

The Journey...S

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

Issue 10
Spring Equinox, 2000

NEWS

Domain Names: Both Church of the Spiral Tree and Sacred Grove Academy have acquired domain names! CST is < <http://www.spiraltree.org> >, with an email address of < cst@spiraltree.org >. Sacred Grove is < <http://www.sacredgroveacademy.org> >, email to < homeschool@sacredgroveacademy.org >.

Disaster Relief: CST received a thank-you letter from the Governor of North Carolina in response to the \$120 check we sent to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund. In anticipation of this upcoming hurricane season, let's go ahead and boost our Disaster Relief Fund, so when the time comes, we can mail out a check to needy areas right away. You can donate money (tax-deductible) to this fund, and when a natural disaster strikes an area, we'll be able to send out a donation from a Pagan church. Please mail your check made out to Church of the Spiral Tree, to CST, P.O. Box 186, Auburn, AL, 36831, and make sure you enclose a note telling us it's for the Disaster Relief Fund.

Member's Submissions: "The Journey" needs your input! Please send me your articles, poetry, stories, reports, letters, artwork, just whatever you'd like to present to our members, and I'll do my best to publish it.

- 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. Call us with ideas!

Newsletter Staff:

Editor/Publisher Linda Kerr

CST Board of Directors:

President Craig Kerr

Vice President Rob Von Allmen

Secretary/Treasurer Linda Kerr

Member-at-Large Cathy Rankin

CST Staff:

Hospitality Officer Odessa Crenshaw

Church of the Spiral Tree
PO Box 186
Auburn, AL 36831-0186
334-821-4683 (Linda Kerr)
cst@spiraltree.org
<http://www.spiraltree.org>

Info About Our Services:

Ministers: CST, being a church, may ordain any member over the age of 18 a minister. The fee for this is \$35.00, and you must also be a paid member. This ordination is for life; you do not have to maintain your membership to continue to be a CST minister, but we would really appreciate it. Each year we have to renew our "Registered" status in various states in order for our ministers to be legal, and your continued membership fees help pay for this. Ministers are entitled to perform legal weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Ordination as a minister does not automatically confer "Elder" or "High Priest/ess" status upon anyone.

Subordinate Organizations: The main form of a local CST group is a Grove. This can be formed by at least three paid church members, who apply to CST for a charter. If you are interested in forming a Grove, simply find two other like-minded friends, and encourage them to send in their membership to CST, then apply to us for a Grove charter. The application and first year's fee is \$35.00. Note that whomever forms a Grove and runs it, including writing and performing rituals and teaching mysteries, does not automatically become a "High Priest/ess."

Note on Ministers and Groups: For those of you who wish to form a local group or become ordained as a minister, if you're somewhere besides Alabama or Georgia, you just need to let us know a bit ahead of time.

For the group and the ministership to be legal, we need to be registered in your state. This takes a little time to get the paperwork done and sent in. We will register in other states as needed, as there's a bit of expense involved. Your membership fees and the fees for ordination (\$35) and forming a group (\$35) help pay for these costs. CST is already registered in Georgia, so anyone wishing to put together a local CST group there can do so. Full info on starting a CST grove and becoming a minister is now on the web site, < <http://www.spiraltree.org> >.

Ritual Link: You have the option of participating long-distance in our rituals, both lunar and sabbat. All you have to do is let us know that you want to do this, and tell us which rituals, either lunar, sabbat, or both, 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.

Let us know if you're interested in participating this way. As our rituals sometimes are not completely written till the night before, we need either an email address or FAX number to quickly send you the ritual. **Natural Family Planning:** Cathy, a health services professional, is offering counseling on natural methods of family planning, both fertility and contraception. For more info, email her at balakar@mindspring.com.

MINUTES - CST Board of Directors February 5, 2000

The meeting was called to order by Craig Kerr at 10:00 pm, at Susan's house in Auburn, Alabama, with the following Directors and members present:

James C. Kerr, President; Rob Von Allmen, Vice-President, Linda C. Kerr, Secretary-Treasurer; and Cathy Rankin, Member-at-Large.

Old Business

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

New Business

We got a domain name for CST (www.spiraltree.org), and will be getting one for Sacred Grove soon. The cost is \$35 each per year, and will give us a steady presence on the web.

It was suggested we institute "bring a canned good item" for every sabbat ritual, to be donated to a local charity.

We received a letter of thanks from the Governor of North Carolina for our donation \$120 to their NC Hurricane Floyd Disaster Relief Fund.

