and expenditures/transmittals for flowers, laundry love, specific directed funds, etc. I plan to go over this with Sarah, and the Finance Committee and consider why some of the items are not included in the operating budget, leaving the remainder a pure capital income and expenditures budget. Having said that, here are the totals.

	July	Year-to-date
Income	9,700.09	63,234.64
expenditures	23,155.30	70,162.36
Δ	(13,455.21)	(6,927.72)

The Capital Budget part of this is about half on both the income and expense side. We do not have a capital-budgeting process similar to that for the operating budget, so I cannot comment on how we are doing compared to what the end of the year might show. For instance, I cannot discern how we are doing on the overall capital campaign from the spreadsheet, and similarly how we are doing on capital expenditures that might be in the offing over the remainder of the year.

4. Natural Gas Previous contract. 6.09/Decitherm x 36 mos. *Supply* costs: 9.464 annual cost

Background. On : 4-24-25, Mr. Porchelli, broker, suggested the current pricing for a natural gas contract with NRG was \$8.00 per DeciTherm for a 20 month period. Because we were entering the slack season for natural gas, the committee decided to continue to follow natural gas contract prices for a bit longer.

Over the ensuing months the contracts varied with pricing rising to \$8.20, and varying over the duration of the contract. Pricing changes continuously Over the summer the price of oil has dropped, and natural gas is imperfectly correlated with that. In particular, with the AI boom, companies are contracting for new natural gas fired electrical generating plants and locking in natural gas contracts. Thus demand is going up. Nonethelss prices have decreased slightly recently.

Last Thursday's (8/21) pricing for contracts beginning September 1, per Mr. Prochelli, were as follows (per Decitherm):

NRG	Price	est. Annual supply cost	est increase over last 6.09
18 months	7.93	\$12,323	2,859

Submitted by

J. Christopher Perry, M.D.
Treasurer