



## *Dear Friends,*

**What is worship? Why do we do things the way we do? What is our history of worship and how do we express our faith in worship today?**

These are questions that have inevitably arisen in this time of vacancy and variety, and as the Interim Moderator at Knox with particular responsibility for worship, I have been involved in many of those conversations. I think it is healthy to both question and affirm who we are as Christ's body in our gathering together. It is also good to explore the ways in which we might better reflect our diversity of need and at the same time honour our roots and our tradition.

For example, how do we make our worship "authentic"? What does this even mean? Maybe it's providing a safe and challenging space to encounter God in the presence of our family? Is it an invitation for each to enter the story of the love and grace of Jesus Christ without exclusion?

Perhaps, during this time of vacancy, it's a time for us to remove the armour of self-protection and be honest and vulnerable before the One who loves us unconditionally. You could say that authenticity is a two-way street – something we

*look for* as we come to worship and also something *we bring with us* as we enter into worship. Worship is relational in so many ways.

And what does "safe-yet-challenging" ask of us in worship?

When I was a lay preacher in North Canterbury, the common response at the door after the service was "That was nice, dear". "Nice" doesn't necessarily mean safe. Rather, feeling safe is an assurance of belonging. It is a language or worship style which does not exclude and which allows various voices to be heard. It is an understanding that in Christ we are one people of God in our infinite diversity.

"Safe" in this context is filled with new things and different understandings, where the strong threads of our past interweave with who we are now and leave space for what is to come. It provides a foundation from which the challenges of faith, of church, of world, can be faced with confidence and hope.

May our worship be all that God requires of us and may we be open to God and each other as we worship as the people of God.

*Margaret Garland*  
Interim Moderator

# Council Report

Kia ora Knox whānau, wherever this edition of the **Knox News** finds you.

Firstly, I would like to reflect on the **Knox News** itself, and how it comes to be with us. What a fabulous way of shedding light on and sharing details of our people, congregational life, our mission and what's going on. It comes about thanks to a wide variety of inputs, people contributing their time to prepare content and offering.

For many years **Knox News** has been coordinated by Jill Rutherford, and I would personally like to thank Jill for her diligence and determination with this. It is a gift from those amongst us and around us, and one that I and many I know are grateful for.

In these past few months Council has been working

with Deacons' Court to identify members of our congregation who may have the skills and time to serve in leadership roles on either Council or Deacons' Court. The role of elders on Council and deacons on Deacons' Court is to serve the congregation, in both leadership and practical aspects of church life.

We have been very fortunate that a number of people have considered, discerned and agreed to put their names forward for nomination at our Annual General Meeting. **The AGM will be held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October after worship.**

At Knox something we do is look out for each other, and look after each other.

Council is grateful for the work done by our pastoral leaders **Viv Graham, Vanessa Sinclair, and Gillian Vine**, and all those who undertake pastoral visits and calls. I would also like to

acknowledge those who by way of manaakitanga, korero, me inoi, (their hospitality, conversation and prayer) to support others. If you know someone who needs help or assistance, or if you yourself need some help or someone to talk to, please don't be shy. Do reach out, as there will be someone at Knox who can likely assist.

**Save the date!**  
**Knox Church**  
**AGM**  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**October,**  
**after morning**  
**worship**

**The Ministry Settlement Board** is continuing its work in search of a new minister for Knox. The search is active, not just within New Zealand but also more broadly.

Something we can all do is pray for the work of the MSB. Let us also pray that there is a minister out there in the world who is moved by what they see and hear of Knox. Someone who is open to exploring what they could bring to Knox, and how

this community of faith could thrive with them in ministry.

Thank you to everyone who makes life at Knox so rich and diverse. If you've got something you want to share, or if you think you can help in some way, get in touch with any of our Church Council members.

Gotta love springtime, its beauty, its freshness, that feeling of renewal and new life. Personally, I was really taken by the "Season of Creation" message that one our past ministers, **Rev Dr Jordan Redding**, prepared on behalf of the PCANZ Moderator; hunt it out and have a look. I am certainly looking forward to longer days, being a bit warmer, and being outside to enjoy God's creation.

