

# The Journey...S

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

Issue 4  
Fall Equinox, 1998

**During 1998**, we've had rituals to celebrate the Sabbats. In 1999, we're going to concentrate more on the Esbats, or full moons, and possibly also do the Sabbats. (We'll see how the work load goes!) Doing the lunar rituals each full moon will give interested people a chance to experience the full lunar cycle Faerie-Faith style, as each will focus on one of the trees of the Celtic Tree Calendar. Note that these are working rituals, rather than celebratory ones. We'll be learning and teaching, and also doing energy work.

These rituals will be much simpler and shorter; there will be no gathering or pot-luck afterwards, and the rituals may even be done in someone's back yard to make the whole thing easier to set up and clean up. Therefore, these lunar rituals are primarily aimed at nearby members who don't have a large commute to make on a monthly basis. However, they are open to any and all.

We expect that these lunar rituals will have a smaller turnout than our bigger, more celebratory sabbat rituals. Will we continue with the sabbat rituals for further-off members? Probably. This has proven very popular, and we enjoy them too. As always, notices about upcoming rituals will be emailed or snail-mailed out to members ahead of time.

Note: the schedules on page 3 and page 8 are subject to change! We will always mail or email notices closer to the actual date with more details.

**Faerie-Faith Link:** Don't forget that you have the option of participating long-distance in our rituals. All you have to do is let us know that you want to do this, and before each of our planned rituals, we will mail, email, or FAX a copy of the ritual to you, along with the "kick-off" time and date of the ritual. This way, members who wish can do the same ritual the rest of the group is doing, at the same time, on the same day.

If you think you'd be interested in participating this way, just send me email or call me to let me know. As our rituals sometimes are not completely written till the night before, I'll need either an email address or FAX number to quickly send you the ritual. However, you will know the date and time of the ritual well enough in advance (at least 2 weeks) to make plans for it.

Once you sign up for this "Faerie Faith Link," I'll continue sending you rituals until you tell me otherwise. Of course you'll need to keep your email and/or FAX number current with me.

In addition to the rituals, I'll be publishing articles on the elements of Faerie Faith rituals, so you'll know why we're doing certain things, and what they mean. The second installment is in this issue.

I'd like to make this work out for everyone, so please send me your feedback!

*-Linda Kerr*

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**Earthdance**, run by Stormy and Thor, was a lot of fun. The festival was held at FDR State Park in Georgia on September 11-13, and will be held again there the same weekend. Next year's festival will include food!

Friday night there was an opening ritual and a bardic circle. Classes ran all day Saturday (lots of good ones!), and the pot-luck that night was wonderful, as usual. After the main ritual Saturday night, Lord Senthor's band Moonstruck entertained. We also heard Live Bait, a blues band from Auburn, Alabama, who were recording their first tape that night.

All-in-all, it was a really nice, mellow, laid-back festival, with wonderful weather. Make plans for next year!

**Don't forget FallFling, coming up October 15-18, 1998,  
at Dragon Hills, near Carrollton, Georgia**

## 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.

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### Newsletter Staff:

Editor/Publisher . . . . . Linda Kerr

### CST Board of Directors:

President . . . . . Linda Kerr

Vice President . . . . . Craig Kerr

Secretary/Treasurer . . . . . Sherry Holmes

Member-at-Large . . . . . Rob Von Allmen

### CST Staff:

Hospitality Officer . . . . . Odessa Crenshaw

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**334-821-4683 (Linda Kerr)**

**spiraltree@mindspring.com**

**http://www.mindspring.com/~spiraltree**

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## CONTACTS:

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

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

**Frank Palmer:** #546776, 2101 FM 369N, Iowa Park, TX, 76367-6568. Eclectic Druid student (nearly full Druid priest), male, feminist, seeking anyone who wishes to correspond. I study Ayurvedic Healing, plus any other healing methods. I'm knowledgeable in several forms of magic and divination. Please write? I practice a zoomorphic form of Druidism and am a 2nd year Shaman student.

**Marijane Wilcox:** Crone goddess, minister/spiritual counselor/herbalist. Email: <marijane@mindspring.com>.

**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.

**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 <mpettus@telco.com> or <mpettus@atl.mediaone.com>.

**Morgain:** 40 yr. Old eclectic witch (bi). Enjoys the outdoors, tarot, Pathway cards, children, crystals, and stone people. Open minded to all the universe has to offer. Seeking pagan/metaphysical friends. P.O. Box 16536, Panama City, FL 32406.