We now have a first aid kit put together, thanks to Cathy. It was suggested we ask for other items to be donated to it.

Zolin (owner of Roxanna) has requested that we consider hosting something at Roxanna again. May Day is a possibility. We'll have to think about it, talk to Zolin some more, and decide.

The church treasury has enough money in it that we should open a savings account of some sort; Linda will take care of this.

It was suggested that we put the CST rituals from past sabbats and lunars on the internet.

The next two meetings were scheduled to be held April 29, 2000 and August 5, 2000, in Auburn, Alabama.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

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Letters From Members:

Greetings Fellow Limbs of the Spiral Tree!

Since I mentioned to Lady Kerr of my desire to be an active member of the CST, here I am with an attempt to do just that by contributing to “The Journey.”

Ah! Spring is here and it arrived by being ushered in with a Full Moon. Being incarcerated, I can only imagine the joyful celebration those of you beyond the fence may have had. ‘Tis the season for rebirth, for growth, for life to blossom and for sown seeds, whether of plants or ideas, to take root. A time of new beginnings.

The CST is one new beginning for me. I’m sure the reasons for joining are as numerous as there are individuals joining. For me, I desired to be a part of something that coincides with my spiritual path. Out of or within that desire is my yearning to “meet” other pagans, those of the Path, the Old Religion. There’s not many of those individuals in here, if any at all in my particular location. When one is encountered, they tend to be like so many solitaries out there—keep to themselves. Only that individual can judge if that is a positive or negative thing. I only know me and this “me” desires fellowship with others of like belief.

That brings to mind the Contact section of “The Journey” and how so many seek someone in particular, whether they be living in a particular place or possessing a particular knowledge. Though I’ve reached out, I’ve yet to touch anyone. Understandable and the silence does not delete my desire to know of you.

That’s why I’m here now. I would like to remind each and every one of you that you have something to share with other members—something you may not consider as much but another may deem priceless. “The Journey” is the perfect place to permit your character to shine. It’s your newsletter as much as mine and I’m sure the editors would appreciate any contributions from its members. It’s a safe, easy way to greet all of the members while permitting a glimpse of your persona by others.

I wish to be a part of the CST, not apart from it. I wish to learn what I do not have access to at the moment. It could be one’s favorite recipe or a ritual one truly enjoys or even testimony of what is blooming in your area—or even what warm sand or cool green grass feels like on bare feet :).

Our Lord and Lady create opportunities for us all so we can grow and experience life, so we can learn, so we can make a difference. I pray that all members do their part in nurturing the growth of the Spiral Tree. Our Lady Kerr has been around awhile now—helping to bring “us” together. Blessed Be her life and circle and all those who lend her a helping hand or a courteous bow in appreciation.

A Measure

As the year ends, the beginning of another resumes and softly tapping rain can not assuage the procession. Time moves for me in increments carefully noted, dropping sunlight and moonlight, like hands stroking a clock’s face...

And all that lies strewn about the roads I’ve traveled can’t be regathered nor pieced together again. And as the minutes fly, whether on the back of an eagle or on butterfly wings

I cannot control the buffeting...

And where I am dropped off will remain a mystery

but those continuing in time

will count its ticks with two less eyes.

Walk in Joy,

Serve With Love,

Tony Curtis Jackson

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 c/o CST, P.O. Box 186, Auburn, AL 36831.
<rhab@netzero.net>

Cassandra Lee: <Cll19@hotmail> .

Cliff Landis: I'm a laid-back kitchen witch interested in sharing knowledge and fun. Harper 109, Auburn, AL, 36849,
<wiccadog@yahoo.com> .

Coven of Nocturnal Flight: HP: William (Gwalchmai) Moore; HPS: Pelayah Moore. <Pelayah@hotmail.com>

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.

Noma Kat Steingraber: 1373 Dunbarton Rd., Montgomery, AL 36117, 334-279-6071.

Laurel Silverlion: email: <laurel113@aol.com> .

Lora Melendez: 35 yr. old Scorpio, divorced, Celtic solitary practitioner, interested in candles, incense, crystals, and meditating, looking for like-minded pagans in Dothan or Panama City area. 110 Colonial Ave., Dothan, AL 36304.

Lori Ireya (Magickal Name: Aradia BlueWind): Eclectic Solitary, practicing for approximately 15 years, with my focus being mainly on (but not limited to) Celtic Shamanism. I am located in the Orlando, FL area. Contact info: ireyribe@mindspring.com.