*Lincoln Coe* Council Clerk

# Deacons' Court Report

## The most pressing matter for the Deacons' Court is the Knox Church car park.

It is managed on our behalf by a private car parking operator who pays us a monthly site fee. The current operator is Secure Parking Ltd, whose lease finishes in September. The contract specifies that Knox has sole use of the car park on Sundays and you will realise the problems we have had with this. We are now seeking a new operator.



These site fees provide us with a significant proportion of Knox's sustainable revenue income, alongside the Knox apartment and halls rental. There are also two car parks near the Gathering Area which are let privately through the church office.

A second project is to establish the feasibility of bringing **Herron Hall** back into use. We stopped letting it after tenants in the Knox apartment were disturbed by noise in the adjacent hall. We need to find the most cost-effective method to sound-proof Herron Hall. As such, I have had several conversations with one of the directors of Chaplin Crook Architects who has experience with church projects in Christchurch. He also was a choirboy at Knox, so has some knowledge

of the buildings. Deacons' Court will consider his report at our next meeting, but his conclusions and suggestions look promising. The church secretary has indicated that there is a definite market for Herron Hall's use. There are many inquiries about booking rooms in the Hall complex. At the moment, it has 90% occupancy.

This project is in its initial stages and needs to have a feasibility study with respect to indicative costs, design and fit out. Watch this space.

Another pressing matter is the need to **repair several slipped slates on the church roof**, allowing water to seep through and damage the floor near the piano. Cameron Roofing have inspected the damage, but are very busy and are unable to repair the slates as yet. This will be costly because it will involve scaffolding; the roof is too high for either ladders or a cherry picker.

The final matter is the **Heritage Project**.

**The Otepoti Dunedin Heritage Festival runs from October 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>.** The Church Heritage Opening Group has decided to open Knox to visitors **from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** on:

**Friday, Oct. 6**

**Saturday, Oct. 7**

**Friday, Oct. 13**

**Saturday, Oct. 14**

**And from 12 noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 8.**

Three to four Knox people will be needed to meet and greet for two-and-a-half hours at a time, a total of up to 36 people. A small team is also revising the "Welcome to Knox" pamphlet featuring Ian Thomson photos.

And last but certainly not least, **Les Carse**, our facilities manager for the past four years, has retired. We thank him warmly for his work and wish him "good fishing" in the years to come.

*Liz Miller* Court Clerk



# Art in the Garden

by Jill Rutherford

Visitors to the Knox Garden will have more than birdsong and lunch to contemplate with the installation of a replica hedgehog anti-tank barrier emblazoned with bright blue and yellow. The cruciform-shaped 250 kg steel sculpture is by local Dunedin artist Lawrie Forbes and is entitled *Slava Ukrani* (*Glory to Ukraine*). It sits on a specially constructed plinth erected on the Knox lawn, and is the first in a series of planned public art installations at Knox made possible by a collaboration between a local sculpture working group, Deacons' Court and Church Council.

"The motivation behind this sculpture, which I see as a symbol of defiance and hopefully peace, *Glory to Ukraine* means pushing a tyrant



regime back to its borders," said Mr Forbes at the unveiling ceremony on 8 September. Ukrainian Dunedin resident, Olha Viazenko also spoke, describing art as "really important" in the fight for her homeland and in solidarity with the international struggle against oppression. "It's a universal language that everybody can understand." The plinth itself is to be known as the *Peter Nicholls Sculpture Plinth*, in recognition of Peter's commitment to public

sculpture in Dunedin, and art in general. New art will be displayed every four months. *Slava Ukrani* is available for sale for \$6,000. All proceeds will go directly to the International Red Cross to support the Ukrainian people.††

## Gone Fishin'...

by Jill Rutherford

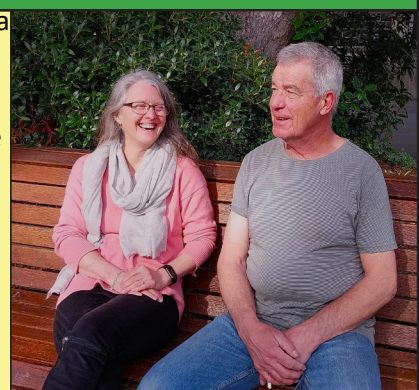
After four years as Knox facilities officer, **Les Carse** is moving on to a well-deserved retirement.

On a sunny second-last-day on the job, he reflected on his time at Knox. There were a variety of tasks, with demands changing on the day, but his principal role, he says with a smile, was "to make sure the toilets were clean and the glass doors were not smudged". Winter brought painting projects and the chance to see things he could improve upon. Summer brought mowing of the lawns and park.

Mostly, he enjoyed the people he worked alongside, especially Jacqui Carroll in their shared office and the four ministers he's reported to: "all the ministers have been great to work with; it's always been a team approach to anything I've been asked to do."

Another positive has been seeing the many different people making use of the garden area, eating their lunches, or just soaking up the sunshine. Less enjoyable have been the late-night, early-morning drinkers and those who've caused small bits of vandalism, he says.

"Not everyone appreciates what a treasure this church is."



Sharing a laugh with office-mate Jacqui Carroll

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## THE CROSS OF NAILS COMMUNITY:

Peter Matheson suggests Knox join international Christian peace & justice group

It's a funny old name for a community, but it all began in distinctly unfunny circumstances, in the Blitz, with the air full of pain and anger against Hitler and terror. It began with the destruction of Coventry Cathedral in 1940. Yet a miracle emerged from all that horror.

Two of the charred roof beams were hammered into a cross by a stonemason, and defiantly placed among the rubble, and another cross was made with 14th century nails scattered everywhere. Unbelievably, the provost of the Cathedral, Bill Williams, met the desecration with the words, "**Father, forgive**".

Still more unbelievably after the war, Coventry made common cause with the people of Dresden smashed by Allied fire-bombing. They sent resources from war-ravaged Britain to rebuild its hospital.

We talk big words in church like reconciliation, *Versöhnung*. But this was the real article. When I was visiting Communist East Germany in the 1970s, a church deacon told me that as a teenager, as part of the Hitler Youth, he was sent to gather the corpses of those who had perished in Dresden and bring them to one of the mass graves. "I was never the same after that, Peter." **Father, forgive.**

There's a Dunedin and a Knox connection in all this. Knox member Carol Grant was awarded a beautiful cross of nails for her work with the community; the person who did most of the legwork bringing British and Germans together was a King's High boy, Paul Oestreicher, Dean of Coventry Cathedral from 1985-97.

I spoke of the community at a recent church forum and again at a Knox house group. There's excitement about the possibility of our linking



with Coventry. Details need to be worked out. It will involve action, not just words.

### **What is this community?**

From its start in 1947 it has grown to be a worldwide network of 250 churches and organisations. St Mary's Cathedral in New Plymouth, a garrison church for the British armies during the bloody NZ Wars, has joined the Community of the Cross of Nails as a sign of its commitment to reconciliation. It now has close links with the Maori village of Parihaka.

### **The three aims of the community are:**

Healing the wounds of history; living with diversity; and building a culture of justice and peace. If Knox were to join, it would be a serious commitment. We would need to see how our church's values gel with the aims of the community, and then commit ourselves to its **prayer for reconciliation**.

The great advantage would be connecting Knox with like-minded Christians across the world, and hugely enlarging our horizons.

Worth thinking about, anyway! ††

## Gone Fishin'... continued

Les' own association with Knox goes back to the late 1960s when he was 12-year-old choir boy during Lennox Willetts' tenure as choir director and organist.

"I've appreciated the time I've spent here, but I'm looking forward to the next chapter in my

life which will revolve around dogs, gardening and fishing."

He and his wife will head to Balfour where they have a second home, accompanied by their trusty Weimaraner and Labrador.

Go well, Les. And thanks. ††

# Catching up with the Reverend Jay: minister, librarian, singer

**Director of the Presbyterian Research Centre at Knox College, Rev Jay Robinson began singing with Knox Choir basses this year. Switching from the red robes to black, Jay has also led morning worship at Knox. *Knox News* asked him to tell us a little about himself.**

I grew up on a farm just outside Baxter, Iowa, USA.

In high school I was particularly interested in science and my 'hero' then was the science populariser Dr Carl Sagan. At the end of high school and during university undergraduate studies I became involved in the Peace Movement by organising the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament on the University of Iowa campus. So Gandhi became a chief influence, as did leaders of the US Nuclear Freeze Campaign in the 1980s. As the nuclear arms race eased, I became influenced by Wendell Berry and Wes Jackson and got involved in the movement for community agriculture.



**Tell us about your studies and professional training.**

BA in Political Science with global studies and history concentrations, and MA in Library and Information Science. Both of these degrees are from the University of Iowa. Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, in Minnesota. Ordained as a United Church of Christ (UCC) pastor on 11 August 1996. I maintain good ministerial standing with

the Iowa Conference of the UCC. I remain professionally active as both a pastor and a librarian.

**What made you decide to move to New Zealand?**

I am a conscientious objector to war. In practical terms, about 20 percent of a US paycheck goes to the US military, and thus wars around the world. That is my labour, conscripted to kill people. American Founding Father Benjamin Franklin once said, '...in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes'. Well, if I have no choice about either death or taxes, at least I can choose not to pay taxes for death.

The 2004 US federal election was a catalyst for my moving to one of the world's first nuclear-free zones. In New Zealand, only about two percent of a paycheque is spent on the military, and proportionally less on aggression, than in the US. New Zealand English meant I could apply my library skills here, the least-belligerent of English-speaking countries. I find both the land and the people most congenial, and very much appreciate since 2011 being a Yankiwi.

**The Presbyterian Research Centre now incorporates both the Hewitson Library and the PCANZ Archives. What do you see as the greatest challenges?**

Staffing. Both library and archives are great for their extensive holdings, but we need to get as much of that material optimally available to the public. We have online tools (*Koha* in the Library and *Recollect* in the Archives) that get those collections 'out there' but that is only as good as the amount of material and metadata that we are able to get entered into those tools, to make them available. ††

# Easter Gifts Keep On Giving

A Palm Sunday tradition at Knox is the making and gifting of small flax crosses. They are offered to those who are at worship as a tangible reminder of what is central to our faith. Part of the tradition is the making and packing of gifts for the men in the Otago Corrections Facility at Milburn. The initiative for this project was largely that of **Janet Sim Elder** who was working in the Restorative Justice Programme and was organised by the then Social Justice Workgroup. Over the past 15 years the whole congregation has become involved, donating small Easter eggs or money, and preparing and packing the gifts. Each man received a card with an Easter message, a flax cross, and a few chocolate eggs. Janet had access to the prison and members of the Workgroup were able to visit and hand out the gifts personally.

**Janet Wishart** paid tribute to Janet Sim Elder's dedication. In welcoming **OCF Chaplain Rae Wilson** to Knox on Palm Sunday she noted that things have changed. This year's group of gift-makers was very small; there is less money for expensive chocolate; there are concerns about wasteful packaging. But we still managed to



produce 500 cards, featuring a coloured photo of a sunrise over Otago Harbour, with Easter greetings from Knox Church and a drawing by Knox children. On each was glued a flax cross. Rae spoke briefly about her work. There are currently 500 men in the prison, many from further north, far away from family support. It is crowded. There are extra pressures on staff, more restrictions on the movements of the chaplains, and tighter security. We no longer have access, except via the chaplains. Some of the men have never received a gift from anyone. One man she knows has 12 crosses in his cell. All the more reason to share the Easter message of Hope. ††

**Helen Thew**





# A Wreathed Garland



*This is a heartfelt thank-you to those in our congregation who serve in the 'flower ministry', brightening our morning worship with sprigs and blooms of the season, and subtly reminding us of the fragile beauty that is God's creation.*

*The following people are part of the flower roster: Patti Matheson, Liz Miller, Carolyn Richardson, Suzanne Bishop, Lee Somerville, Kay Belsey, Glyn Smith, Beulah Dunstone-Leitch, Peter Wishart, Linda Holloway, and Margot Skinner.*

*JILL RUTHERFORD spoke to some of these talented people.*

**"**I always choose flowers from my own garden," says Patti Matheson. "There's always something that seems to fit the occasion. Even when I look around the garden and I think, 'Oh, I have nothing!'. I try to be a wee bit careful with what I select. White for Mother's Day. Red and white for Christmas. But I generally just pick a bunch on the day. It's almost a kind of divine intervention that things just fall into place." Patti's signature flowers depend on the time of year she's rostered. If it's spring, it will be rhododendrons; in winter it will be white hydrangeas; autumn sees colourful dahlias. Patti doesn't even mind if she sneaks in an artificial flower or two if the arrangement needs it: "They're so good these days that you can't really tell."

Carolyn Richardson also admits to adding an artificial flower here and there in the winter when her garden looks bare: "I try to use flowers from my garden but sometimes I have to buy or beg."

Over the years, she's also learned a trick or two "from Mr Google" to see what others have done to enhance their arrangements. She ensures she has plenty of flowers and greenery so the arrangement is big enough that it doesn't get "lost" in the large sanctuary.

Lee Somerville agrees that height is important: "A whole lot of delicate and dainty flowers which might look wonderful close up may look quite insipid from further back in the church." But there is "an enormous sense of satisfaction" when something she's worked on turns out well. She's most pleased with a stark

# ....of Deserved Praise



arrangement she did for Easter and another for Matariki.

Liz Miller and Margot Skinner always use flowers and branches from their own gardens. Margot cuts them early on Saturday, "often whilst still in bud", and lets them "have a drink" in a bucket of water out of the sun. She arranges them on the Sunday.

Liz says she knows she should do the same, "but I'm never organised enough" and, like her friend Suzanne Bishop, is often winging it. Liz is most proud of her latest effort, "an ikebana type thing with blossoms on it", sacrificing her yield of japonic apples for jelly later in the year. Suzanne says while her own garden offerings might be "meagre", she doesn't use artificial flowers: "I really like it that we still have real flowers. Real flowers show me that the congregation is alive and lively. That some people are going in to care every week to keep it a living place."

The lone male on the flower roster is Peter Wishart. He recalls being thrown into the floral duty by sheer accident one Saturday before an important service the next day. He was a young assistant minister to the Rev Douglas Storkey.

Storkey was on holiday, and Peter was to take the service. Late Saturday afternoon arrived, and due to a mix-up in the roster, there were no flowers.

"Heavens!" he thought, "This was dishonouring to God; we can't have this!" But cometh the hour, cometh the man. There were beautiful white roses in front of the old manse building (where the church halls are now). And there was a "profusion of leaves" on the big copper beech. Hurriedly, he stacked copper beech branches to the very top of the old hymn board, and arranged about 30 white roses in front, with lighter greenery in between. Et voilà! The day was saved.

To other male members of Knox Peter says, "Give it a go! Forget the frilly delicate stuff; it has to be big, it has to be white, and it has to be strong in its structure."

The stunning flowers which grace our sanctuary each Sunday are not mere decoration, he adds: "Flowers are an act of worship, done to honour God and God's creation and to remind us all of what we owe to God, and that we offer our very best selves to God."

Amen to that. ††



## Honouring Knox People ... continued from page 12

regularly advanced to the national finals of the New Zealand Choral Federation's The Big Sing Competition. In 2015, the choirs were invited to sing in the 32nd Shanghai Spring International Music Festival.

Karen has been the Musical Director of the Dunedin RSA Choir for nine years and has played double bass for the Dunedin Symphony Orchestra since 2005.

Additionally, Karen is a composer of original works, and a gifted arranger.

"Knox ...has been central to my work, through its support for presenting choral music and for community outreach projects over decades.

"Knox continues to change people's lives through music, for the better, by providing opportunities to experience music and community."

### Margot Skinner

In May, the World Physiotherapy Congress in Dubai conferred its highest global honour, the Mildred Elson Award, on Knox Elder Margot Skinner "for outstanding contribution to the physiotherapy profession as a clinician, teacher and researcher".

Margot tells the *Knox News* a little of what led to this recognition of her work, and what role her own faith played in her commitment to others.

"I always wanted to have a career that was people and health-centred as well as being practical, so physiotherapy seemed to be a good fit," she reflected.

"The Presbyterian influence has been strong in our family over many generations. The high value placed on education and a strong sense of church organisation and contributing in the wider sense are all aspects which our family has seen as being important."

Margot attended Columba College which encouraged leadership and community spirit, qualities she brought to her professional life.

"The annual College Service at Knox was always a special feature on the school calendar,



so it was nice to get to know Knox better and become a member when I moved into the area."

She is grateful to the many people at Knox who, over the years, have been or are still influential within the Presbyterian Church, the university, and the wider city, and who have given and continue to give generously of their time and energy to the life of Knox.

"Such people can be great role models, for example, in learning to navigate through difficult conversations or working with people's strengths in a group setting. These observations become skills for life and one's own work."

Reflecting on changes over her own professional career, Margot said the one thing that stood out was the overall decline in global population health – due largely to lifestyle choices.

"These are diseases that we have control over ourselves, such as diet, exercise and stopping smoking."

Since the advent of no-smoking policies in public spaces, Margot says physiotherapists are spending less time supporting people with chronic lung disease. The focus is now on educating people about the benefits of exercise and staying active.



## Honouring Knox People

"We are fortunate at Knox to have a caring community and green spaces, such as the Knox Garden, to enjoy and be active in, but such things cannot be taken for granted in all communities around the world."

### John Matheson

What do Nelson Mandela, Louis Pasteur, Mother Teresa, Jimmy Carter and Knox's own John Matheson have in common?

They have all been awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, the College's highest honour.

"I'm not sure where I fit within this group," John says of being included in such luminous company. It was certainly a surprise, but perhaps not as much as it would have been to, say, Mother Teresa.

John, a retired orthopaedic surgeon who specialised in lower limb joint and hand reconstruction, has had a close association with



Irish orthopaedic surgery over his career.

Four Irish Fellows trained with John in the Dunedin orthopaedic surgery department and two of these surgeons are now well-respected professors of surgery in Ireland.

He's also been a key-note speaker at an Irish orthopaedic surgery conference and has done collaborative research with some of their surgeons resulting in publications in peer-reviewed journals.

"I have also helped them set up a national joint registry based on our experience in New Zealand.

"They have been a wonderful group of people to work with and I have greatly enjoyed my association."

John and his wife Patti will be travelling to Dublin to attend the fellowship ceremony on November 10. ††

*Jill Rutherford & Helen Thew*

## The Mazengarb Mystery

What started as a query about a woman whose name is inscribed on a Knox brass plaque has become a bit of an obsession for **Jane Bloore**.

Jane is a retired archivist (and better half of Chris Bloore) who volunteers at the Presbyterian Research Centre. Little did she realise when she opened an email about a certain Margaret Fyfe Mazengarb "who died in 1968" and "who loved this church" that she would be drawn into the mystery of just who this lady was and what she meant to Knox...

Down into the dusty depths of the archives she dove (at least metaphorically as most information is now digitalized). Chasing leads where she could, and being thwarted by trails that went cold, our intrepid sleuth has at least partially solved the mystery that is Margaret Fyfe Mazengarb.

Or should we say **Gladys Margaret Fyfe (née McPherson) Mazengarb**?

Intrigued? So are we! Our next edition will illuminate all...

In the meantime, try to find the plaque that first piqued the interest of the **Knox News** editor.

# Knox People

Three members of our Knox community have been lauded recently for their outstanding contributions to their respective fields: **Ms Karen Knudson (choral music)**, **Dr Margot Skinner (physiotherapy)**, and **Mr John Matheson (orthopaedic surgery)**. We profile them here:

**Karen Knudson** was honoured on the King's Birthday weekend with a Queen's Service Medal for her more than 30 years' contribution to choral music in Dunedin.

Karen is typically modest about her achievement, emphasising the collaborative nature of choral work; as she points out, without other people, there is no conducting.

"Building community is intrinsic to what we do with choral music. So, this award also acknowledges all my colleagues who work tirelessly to create not only beautiful music, but also make connections between people that support and enhance life."

Karen was appointed organist and choir director at Knox in 1997. In this role, she has conducted the church and children's choirs, encouraging participation and musical development in soloists and instrumentalists. Under her tutelage, many of her younger students have gone on to study music at university level.



She has conducted the choir in several performances including Handel's 'Messiah' and Brahms' 'German Requiem'. She led a New Zealand première performance of Karl Jenkins' 'The Armed Man', resulting in the choir being invited to take part in the International Peace Choir Concert held in Berlin in November 2018.

Karen was choir musical director of the Otago Girls' and Boys' High School choirs for more than 10 years. Under her leadership, the choirs

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