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FRIENDSHIP NIGHT

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BELLS TO WELCOME YOU  
To Welcome Any Officer or Other Guest

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Worthy Matron's Welcome Speech:

We are indeed very happy to extend a most cordial welcome to you on this occasion. We have been looking forward to your coming, and now that you are here, we wish to extend every courtesy to you. We hope that your visit to our Chapter will be a pleasant one, and that you will carry away with you many happy thoughts and pleasant memories of this occasion. We want you to thoroughly enjoy your visit with us, the work of our officers, and all the good things we have prepared for your coming. We know that you will be charitable to our faults, and willing to cooperate with us in all good things for our Order. The secret of our growth is in our united efforts, for when we are banded together we can accomplish much for our future welfare and prosperity. It is in this spirit that we extend to you a most cordial welcome.

The bells of welcome gladly ring,  
For you as you pass by our way;  
To bring you joy and gladness too,  
With friends to love you every day;  
We know you will enjoy the hours  
That bring much happiness to you,  
And as our bells ring out their song,  
We bring to you a welcome true.

(As soon as the visitor (s) is escorted to the East,) the five Star points and the Associate Matron approach position east of Altar by passing to west of labyrinth, then east with three officers on each side of Altar. They form semicircle east of Altar. Each officer carries an appropriate bell (paper Christmas bells may be used) which she rings just before speaking. Verses are given in turn, the last officer presenting the gift.

1st Officer: How merrily the joy bells ring,  
Their sweetness always fills the air,  
For they bring happiness to you,  
For you are with the friends who care;  
But our bells ring out every day,  
To tell you that we will be true,  
And you will find in coming days,  
They'll ring their welcome songs for you.

2nd Officer: The Church bells ring out loud and clear,  
When we are dressed in Sunday best,  
But other days throughout the week,  
The Church bells seem to take a rest;  
But our bells ring out every day,  
To tell you that we will be true,  
And you will find in days to come,  
They'll ring their welcome songs for you.

3rd Officer: We sometimes hear the bells of trains,  
And know that they are passing through,  
And when we hear them we well know  
That folks and freight are moving too;  
You may not travel much by train;  
Perhaps you came some other way,  
But we are glad that you are here,  
To hear our welcome bells today.

4th Officer: The curfew used to ring at night,  
To bring the youngsters to their home;  
We do not need the curfew here,  
For we know you will never roam;  
But there are some bells we still use,  
And these bells such a gladness bring;  
We hope you'll listen to their tones,  
As these bells now for friendship ring.

5th Officer: We hear the bells on New Year's day,  
Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
And each year as we hear these bells,  
We think of friends so good and true;  
As our bells ring for you today,  
And every day throughout the year,  
You'll know they are the bells of joy,  
That bring you happiness and cheer.

6th Officer: There are some other uses too,  
For bells as they ring clear and true,  
For we are sure that they can bring,  
The gift we have in store for you;  
This gift may not be very large,  
But there is one thing that we know,  
It carries with it all our love,  
And this bell rings to tell you so.

A bell may be presented with the gift if desired.

After gift is presented, officers return to stations.

White Christmas bells may be used very nicely with colored ribbon tied at the top,  
or the bells may be made in color and lighted from within.

This ceremony may be used to honor Past Officers, if desired.

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