



Welcome New Member
To
Chapter #
Order of the Eastern Star

Welcome to our New Member(s)

We are so happy to have you in this organization. Each Chapter's meetings are interesting and fun. In order to get the most out of your membership, we encourage you to attend meetings, enjoy the social events and assist with projects. Get to know your Sisters and Brothers and stay involved. If you give to the order your best, it will come back to you ten fold!

Our meetings are held on the
of each month at

We hope that this orientation booklet will help you to understand what is going on and what is being discussed at these meetings.

Star love,

**Members of
Chapter #**

Table of Contents

What is the Order of Eastern Star	1
What do I need to know to attend a meeting?.....	3
Chapter Dues Card.....	3
The Dress Code.....	4
Upon arrival at your local Chapter.....	5
Gavel.....	5
Signs of Star Point Officers	5
The Reverent Attitude.....	6
Respect for the Bible	6
Attitude of Prayer.....	6
Flag Presentation.....	7
Grand Honors.....	7
Business	7
Sickness and Cheer	7
Balloting	8
Farewell.....	9
Entering or leaving the Chapter	9
The Officers in a Chapter.....	10
Chapter Courtesies	10
Grand Chapter & General Grand Chapter	16
Past Grand Matrons & Past Grand Patrons	16
What is Grand Visitation or OV?	17
What is ESTARL?	17
What are Educational Scholarships?	17
What are the Youth Groups?	17
Where to learn more:	17
The Ritual	14
The Constitution and By Laws Book	14
The Secret Work	14
The Worthy Matron's Ode Card	15
Your Mentor.....	15
Visiting another Chapter	15
What is Proficiency.....	15
Introduction to Symbolism in OES.....	18
Star Point Scriptures	21

WHAT IS THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR?

Someone may ask no matter who you are
What is the Order of the Eastern Star?

If you've been a member for a while or so,
There are just a few facts you may want to know.

We belong to an Order, the largest of its kind,
A fraternity in which men and women you will find

Its members are found in every corner of the globe,
And each is part of the great Masonic fold.

Our purpose is to inspire good; it's that simple and plain;
The tenets of truth, charity, loyalty and kindness we train.

Charitable and benevolent projects are the things we do
To help friends in need and to see their troubles through.

Our principles are based on Biblical days
But in no way conflict with our religious ways.

We have lots of fun, too, as everyone should,
Meeting and traveling and working for good.

And because of our goals, we develop a bond
For each member, one to another, we become very fond.

This is an Order like no other you will find,
A chance to do good for your fellow mankind.

--Author Unknown--

Star Point Info & Scriptures

Adah – Judges 11.30-31, 34-35

Color is blue and symbolizes Fidelity

Emblem: Sword and Veil united

Flower: Violet * Open Bible

Ruth –Ruth 2:16-17; 2:1-2.5

Color is yellow and symbolizes Constancy

Emblem: Sheaf

Flower: yellow Jessamine * Lily of the Valley

Esther – Esther 2:17, 20; 5:1-3

Color is white and symbolizes Light, Purity, and Joy

Emblem: Crown and Scepter united

Flower: White Lily * the Sun

Martha – St John 1:3-4, 20,22-26

Color is green and symbolizes Hope & Immortality

Emblem: the Broken Column

Flower: Fern * the Lamb

Electa – I John 4:7-8, 17-21; II John 1:1-5

Color is red and symbolizes Fervency

Emblem: The Cup

Flower: Red Rose * the Lion

**GIVE TO THE ORDER THE BEST YOU HAVE,
AND THE BEST WILL COME BACK TO YOU!**

Welcome Sisters and Brothers to the Wonderful World of Eastern Star

You have been initiated into your Chapter with the beautiful stories of the heroines of our order. A friend in whom you trusted walked beside you to let you know that in this Chapter you will have friends to stand by you in your journey of life.

What is the Order of the Eastern Star?

You are now a member of the largest fraternal organization in the world for both women and men. Its members are comprised of men who are Master Masons and women with specific Masonic relationships. It encircles the earth with over 10,000 chapters in the United States, Canada and 18 other countries. Several chapters form a state organization - a Grand Chapter. Most Grand Chapters are under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter.

A deep fraternal bond exists between the members. It is brought about through high principles exemplified in our daily lives, which make us near and dear to each other.

Eastern Star is a social Order comprised of persons with religious convictions and spiritual values, but it is NOT a religion and is neither secret nor political. Our spiritual symbol is the “Star of Bethlehem.” Thus, the five-pointed Star is our accepted emblem. Our initiation is symbolic of the road of life. You have heard the words of our teachings, Obligation, and laws. However, it will be beneficial to you to hear them again, with explanation, in order to thoroughly understand our ritualistic work.

While this is an Order composed of people of spiritual convictions, it is open to all faiths. The personal welfare of our members is vital to all our Stars and it is considered a privilege to help one another whenever we can. It is a social order of members with sincere and purposeful objectives. As a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, you will join dedicated men and women who sincerely reflect the spirit of fraternal love and desire to work together on the many projects that benefit mankind throughout the world.

Millions of dollars are raised annually within our membership for numerous projects. Many national and local charities are among the projects supported by our members. Through this fraternal service to humanity, our members strive to build a better, more fulfilling way of life for all.

The following is a guide to assist **YOU**, as a new and devoted member of our Order of the Eastern Star.

What do I need to know to attend a meeting?

Chapter Dues Card

You were presented with a dues card at your initiation. Dues cards are issued when a member pays dues. Please **SIGN** your dues card when you receive it. It is best if you carry it with you at all times, as you may be asked to show it at special meetings or when visiting another chapter. Dues are payable in advance and are due before December 31st of each year. If you are to be an officer, your dues must be paid before you can be installed.

The circling of the Star Points during initiation symbolizes the maze of life in which one can become helpless and lost, without the guidance of The Divine Architect of the Universe. By passing the Altar each time we pass the Bible, the source of wisdom and light, the friend who walks beside the candidate symbolizes the Divine Friend who walks beside us, and teaches us that each Sister and Brother is ready at all times to comfort and sustain those who need them.

We stand while the Officers make the entering march, and remain standing until seated by the Worthy Matron, because the entrance of our Officers symbolizes the opening of our Chapter for the honor of God, for our instruction and for the good of our fellow-man.

The five flowers represent the five outstanding virtues of womanhood –

- ◆ The Violet of Adah – Modesty and Chastity
- ◆ The Yellow Jasmine of Ruth – Sweetness
- ◆ The White Lily of Esther – Humility
- ◆ The Fern of Martha – Godliness
- ◆ The Red Rose of Electa – Courage to right wrongs

You can purchase books and literature on symbolism from the Grand Chapter

The Dress Code

The Conductress steps back between Ruth and Esther and after the prayer the Chaplain stands between Esther and Martha. The Altar, as a pivotal point makes a complete circle between the Star Points. A circle is a sign of unending life. If they did not step back into their positions the circle would be incomplete, and broken.

In Revelation 21:16, John tells of seeing “The City Four-Square” the New Jerusalem. The Chapter Room shall be “Four-square”, as a symbol of integrity and fair dealing. We turn square corners in marching as a symbol of living four square with God and man.

A triangle is made between the Associate Conductress, Conductress, and the Worthy Matron. A triangle is also made between the Conductress, Associate Conductress and the Associate Matron.

Clasping the closed Bible during initiation is a symbol of secrecy.

It is proper when possible, for the Chapter Room to face East and West. This is a symbol from Masonry, because the Temple at Jerusalem, built by King Solomon, faced the East. East is always a symbol of light. North, from the earliest time of man, has always been considered a place of darkness, lighted only by the North Star.

The Associate Conductress corresponds to John the Baptist; she prepares the way of the Lord. Since candidates must declare their belief in a Supreme Being, and the way must be prepared for the Candidate to get the most out of the initiation. The Conductress symbolizes the Divine Friend who walks besides us through the perilous journey of life.

In opening the Bible we open it to any book and chapter generally near the center of the book.

Female Officers may wear long dresses of the same type and or color at the request of the Worthy Matron. Male officers usually wear dark suits or Tuxedos. Officers may dress more formally for special meetings such as official visits, initiations and installation of Officers. Other Female members who are not officers may wear dresses of appropriate length, or skirt and blouse. Pants are only worn at casual functions and practices (preferably no jeans).

Men should wear a dark suit when the ladies are in formals. When it isn't a formal meeting, a sport's coat and slacks are fine. In warmer weather more casual dress may be allowed. The incoming WM will advise on what she prefers.

These are suggested attire. Should you be unable to conform, do not hesitate to attend the meetings of your chapter. Perhaps after work, time will not permit you to go home and change. Your chapter would prefer that you attend in your “work clothes” rather than stay away because of suggestions about attire.

Members are not permitted to wear hats or gloves. In Eastern Star, a hat is considered symbolically as something between the member and God. A glove is considered something preventing a warm, friendly contact with another member's hand. In the congenial warmth of the chapter, wraps are considered unnecessary; therefore, overcoats, furs, and wraps are not worn.

All of the Dress code mentioned above is a matter of custom. However, should a member show up in pants or need a wrap or headdress, it would be an act of unkindness, and therefore a violation of our obligation, to speak of this custom at such a time. ***Only the Worthy Matron should address the issue with the member.***

Upon arrival at your local Chapter

You should sign the guest register – located just outside the Chapter room, in what we call the Anteroom. You should also sign the WM guest book. If you are carrying a cellular phone or pager, you should make them silent. You may sit in a chair along the sidelines in the chapter room. As a new member, it is permissible for you to follow along in your ritual while officers perform their work. However, **only the designated prompter prompts** the officers when needed. When you become an officer, you will want to memorize your work.

Gavel

Three raps calls up the entire Chapter

Two raps calls up the officers

One rap

- ❖ Calls the Chapter to order
- ❖ Seats Chapter when standing
- ❖ Completes Opening and Closing
- ❖ Completes each order of business

Remain standing after the chapter is declared open, even though the gavel is rapped once.

Remember stand at three blows and sit down at one blow.

Signs of Star Point Officers

Listen to the Secret Work. Study it with your Mentor. Respond by giving the Pass of the Degree when requested by the Worthy Matron.

Introduction to Symbolism in OES (Excerpts from “Symbolism of the Order of the Eastern Star” Compiled by Mary Katharine Smith, PGM of CA)

- *The Dove and the Olive Branch – a “Symbol” of Peace
- *The Lion – a “Symbol” of Courage
- *The Eagle – a “Symbol” of Freedom
- *Our American Flag – a “Symbol” of Liberty
- *The Cross – a “Symbol” of God’s love for mankind, in giving His only begotten Son that “Whosoever Believeth in Him Should Not Perish, But Have Everlasting Life.”

*The Altar with the Open Bible is a symbol of God’s presence, and the dispensing of His Light. As the sun, our greatest source of light, rises in the East, so shall the Worthy Matron preside in the East as a dispenser of God’s light.

A Brother sits at her left, signifying the relationship between the Order of the Eastern Star and the Masonic Brotherhood, Symbolizing the fact that Masonry stands ready to protect those who are worthy of Masonic protection.

We do not pass between the Altar and the East, because the light dispensed from the Holy Bible is broken in so doing, and the Worthy Matron is separated from her source of Divine Light and *guidance*.

The Sign of Salutation is made to the Open Bible as a signification of the Light of the Word being spread to all Sisters and Brothers present

What is Grand Visitation or OV?

The Grand Visitation is the Official Visit made to the Chapter by the Worthy Grand Matron (WGM) and sometimes the Worthy Grand Patron (WGP). The WGM & WGP are the ones elected to represent the statewide membership.

What is ESTARL?

This is the name of the scholarships given to the students seeking religious service. It means **Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership**.

What are Educational Scholarships?

Students who are attending college in Oregon can apply for OES scholarships through the Grand Chapter's various Scholarship Committees.

What are the Youth Groups?

These groups are the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Job's Daughters International (Bethel) and the Order of DeMolay for Boys.

Where to learn more:

- The Grand Chapter has a web site:
www.oregonoes.org
- The Eastern Star Journal is published by General Grand Chapter 4 times a year and has many interesting articles.

Respect for the Bible

Stand, in an attitude of reverence, when the Bible bearer with Bible enters the Chapter room before opening. Face the Altar as the Bible is carried into the Labyrinth.*

When the Bible is open on the Altar, it creates a Holy area between it and the East, and no one is permitted to walk between them except during the initiation ceremony.

No pictures are to be taken during the ritualistic work. We do not applaud for ritualistic work. We do not applaud when people are in the Labyrinth.*

*The Labyrinth is the pentagon shaped area around the Star Points with the Altar in the center.

The Reverent Attitude

This position is assumed during devotionals in Opening and Closing, all Obligations, and when Conductress or Chaplain enters the Labyrinth. Continue holding until all leave the Labyrinth. It is assumed by Clasp your hands loosely left palm up, the right palm down and laid over the left and hold your hands at waist level.

Attitude of Prayer

You need to assume the Reverent Attitude and face the Altar when the Chaplain enters the Labyrinth. Bow your head as the Chaplain kneels or if unable to kneel at the Altar, Bow as the Chaplain begins the prayer. Hold the reverent attitude during prayer. Give prayer response, "so may it ever be" after ritualistic prayer. Respond with 'Amen' when responding to a prayer given from the heart. You drop your hands to your sides when Chaplain and Conductress both leave the Labyrinth.

Flag Presentation

Salute the Flag when the Associate Patron takes it out of the stand and hold as long as Flag is in motion. You should follow the Flag with the body as it moves. Hold the Salute for the Pledge and the National Anthem.

Grand Honors

Is extended to the Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Past Grand Matron, and Past Grand Patron. Grand Honors are given only when the guest is standing in the East. You should face East to West or North to South (never at an angle) when the Worthy Matron says, “Sisters and Brothers...” give in one motion by crossing the arms over the breast, the left over the right, with hands open and with a slight bow. Applause may be given during the introductions and when a guest is being escorted to the East. Applause may be given as the guest is leaving the Labyrinth, and following Grand Honors.

Sickness and Cheer

You should report any illness or distress of any member or yourself. Be sure to share your celebrations as well.

Business

Please feel free to participate in the affairs of the chapter by asking questions or requesting clarification on any point that is not clear to you. You should stand if you wish to speak; wait until you are acknowledged, then say, “Worthy Matron...”

Voting is done “by the usual sign of the Order,” which is raising the right hand. To vote by acclamation means to vote by “voice”.

Common Abbreviations Used in our Order

OES	Order of Eastern Star
WGM	Worthy Grand Matron
WGP	Worthy Grand Patron
PGM	Past Grand Matron
PGP	Past Grand Patron
WM	Worthy Matron
WP	Worthy Patron
GGC	General Grand Chapter

Grand Chapter and General Grand Chapter?

The state organization is referred to as the **Grand Chapter of Oregon** and they meet once a year in June. At that time all the business is reported, changes are discussed and voted upon and an election is held to elect the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron, along with a slate of other Grand Chapter Officers. These officers serve for one year. All members have Voting privileges. The incoming officers are installed on the final afternoon in a beautiful and meaningful program.

General Grand Chapter, is the organization which represents the worldwide membership and they meet every three years.

Past Grands, Past Matrons and Past Patrons?

Past Grand Matrons & Past Grand Patrons have held the top offices in Grand Chapter (state) and are introduced at all meetings. Past Matrons and Past Patrons have held the top offices in local chapters. One may be a PM (Past Matron) or PP (Past Patron) more than one time.

What is Proficiency?

Each year, some Chapters have their members attend Proficiency (study) classes where you can learn more about Eastern Star and its meaning. This is also when you may learn our Secret Work.

The Worthy Matron's ODE CARD

An ode card will include the Worthy Matron's selections such as Theme, Colors, Flower, Scripture, etc. It will include an events calendar.

Your Mentor

You were assigned a Mentor and this is someone you can go to at any time to learn more about the order. Many Chapters have special meetings to practice. Also, a practice is often scheduled before an Installation of Officers. We are all Sisters and Brothers. **We all make mistakes!** Please don't feel embarrassed if you make one too. Really, the sky won't fall and we'll still love you.

Visiting Another Chapter

Be prepared to show your dues receipt. See if there is a sister or brother there that has sat with you in a chapter meeting and ask them to vouch for you. If not, you will be examined by the examining committee. Be prepared to give the signs and passes of Star Points and required Secret Work. Sign the register under the visitor section.

Balloting

A prospective member should only be rejected if she/he is not of good moral character or would be a destructive source in the Chapter. If a member has such knowledge, he/she should tell the Worthy Matron when the petition is read in the chapter.

The Ballot is secret and inviolable. No one discusses the ballot in the presence of those who are not members of the Order. Only the Secretary discloses the results of the ballot to the new applicants for membership. Only members of the Chapter to which application is made may vote on the application.

Usually the ballot box is placed on the altar. Members on the south ballot first after the officers have balloted. Do not carry anything in your hands or have any wrap draped loosely over your shoulders. Observe how the officers form a triangle prior to entering the Labyrinth between Ruth and Esther; you will pause at those points. After the person in front of you completes the balloting, approach the Altar and make the Salutation Sign to the **open Bible**, drop your hands to your sides, then you may take one step to the left and ballot with either hand. Vote for the Good of the Order: white balls are favorable; black cubes reject. NEVER cast a black cube unless you know of some good reason the applicant would not make a good member. Using a black cube for personal dislike is not good. It is not good for the Star; it is not good for Christianity. After you ballot, drop your arms to your side before taking two steps backward if possible; turn left toward Martha; leave between Esther and Martha, returning to your seat by the marching line.

Farewell

At the close of each meeting, the Worthy Matron addresses the Chapter with a farewell. Each member's response to the Worthy Matron is "**Farewell**" with a slight bow. The Worthy Matron may ask another member to give the Farewell. The response from the members is the same.

Members may be asked to give the **Mizpah Benediction**.

It is as follows:

May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from the other

Entering or leaving the chapter while the meeting is in session.

If you are late in arriving, or need to leave while the Chapter is in session, remember no one is allowed to enter or leave during Opening or Closing ceremonies, nor during balloting. When entering is permitted, the Sentinel will give the alarm (rap on the door). When allowed in you will need to put wraps and purses on sideline. Then advance to the west line with hands empty, in front of the Associate Matron and the Associate Patron, Face the East (podium) and give the Salutation Sign (remember the way you held the Bible?). Please wait for the response from the presiding officer. If entering, take your seat; if retiring, wait for the Warder to open the door. (Only the Warder is allowed to open the door). If you are ill or have an emergency, you may leave without giving the Salutation Sign.

After attending a few chapter meetings, you may wish to explore the following resources. The chapter secretary should be able to make these available to you.

1. Ritual (you may have been given this at Initiation)
2. Chapter By-Laws (you were given this at Initiation)
3. Grand Chapter Constitution and By-Laws
(Available on line or from the secretary)
4. Roster of your Chapter Members.

The Ritual

You were presented with a ritual at your initiation. It gives information about our founder Rob Morris, and explains things like - how to ballot, what the raps mean, Grand Honors, Jewels of the Officers. Lastly, you will find instructions on opening, closing, initiations and installations.

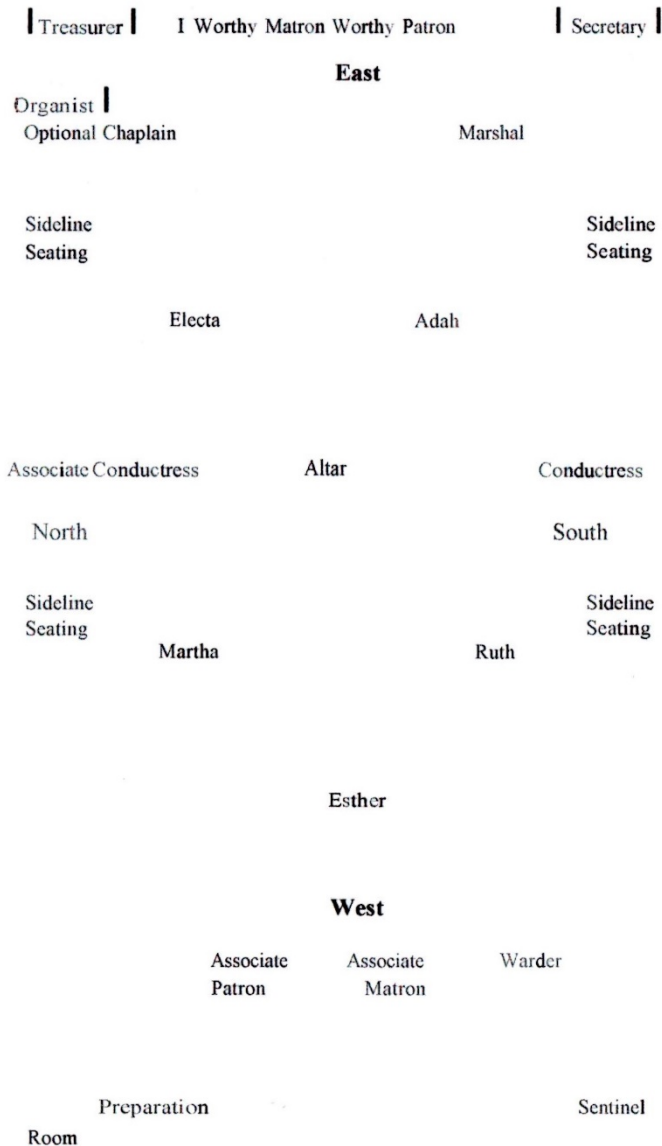
The Constitution & By-Laws Book

This is a book you may purchase from the Chapter Secretary or download from our website for free. It contains the Constitution, Rules, Regulations, Code of Justice, miscellaneous instructions, ceremonies, diagrams and forms that pertain to the Grand Chapter and the local chapters. This book is very informative and if you do not understand something, you can usually find the answer in this book

The Secret Work

Each Chapter may have four copies of the Secret Work. The top officers have these copies and they are passed down each year to the new top officers. However, any member may view and study a copy of the Secret Work. The Secret Work should be memorized any of the top officers can help you or any member who has their proficiency can help you with the memorization work.

Typical Chapter Room



The Officers in a Chapter

Elections are held once a year in May. The eight elected officers are Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Associate Matron, Associate Patron, Secretary, Treasurer, Conductress, and Associate Conductress. The remaining 10 officers are appointed by the incoming Worthy Matron. These officers are Chaplain, Marshal, Organist, Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, Electa, Warder, and Sentinel. Officers step to the side of their chairs, closest to the sidelines. Elected officers stand in front of their chairs.

Chapter Courtesies

The chapter is headed by and is under the direction of the Worthy Matron. A member wishing to speak rises and waits to be recognized by the Worthy Matron. When this recognition is given, the member responds with a slight bow of the head and then greets – “Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Sisters and Brothers” and proceeds with the desired message.

The Light of the Eastern Star originates from the Holy Bible, the Great Light of all Masonic Orders. Symbolically, the light should be available to the Presiding Officer at all times. Therefore, no one passes between the altar, with the Bible open upon it, and the East (except as specifically provided in the ritual such as the initiation ceremony).

Normally, no one moves around the Chapter while in session, except as conducted by the Marshal or Conductresses. Men are conducted to the East on the South side and Women on the North side. During “Good of the Order” a member may ask: “May I be permitted to approach the East?” and on being given permission, moves to the East without escort.

Remember: During meetings, do not talk to one another during ritual or when other members or officers are speaking, be attentive during meetings, turn off or put on vibrate all electronic devices. In the early days of the Order, it was considered unlady like for women to cross their knees in Chapter. Therefore, women should leave their feet flat on the ground or crossed at the ankles. Avoid doing anything that would be distracting to others.

We know that during your initiation a great deal of information was presented to you in a rather bewildering hour of being escorted around the Chapter Room. You vaguely remember something about having to know certain passes but you do not have any idea of what they are. The more you attend Chapter meeting, the more firmly these passes will be embedded in your memory. Make an effort to attend as many meetings as you are able. All of us were new members and have felt as overwhelmed as you may feel now. Your “Mentor” assigned to you is there to help. Don’t hesitate to call and ask for assistance.

In order to get the most out of your membership, you will want to:

- * Attend Meetings**
- * Enjoy social events**
- * Assist with projects**
- * Get to know your sisters and brothers**
- * STAY INVOLVED!**

To make you more familiar with the officers of the chapter we have listed each officer and the office they hold.

Worthy Matron: _____

Worthy Patron: _____

Associate Matron: _____

Associate Patron: _____

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: _____

Conductress: _____

Associate Conductress: _____

Chaplain: _____

Marshal: _____

Organist: _____

Adah: _____

Ruth: _____

Esther: _____

Martha: _____

Electa: _____

Warder: _____

Sentinel: _____