**"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.

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

**Steven D. Richert:** Celtic shaman, still new to this path, is seeking any others of like mind to correspond with while I'm in prison and out. Steven D. Richert #17987, W/D-128-T, U.S.P., P.O. Box 250, Draper, UT, 84020.

# Upcoming CST Rituals and Other 1998-99 Happenings:

## October 1998:

FallFling is Oct. 15-18 at Dragon Hills, near Carrollton, Georgia. Serpentstone is hosting Witchstock at Dragon Hills, near Carrollton, GA (site change) on Oct. 22-25.

## Samhain:

November 14, Waverly, AL. Samhain/Ivy ritual. Ritual will begin at 5:00 pm, with a pot-luck and a fun, fun, fun party—Moosemas—at Linda's house afterwards. (Also Linda & Susan's birthday party.) Crash and tent space available, and encouraged! Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

## Yule:

December 19, Waverly, AL. Norse-style Yule ritual. Ritual will begin at 6:00, with a pot-luck (appetizers and finger foods) and party afterwards at the same place (absolutely NO underage drinking!). Everyone is encouraged to bring their tent and stay the night.

## January 1999:

January 2, 7:00 pm, Birch Moon ritual.  
January 30, 7:00 pm, is Rowan Moon and Imbolc ritual, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

## February:

February 27, 7:00 pm, Ash Moon ritual.

## March:

March 20, Spring Equinox, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

## April:

April 3, 7:00 pm, Alder Moon ritual.  
April 30, Friday, 8:00 pm, Willow Moon ritual.

## May:

May 1, Beltane, at Waverly, AL. 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, so we know how many ribbons to cut for the May pole. Cost: CST members are free; others \$1.00 to pay for ribbons, munchies and cokes. 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 29, 7:00 pm, Hawthorn Moon ritual.

Moondance will be May 20-24 at Dragon Hills near Carrollton.

## June:

June 19, Summer Solstice, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 7:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

June 26, 8:00 pm, Oak Moon ritual.

## July:

July 31, Holly Moon and Lammas ritual, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 7:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

## August:

August 28, 7:00 pm, Hazel Moon ritual.

## September:

September 25, Vine Moon and Fall Equinox ritual, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 7:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

## October:

October 23, 7:00 pm, Ivy Moon ritual.

## November:

November 6, Samhain, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

November 20, 7:00 pm, Reed Moon ritual.

## December:

Yule and Elder Moon ritual, December 18, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

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

## Upcoming Festivals (Not CST events):

FallFling '98	October 15-18, 1998	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
Witchstock '98	October 22-25, 1998	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
Moondance	May 20-24, 1999	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
Earthdance	September, 1999	FDR State Park, Pine Mtn, GA

# Faerie Faith Rituals

## Tenets of the Faerie Faith

by Linda Kerr

(Revised and reprinted from The Hazel Nut, Issue #18, December/January 1996)

The second main difference in Faerie Faith rituals is our Tenets of the Faerie Faith that we usually read at the beginning of the ritual, after the Elements.

These are very brief, and are fairly self-explanatory, but below is a bit of history and an explanation of the different nature spirits for those of you not already familiar with them. If you find any of my research lacking, please let me know!

Many years ago, in the early 1960s, Margaret Lumely Brown of Scotland shared her vision of the Faerie Faith with her student, Mark Roberts, who wrote it down and later passed it on to Epona (my teacher). This has become the basis of our modern-day Faerie Faith. The rest of this article will essentially paraphrase Brown's sharing, since she put it so well.

Many cultures have an awareness of nature spirits and things beyond the physical plane, which the English call the Elemental Kingdoms, and the Hindus the Deva Kingdoms. In Germany the word "urwelt" is used to denote a primitive or primal sphere which includes fairies, nature spirits, and projections of the Earth's energies, which become apparent to people under the right conditions.

To meet these "right" conditions, there must first be a strong desire by the nature spirits to be perceived by humans. The remaining conditions are up to us. We use the Tenets of the Faerie Faith to sum these up:

*There should be a sensitivity, a belief, in the spiritual reality behind what we refer to as "Nature."*

*There should be a sincere love of Earth Herself and a desire to communicate with Her "other" children.*

*There should be a belief in the individual life of this planet and a certainty that it permeates the whole world.*

This permeation of the planet's life and awareness extends even into the city; it is not limited to a rural setting. Of course people who, decades and centuries ago, lived much closer to the land than we do now, were very much in touch with nature spirits. But

the concrete of the urban jungle doesn't smother the earth's consciousness; it just makes it more difficult to find, and that much more special when it does make itself apparent.