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.net> .

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: Swann's Tr. Pk. #1, Lot 130, Auburn, AL 36863, <skippy_the_witch@yahoo.com> , 334-826-3953.

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-225-T, U.S.P., P.O. Box 250, Draper, UT, 84020.

Stormy: <stormycloud@mindspring.com> , <earthdance@mindspring.com> ,
<http://www.mindspring.com/~stormycloud/>.

Tony Jackson: Seeker desiring contact with those of the Green Path who would enjoy sharing their knowledge as well as testimony of its role in their life. Tony Curtis Jackson EF183981 C-1, CSP, 4600 Fulton Mill Rd., Macon, GA 31208

Willow Blue: <willowblue21@hotmail.com> .

CST Calendar:

Church of the Spiral Tree welcomes church members, beginners, newcomers, solitaires, and anyone else interested in participating in rituals honoring the full moons and the eight Sabbats. You need no experience or knowledge to participate, but we do request you come with an open mind and heart, and show respect for your fellow participants. Email us for directions. We share a potluck dinner after each Sabbat (no gathering after Full Moons, however), so those who come are asked to bring some type of food to share; beverages, paper plates, and forks are also needed.

Please wear something comfortable and appropriate for outdoors. Ritual robes are welcome but not necessary. Plan for sitting on cold and/or wet ground. Children of all ages are welcome. Donations to the Church are entirely optional but appreciated.

About the Lunar Rituals:

CST has rituals to celebrate the Sabbats and the Esbats or full moons. We will no longer be doing the Faerie Faith lunar rituals in 2000. Instead, we will let interested people in the Church write and perform the full-moon rituals, and possibly the new-moon rituals, so we will get to experience esbats of other traditions. If you would like to do one or more of the full-moon or new-moon rituals, please email us!

These full-moon rituals, regardless of who does them, are working and learning rituals; there is 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. Full-moon rituals will be on the Saturday closest to the full moon; if the date coincides with a sabbat, we will combine the two rituals.

Note: the schedule below is subject to change! Check back for updates and more details. Firmer times and locations of all rituals will be available closer to the date of the ritual.

April:

Full Moon ritual, April 15, 7:00 pm.

May:

May Day celebration, April 29, at Waverly, AL. 9:00 am! Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

Full Moon ritual, May 20, 7:00 pm.

Moondance, May 25-29, Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA.

June:

Full Moon ritual, June 17, 8:00 pm.

Summer Solstice celebration, June 24, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 7:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

July:

Full Moon ritual, July 15, 8:00 pm.

August:

Lammas celebration, August 5, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 7:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

Full Moon ritual, August 12, 8:00 pm.

September:

Full Moon ritual, September 16, at 7:00 pm.

Fall Equinox celebration, September 23, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

October:

Ivy Moon ritual, October 14, 7:00 pm.

November:

Samhain celebration, November 4 (date subject to change), at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

Full Moon ritual, November 11, 7:00 pm.

December:

Full Moon ritual, December 9, 7:00 pm.

Yule celebration, December 22 (Friday) or 23 (Saturday), 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):

Moondance	May 25-29, 2000	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
Earthdance	Sept. 8-10, 2000	FDR State Park, Pine Mtn, GA
FallFling	Nov. 9-12, 2000	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA

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:

_____	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

cst@spiraltree.org

Visit us at our web site! <<http://www.spiraltree.org>>

Important Dates

Board of Directors' Meetings:

April 29, 2000, Auburn, Alabama; August 5, 2000, Auburn, Alabama

Annual Meeting of the General Membership:

May 28, 2000, Moondance, Dragonhills, near Carrollton, Georgia

Lunar Dates for 2000 (all subject to mundane schedules, of course):

Date of Full Moon	Date of Ritual
January 21	January 22, 2000
February 19	February 19, 2000
March 20	March 18, 2000
April 18	April 15, 2000
May 18	May 20, 2000
June 16	June 17, 2000
July 16	July 15, 2000
August 15	August 12, 2000
September 13	September 16, 2000
October 13	October 14, 2000
November 11	November 11, 2000
December 11	December 9, 2000

Sabbat Dates:

Imbolc	February 5, 2000
Spring Equinox	March 18, 2000
Beltane	April 29, 2000
Summer Solstice	June 24, 2000
Lammas	August 5, 2000
Fall Equinox	September 23, 2000
Samhain	November 4, 2000
Yule	December 22 or 23, 2000

Church of the Spiral Tree
P.O. Box 186
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED