

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2023



*Thanks to Barb Seidl for this fabulous word cloud of
Arlington Street members' Gifts of the Spirit!*

Dearly Beloved,

So many thanks to those of you who have given our beloved, 163-year-old building some much-needed love this week!

Queen Cheryl is hard at work to restore the Helms Library to its pre-pandemic glory. Thank you, Your Majesty!

Lois Hartsough and Rodger Vine (both volunteering in the church office) recently discovered a door with a deteriorating hinge. Jon Andersen-Miller (chair of our Restoration Committee) leapt into action with our on-site contractors and a solution in hand. Thank you, dear ones! And this is the perfect moment to tell you that Jon will be receiving this year's Distinguished Alumni Award from Boston Architectural College. Of course he will! What took them so long?!

Bruce Dallaire (who, apparently, has never met anything he can't fix) just keeps saying "yes" to our requests to make repairs that would cost a fortune. Thank you, Bruce, for installing new drywall in the Ágora office and for patching the holes in the concrete in the Perkins room floor. Thanks, too, to Bruce and Tom (his husband, Tom Anderson, who chairs our Prudential Committee), for so generously buying new rugs for that space!

And one more note on the building: This week, we welcomed a new "tenant," another perfect partner in our mission. [Boston String Academy](#) provides string instrument instruction to children in under-served communities — instruction which is traditionally available only to children whose parents can afford expensive private music lessons. The program is based on the Venezuelan El Sistema philosophy, utilizing music as a vehicle for social change. BSA will be in the

meeting house on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school, serving students from four to eighteen years old. Its founders, twin sisters Marielisa and Mariether Alvarez, who originally came from Venezuela to study at The Boston Conservatory, are lovely, talented, and visionary. If you're in the area, please stop in to say hello and welcome them!

Our Community Minister for Good Trouble, Rev. John Gibbons, made the news in our good name — again! — in a long article in the September 13th issue of The Boston Globe entitled, [Who Was Peter Faneuil? A Bostonian, merchant, philanthropist](#) — and slave trader. During the COVID-19 lockdown, when Faneuil Hall and other National Park Service sites were shuttered, rangers with time on their hands dug into Faneuil's letters and ledgers at the Harvard Business School, revealing "in meticulous detail how selling enslaved Africans and profiting from their labor made him an ever-richer man." John's activism to educate and advocate on behalf of a name-change for this Boston landmark is inspired and inspiring. Thank you, John!

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This Sunday, Director of Music Mark David Buckles opens the service conducting the Arlington Street Church Choir singing *Sim Shalom* in honor of Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, which begins on Sunday evening.

Grace, kindness, and mercy to us
And unto all the world
And the love of kindness, justice and blessing, life and peace.

My sermon, based on a Swahili proverb, is called *Hurry Hurry Has No Blessing*. Mark David (guitar) and Julie Metcalf (violin) sing Paul Simon's *The 59th Street Bridge Song (Feelin' Groovy)*. And we'll all sing one of our very favorites, Mustard's Retreat's *Simple Faith*.

No room in this heart for fear
No judgment day drawing near
Trust that inner voice you hear
Every day

Life's not a goal or race
It's about heart and faith
And living a life of grace
Every day

Ours is a simple faith
Life is a short embrace
Heaven is in this place
Every day

Hope is the ground we till
Make each day what you will
Thankful for dreams fulfilled
Every day

Every day!

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*



[click here: Bringing Amin's family to the US](#)

Amazing News! Thanks to Arlington Street's Rebecca Geekie, our Share the Plate donations helped make it possible for us to help two families escape from Afghanistan to Pakistan shortly after the Taliban took power. One of those families (Rabina's family) reached Canada through a special program for Afghan women's rights workers. The other family (Amin's family) has been languishing in Pakistan, but something astonishing happened to them on Wednesday morning. Ben Schumacher, Founder and Director of The Memory Project, made this short video to share it with everyone who helped. *Enjoy!*