The connection to the Elemental Kingdoms and nature spirits has always been quite strong in cultures like the Celts, the Scandinavians, and the Native Americans, whose races have been intertwined with the Earth for centuries. Also, when a family or tribe has inhabited a piece of land for many generations (a minimum of seven, according to American Indian folklore), a strong connection to the nature spirits is inevitable. In fact, it seems that such a long period of inhabitation creates a group entity on the astral plane. This entity, over the course of time, links itself with the souls of animals and plants, as well as with the Elementals of the area. Perhaps this link could produce some of the apparitions which prophesy misfortune to the family; usually the same apparition is seen over and over, such as a bird or fairy, and before some occurrence, such as a death. (The bean sidhe, or Banshee, is the most common type of apparition seen in connection with death. Bean means woman, and sidhe, pronounced 'shee,' means fairy, shining one, or of the hill.)

There are many types of Elementals, the "Little People" being only one. In Wales and Cornwall there are Knockers which inhabit mines and are friends to the miners. Piskies in Cornwall are reputed to lead travellers astray on the moors. Brownies are found in Scotland among the boulders and bracken. Ireland, of course, has a whole host of fairy tribes. The most well-known of these "Little People" are the Leprechauns, but the most renowned are the Tuatha De Danaan (children of the goddess Dana); a people of wonderful beauty and tall stature who are sometimes seen emerging from out of their secret places in the hills.

These Elementals are not necessarily always "seen"; they are just as often "heard" and "felt," according to the level of awareness of the person experiencing them. The same Elemental can also appear to several people at once, but produce different reactions in each. However, the person concerned will be quite aware of the Elemental's presence.

There are far too many nature spirits to go into detail about here; but briefly, they are the spirits of the four elements, including what we call Oversouls. The

living power generated by a natural force such as a river, lake, mountain, forest, etc., is composed of many units which are contained within one collective whole. This collective unit is what we refer to as the Oversoul. The Oversoul may appear as a personalized form and the lesser units as minor shapes of the same form.

These nature spirits have been known in all countries under the guise of folklore and myth. They could be considered manifestations of the Earth's subconscious memories which we, on occasion, can tap. For instance, past events can register photographically in the earth energies, and these impressions are known as the Akashic Records. Thus one visiting the site of an ancient battle, or any other area containing strong emotions or energies, may suddenly "see" a replaying of that event, as the earth energies play back the "tape" made so long ago. This same person, with the right awareness and in the proper location, may also contact in the same way events of the very distant past, such as primary forms of humans and animals—forms which may be indeterminate or intermingled.

In the same manner, natural objects are not inanimate, but show a strong individualized life. This fact forms the basis for both fairy tales and myths; two examples are Grimm's "Nixie of the Millpond" and Hans Christian Anderson's "Elder-Tree Mother." A Nixie is the Oversoul of a pool or pond, and the Elder-Tree Mother is the feminine spirit of the Elder tree, which might appear as an old woman.

Trees have their own energies and personalities, and are very deep-rooted in their own area of the forest, resenting any encroachment from others, either human or otherwise. Some people may notice that trees seem to become antagonistic at night, even to the point of draining one's energy or forcibly keeping one away. But in the daytime, these same trees can be very friendly. When one is feeling depleted or unhappy, it is comforting to grasp a tree trunk with one's hands, so that the tree absorbs the negativity in the human aura and replaces it with the strong magnetic energies of the Earth. And if one makes friends with a certain tree, a sympathetic link is then formed with its whole species.

Every type of vegetation has its own Oversoul, which will display likes and dislikes towards humans. For example, people with "green thumbs" are able to intuitively be in touch with the Oversoul of a plant. Flowers will sometimes tangibly move and reach out to a person, as though asking for communication, while at the same time exuding perfume towards the favored person.

The Greeks and Romans had a large list of nature spirits, which can be divided roughly into two sections: (1) The spirits of Nature Herself, and (2) the entities of instinctive nature in humans.

In the first category, many of these were feminine personifications and included Oversouls and lesser spirits of woods, grottoes, rivers, plants, etc. These female spirits were given the general name of "nymph"; thus Nereids were sea nymphs, the Naiads were nymphs of rivers and streams, and Dryads were tree nymphs.

In the second category are fauns, satyrs, and centaurs. The fauns and satyrs were personified in gods such as Pan, Silenus, and Dionysus. To some extent they were also considered woodland spirits, for forests in those times were associated with fear and secrecy. In Greek mystery rites, men wearing satyrs' masks represented terror, orgy and ecstasy. Fauns and satyrs are variants of the Pan-form, either part man and part goat, or complete man with the ears and horns of a goat.

Wells, pools and springs are sacred to a healing spirit in many parts of the world. The sick visited the Pool of Bethesda, mentioned in the Bible, where at certain times "an angel troubled the waters." This "angel" was perhaps the Oversoul of the pool. Certainly the Celts of Britain and northern Europe recognized wells and springs as sources of healing, help and places of contact with the nature spirits. Many of these ancient shrines are immortalized in the tourist industry as wishing wells, and many have also been taken over by the Church, and are under the patronage of a saint. For instance, the famous St. Winifred's Well in Wales was a Celtic healing center in ancient days.

To better guide you in your understanding of these nature spirits, read The Findhorn Garden by The Findhorn Community (an excellent book on how a gardener makes contact with the nature spirits, in a very practical way), and Devas, Angels and Fairies by William Bloom (a very basic, down-to-earth book detailing the different types of nature spirits and how to get in touch with them). Also read, if you haven't already, Needles of Stone Revisited by Tom Graves; he specifically mentions the playback of "memories" by the earth energies, and also talks about ghosts and other spirits. These three books together will educate you more than I could ever possibly hope to on the subject, but if you have questions, PLEASE let me know, and I'll see if I can address them.

Happy searching!

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**MINUTES**  
**CHURCH OF THE SPIRAL TREE**  
**Board of Directors**  
**September 20, 1998**

The meeting was called to order by Linda Kerr at 6:30 pm, at 1831 Opelika Road, Auburn, Alabama, with the following Directors present:

Linda C. Kerr, President  
James C. Kerr, Vice-President  
Rob Von Allmen, Member-at-Large

**Approval of minutes**

It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that the minutes of the meeting on May 3, 1998 held in Auburn, Alabama be approved.

**New Business**

The papers to apply for tax-exempt status by the IRS, and the fee of \$150.00, were mailed on August 28, 1998. It will take several weeks for a reply.

Linda mentioned that someone had asked about a lifetime membership to the church. After a brief discussion, it was decided to wait a year or two to see what the church does before instituting lifetime memberships.

The church's first fund-raiser was held at Earthdance on September 12. We had a bake sale, which raised \$15.00, and received another donation of \$100.00. We will have another bake sale at FallFling the weekend of October 15-18. With more notice to the members, we should have a better turnout. This fund-raiser will benefit financially needy members.

The next CST ritual will be on November 14, for Samhain. It will be held at Waverly. It was mentioned that we need to build an outhouse on the property, or get one from Roxanna.

Linda suggested that in 1999 we do Esbat rituals instead of just Sabbats. This will give members a chance to go through the whole lunar cycle doing Faerie-Faith tree rituals. All agreed it would be a good idea, will think on it, and discuss it in more detail at the next meeting.

The next two meetings were scheduled to be held November 15, 1998, and January 31, 1999, in Auburn, Alabama.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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# 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."

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**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:

_____	Donation to CST	\$5 & up	(all donations are tax deductible; you will be sent a receipt for your records, as well as our undying thanks)
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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! <<http://www.mindspring.com/~spiraltree>>

# CST Calendar:

## **Board of Directors' meetings:**

November 15, 1998, Auburn, Alabama; and January 31, 1999, Auburn, Alabama

## **Annual Meeting of the General membership:**

May 23, 1999, Moondance, Dragonhills, near Carrollton, Georgia

## **Lunar Dates (all subject to mundane schedules, of course):**

<b>Lunar</b>	<b>Date of Full Moon</b>	<b>Date of Ritual</b>
Birch	January 2	January 2, 1999
Rowan	January 31	January 30, 1999
Ash	March 2	February 27, 1999
Alder	March 31	April 3, 1999
Willow	April 30	April 30, 1999 (Friday)
Hawthorn	May 30	May 29, 1999
Oak	June 28	June 26, 1999
Holly	July 28	July 31, 1999
Hazel	August 26	August 28, 1999
Vine	September 25	September 25, 1999
Ivy	October 24	October 23, 1999
Reed	November 23	November 20, 1999
Elder/Birch	December 22	December 18, 1999

## **Sabbat Dates:**

Imbolc	January 30, 1999
Spring Equinox	March 20, 1999
Beltane	May 1, 1999
Summer Solstice	June 19, 1999
Lammas	July 31, 1999
Fall Equinox	September 25, 1999
Samhain	November 6, 1999
Yule	December 18, 1999

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED