

The Journey...S

**Official Newsletter of Church of the Spiral Tree
an Ecumenical, Faerie Faith church**

**Issue 2
Spring Equinox, 1998**

First off, I must apologize for the lateness of this newsletter. It's intended to be published quarterly, on the Equinoxes and Solstices, so this one is meant for the Spring Equinox. Oh well. At any rate, these publication dates are so that whatever was discussed in the last Board of Directors meeting (which are on the Cross-Quarter days) can be reported in the very next issue. So my report on that meeting is on page 4.

We need some articles for the newsletter! I'd like this to be more than just the minutes of the BOD meetings

(ho-hum...), and I don't want to be the only one doing all the writing. So send me stuff! Remember, I know your names! I have your email addresses! I might just call you up individually and ask for things! Beware....

Next, there have been rumors that Moondance has had to move from Roxanna. Sad, but true. The owner of Roxanna sold it to his partner, who doesn't want us out there due to liability. So Moondance is at Dragon Hills near Carrollton, Georgia, and FallFling is still undecided.

-Linda Kerr

Who Are We?

The Church of the Spiral Tree (CST) is a non-profit, volunteer-staffed, ecumenical pagan/wiccan church, designed to foster a sense of community and family among pagans, both locally and in other regions of the country/world. It is an ecumenical church in that it encompasses all traditions, and is non-exclusive. It welcomes all who revere the Earth Mother and adhere to the tenets of the Wiccan Rede ("An it harm none, do as you will"), regardless of which tradition one is affiliated with. CST is also a Faerie Faith church, in that it has a goal of spreading the teachings of the Faerie Faith to all who are interested, and giving people better access to this ancient and beautiful Irish belief system. The Faerie Faith itself is a non-exclusive faith; one who is studying the Faerie Faith is always free to study other traditions or join other organizations.

If you would like to help with any of our projects, have any further ideas for the church, or have any resources which would be of benefit, please contact us. CST is also seeking volunteers to help with various parts of the church, such as:

- writers and artists for the CST newsletter
- editing and publishing the CST newsletter
- handling networking contacts, including publishing lists in newsletter
- other business and administration associated with the newsletter

What's Happening in the Church So Far...

We were legally incorporated on August 1, 1997. We automatically have tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) corporation, due to our religious nature, but are filing the paperwork so we'll have something to prove it with. Our By-laws were sent out with the last newsletter, and our Board of Directors have had their second meeting (minutes are in this newsletter). Also, our numbers are growing! Our newest member, Melody Pettus, is a Contributing Member, meaning she paid a \$100 membership for 1 year. Thank you Melody! We hope others will follow her example.

(Continued inside)

Some members have expressed interest in starting their own groves, so we are currently trying to get registered in Georgia and other states so we can do this. In Alabama, since we are registered here as a corporation, all that is required to start a group is to just do it. So maybe our Birmingham members will start their own grove soon!

Since we are a religious organization, i.e., a church, we can legally ordain ministers. This means that our ministers can perform legal weddings, funerals, and baptisms. In order to become a legal minister through the Church of the Spiral Tree, you first of all need to be an active (paid) member. Then simply send us your request, along with your name, address, and email address if you have one, and your check for \$35.00. You will be entered into our database, and will soon receive your certificate of ordination and a card to carry with you. The fee for this service is \$35.00, and will confer ordination for life. Note that becoming a CST minister does not automatically confer "Elder" or "High Priest/ess" status upon anyone! These are earned positions, not lightly given.

Lastly, I'm (still) frantically trying to complete the Faerie Faith Correspondence Course that I've been threatening to do for years. (I finally have a good excuse!) As soon as it's done, the info about it will be published here. I've been trying to finish up my academic requirements for the Bradley Method of Natural Childbirth, and have finally succeeded; so now I'll have a bit more free time (hah!).

Blessed Be! Linda Kerr

Newsletter Staff:

Editor/Publisher Linda Kerr

CST Board of Directors:

President Linda Kerr

Vice President Craig Kerr

Secretary/Treasurer Sherry Holmes

CST Staff:

Hospitality Officer Odessa Crenshaw

**Church of the Spiral Tree
PO Box 186**

**Auburn, AL 36831-0186
334-821-4683 (Linda Kerr)**

spiraltree@mindspring.com

<http://www.mindspring.com/~spiraltree>

CONTACTS:

Remember, you get a free listing with your paid membership. You may also submit your listing at any later time.

Melody Pettus: I would welcome meeting or writing to any like-minded Faery trained folks in the Atlanta area. 2347 Melinda Dr., Atlanta, GA 30345-1914, or email to <c..robinson@worldnet.att.net> .

Amy Blount: I wish to correspond with all members. Contact Amy, <hudd2@bellsouth.com>, or write to: 4650 Perry Rd., Gainesville, GA 30506.

Mark Morey: Rt. 1 Box 3060, Musella, GA, 31066, 912-836-3525 (Licensed minister).

Matt "Kylln" Rhinehart: I am always happy to talk with other Wiccans about things of a spiritual nature or just to talk. Cartersville, GA, 770-606-8647.

Stephanie A. Farrow: Seeking friendship & wisdom from a fellow Celtic Wiccan. Possible coven. Blessed be! 151 Buckingham Cir., Montevallo, AL, 35115, 205-665-2229.

"Skippy" Rob Von Allmen: Tired? Bored? Wanting to find true love and happiness? Well, what are you doing talking to me?! I don't have all the questions, much less the answers. But I do have a clue (I found it in a cereal box) and am licensed to share the wisdom of the ages (answered an ad in Rolling Stone). If you also ponder such mysteries as "Is there life after death?," "Was he a man dreaming he was a butterfly...?," and "Where am I parked?," then please drop me a line at: 3512 Clairmont Ave. #501, Birmingham, AL 35222.

CST Calendar:

We tentatively plan on having a ritual and/or a celebration to mark the 8 Sabbats, on the Saturday closest to the date. These will usually (but not always) take place near Auburn, Alabama. Notices will be emailed or snail-mailed to all members with more specific information on each. (PLEASE keep your email address updated with us—very important!)

Upcoming CST sabbats and other 1998 happenings:

Beltane:

May 2, 1998, Waverly, Alabama (near Auburn). We will hold our traditional May Day celebration, which does not include a ritual in the usual sense, but will be a lot of fun! Plan to arrive at our place in Waverly by 9:00 am, (morning!!) and bring some sort of fun costume to wear. There'll be a pot-luck and party that night. Crash and tent space available. Please RSVP by April 30, so we know how many ribbons to cut for the May pole. Cost: \$1.00 to pay for ribbons, munchies and cokes. If you need further info or directions to the site, please email Linda at <spiraltree@mindspring.com>. Most anybody is invited, but please ask first! We don't want spectators there—this is one of our chances to get wild and crazy and go with the energies of the season. Also, weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

May:

Moondance will be May 21-25 at Dragon Hills near Carrollton (not Roxanna!). Ceren Ered is hosting May Moon Madness May 7-10 in Tennessee.

Summer Solstice:

Not decided yet, but if we do anything, it'll be on June 20, near Auburn. Stay tuned for further notices!

Lammas:

August 8, 1998, Waverly, AL (near Auburn). Lammas/Holly Moon (full moon is Aug. 7) ritual. Ritual will begin around dark-ish, with a party afterwards (bring munchies, appetizers, drinks). Since it gets dark late, we'll probably eat before the ritual, and just munch afterwards. Crash and tent space available. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

Fall Equinox:

Nothing planned—Earthdance is Sept. 11-13, and Ceren Ered is having a Mabon festival Sept. 18-20 in Tennessee. Probably lots of other things going on, too.

October:

Work day for FallFling is Oct. 10. FallFling is Oct. 15-18, site TBA. Serpentstone is hosting Witchstock at Draggintail Farm near Macon, GA on Oct. 22-25.

Samhain:

Not sure yet, but will probably have something, culminating with a fun, fun, fun party—Moosemas! (Also Linda & Susan's birthday party.) Either Nov. 7 or Nov. 14. Crash and tent space available, and encouraged! Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

Yule:

Don't know yet. Serpentstone will have a Yule festival at Draggintail Farm near Macon, GA on Dec. 18-20.

For info on any of the above, email Linda Kerr at <spiraltree@mindspring.com>.

Note that on a couple of the cross-quarter festivals the dates are a few days after the traditional date. This is because we celebrate the cross-quarter days on the astronomical date. To get this date, count the number of days from the previous Solstice or Equinox to the next Equinox or Solstice—usually about 92 days. Divide this by 2 (usually about 46 days). That day halfway in between the Solstice and Equinox or Equinox and Solstice is the actual cross-quarter day. For 1998, the actual dates would be: Imbolc - February 3-4; Beltane - May 5-6; Lammas - August 6; Samhain - November 6.

Upcoming Festivals (Not CST events):

Gathering '98	May 15-17, 1998	Big Valley Campground, Manning, SC
Moondance	May 21-25, 1998	Dragon Hills, GA
Earthdance	September, 1998	FDR State Park, Pine Mtn, GA
FallFling '98	October 15-18, 1998	site TBA
Witchstock '98	October 22-25, 1998	Draggintail Farms, Roberta, GA (near Macon)
Yule	Dec. 18-20, 1998	DragginTail Farms, Roberta, GA (near Macon)

MINUTES
CHURCH OF THE SPIRAL TREE
Board of Directors
February 8, 1998

The meeting was called to order by Linda Kerr at 6:00 pm, at 1831 Opelika Road, Auburn, Alabama, with the following Directors present:

Linda C. Kerr, President
James C. Kerr, Vice-President
Sherry Holmes, Secretary/Treasurer

Approval of minutes

It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that the minutes of the meeting on December 14, 1997 held in Auburn, Alabama be approved.

New Business

Linda Kerr made note that she was in the process of filling out the paperwork for the IRS recognition of the church's tax-exempt status. A fee of \$150 is required to be filed with the paperwork, and the budget is currently too low to allow this to be sent. Plans are to send the paperwork early in April or May, 1998.

It was noted that Odessa Crenshaw was acting as the Hospitality Officer; a motion was made and unanimously carried that she be named as the official Hospitality Officer.

The next meeting was scheduled to be held the day after our May Day. This will be on the day after our May Day, Sunday, either on May 3 or May 10, in Auburn, Alabama. There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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The Celtic Goddess

To the top of the tallest mountain
To the bottom of the deepest sea
We have been the Goddess
Forever and for eternity.

Throughout the entire universe
and beyond what we know as infinity
We are still the Goddess-
We are the original trinity!

The trinity consists of the Daughter,
The Mother and the Grandmother.
We are Maid, Mother and Crone-
We are one the same with each other.

We have no beginning
We have no end.
We are a complete circle
Circling again and again.

"We are Danu, Morrigan, Macha,
Cerridwen, Morgan La Fay, Epona,
Bridget, Cailleach Bheur, Mari,
Maeave, Rhiannon and Feona.

- by Stormy, 6/23/96

The Church of the Spiral Tree

Membership Application

Legal Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Do you wish to be listed in the **Contacts** section of the newsletter? If so, please use the space below to write your listing exactly the way you want it published. Be sure to include a way for people to contact you. **WRITE LEGIBLY!** We are not responsible to errors due to "chicken scratch."

We have several different types of memberships available to suit your needs. All include full membership benefits, and run for one year, with a renewal notice sent to remind you next year.

_____	Individual	\$20.00	
_____	Student/Poor Person:	\$15.00	(please attach a short note demonstrating financial need)
_____	Family (includes kids):	\$35.00	(must be in immediate family only, same address)
_____	Sustaining Member:	\$50.00	(receives all benefits plus our undying thanks)
_____	Contributing Member:	\$100.00	(receives all benefits, our eternal thanks, and a listing in the newsletter once a year)
_____	Patron(ess) Member:	\$200.00	(receives all benefits, our everlasting gratitude, a yearly listing in the newsletter, and a certificate)

OTHER:

_____	Subscription to <u>The Hazel Nut</u> (1 year)	\$10-19.00	(price scale reflects discount for members: you choose what you pay!)
_____	Donation to CSP	\$5 & up	(all donations are tax deductible; you will be sent a receipt for your records, as well as our undying thanks)

Make checks out to: The Church of the Spiral Tree, Inc., and mail to:

Spiral Tree
P.O. Box 186
Auburn, AL 36831-0186
334-821-4683
spiraltree@mindspring.com

Visit us at our web site (will be up soon)! <<http://www.mindspring.com/~spiraltree>>

CST Calendar:

Board of Directors' meetings:

February 8, 1998, Auburn, Alabama
May 2, 1998, Auburn, Alabama
August 9, 1998, Auburn, Alabama
November 8, 1998, Auburn, Alabama

Annual Meeting of the General membership:

May 24, 1998, Moondance, Dragonhills, near Carrollton, Georgia

Celebration Dates (subject to change!):

Beltane	May 2, 1998
Summer Solstice	June 20, 1998
Lughnassad	August 8, 1998
Autumn Equinox	September 19, 1998
Samhain	November 7 or 14, 1998
Yule	December 19, 1998

Festivals: (not CST events!)

Moondance	May 21-25, 1998	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
Earthdance	September, 1998	FDR State Park, Pine Mtn, GA
FallFling '98	October 15-18, 1998	Site TBA

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED