

The Journey...S

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

Issue 11
Summer Solstice, 2000

NEWS

Domain Names: Reminder: 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 >. The old Mindspring account is being cut off, so please don't send email to that address.

Disaster Relief: Hurricane season is upon us. Hopefully this year will be calmer than last, but just in case, let's go ahead and boost our Disaster Relief Fund. 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.

Volunteer Needed: CST needs someone to volunteer to help out with our social projects, such as fund raising for the Church, and fund raising for other needy causes, such as Battered Women's Shelters, AIDS groups, Adopt-a-Road, and so forth. There are so many causes we could help out with, and it would also put a pagan church in a nice light if we could do something socially aware in our community. We're not sure what this position would be called, but the name can come later.

- 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

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 tabbatcat@yahoo.com.

Member's Corner

Alone in the night
Young woman hears
The Wisdom of Ages
Soothing her fears

The stillness of Earth
The crackle of Fire
Give messages freely
Both fair and quite dire

The Babble of Water
And the Wind through her hair
Remind her that they too
have something to share

But Elements four
Grant little Learning
Without Five, Self
Curiosity burning

Be aware, my dear
Who've answered Her call
Of Magic twisting and turning
Surrounding us all

Harm not friend nor foe
And use it wisely
or suffer you will
Threefold precisely

- by skippy

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> .

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 Ayurudic 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.

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 Irely (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: ireytribe@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> .

Misty C. Renfro: 20 yr old open-minded individual who is still fairly new to all this, would like to correspond with any and all members. I am interested in all aspects of everything so as you talk I shall learn. Write to me at 27-A Gasline Rd., Phenix City, AL 36870. (Magickal name: Riverwolf!!)

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.

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

“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.

Stacy Bandura: sbandura@tuckercapital.com

Steven D. Richert: Celtic shaman, still new t 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 D-2, CSP, 4600 Fulton Mill Rd., Macon, GA 31208.

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, so those who come are asked to bring some type of food to share.

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. We also have full moon rituals scheduled throughout the rest of 2000; as these are on weekends when Linda & Craig are out of town, we need volunteers to write and run these rituals! Please email us if you are interested.

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.

2000

July:

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

August:

Lammas celebration and Full Moon ritual, August 12, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

September:

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

Fall Equinox ritual/Pagan Pride Day, September 22 (Friday), at Kiesel Park in Auburn, AL. CST is co-coordinating with Pantheon. Time is from noon-midnight, with the ritual starting at 8:00 pm Central time. Activities include a food drive, possible blood or bone marrow drive, live music, food, and vendors. Further info is available on the web page, or contact us by phone (334-821-4683).

October:

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

SerpentStone's Samhain Gather, Dragon Hills, October 26-29. Will take the place of CST's Samhain ritual.

November:

FallFling, November 9-12, at Dragon Hills. Takes place of CST full moon ritual.

December:

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

Yule celebration, December 22 (Friday), at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

2001

January:

No ritual scheduled.

February:

Imbolc ritual, February 3, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

March:

Spring Equinox ritual, March 17 OR 24, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

April:

Beltane, April 28, at Waverly, AL. We will hold our traditional May Day celebration. Arrive by 9:00 am, (morning!!). There'll be a pot-luck and party that night. Cost: CST members are free; others \$1.00. Also, weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

May:

Moondance, May 24-28 at Dragon Hills near Carrollton. Includes CST's General Membership meeting and election of officers.

June:

Summer Solstice ritual, June 23, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

July:

No ritual scheduled.

(Calendar - 2001 - continued)

August:

Lammas ritual, August 4, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

September:

Fall Equinox ritual, September 22, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

October:

No ritual scheduled.

November:

FallFling, November 8-11, at Dragon Hills. Includes CST's General Membership meeting.

December:

Yule ritual, December 22, 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 <cst@spiraltree.org>.

Upcoming Festivals (Not CST events):

Earthdance	Sept. 8-10, 2000	FDR State Park, Pine Mtn, GA
FallFling	Nov. 9-12, 2000	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
Moondance	May 24-28, 2001	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA

**MINUTES
CHURCH OF THE SPIRAL TREE
Annual Membership Meeting
May 28, 2000**

The meeting was called to order by Craig Kerr at 11:00 am, at Moondance, Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA, with the following Directors and members present:

James C. Kerr, President; Rob Von Allmen, Vice-President; Linda C. Kerr, Secretary/Treasurer; Cliff Landis, Don Mikovitz, William & Linda Moore.

New Business

Nominations for election of officers and directors of the church: President: Craig Kerr; Vice-President: Robert von Allmen; Secretary/Treasurer: Linda Kerr; Member-at-Large: Cathy Rankin. As the absentee and mail-in ballots were not distributed to the membership prior to the meeting, these will be mailed out next week.

Results of election: Votes received are unanimous for President: Craig Kerr; Vice-President: Robert von Allmen; Secretary/Treasurer: Linda Kerr; and Member-at-Large: Cathy Rankin.

CST has over \$1000 in its account. Linda will be opening a savings or money market account soon to earn some interest on about half the money, while the other stays in the account for ready access.

We have about 50 members right now, most in Alabama and Georgia, with others in Alaska, New Jersey, and Florida. Several members are now ordained ministers.

We are getting a bit more member contributions to the newsletter, The Journey. Don was asked to re-submit his articles, "On the Back Porch With Nion," for publication. Linda will pull up the old ones from The Hazel Nut.

Ministering to inmates was discussed. A couple of members have some previous experience at it, and in some cases some very favorable results. A woman in Valley, AL has expressed interest in joining CST and ministering at a prison near her.

CST is still trying to do lunar rituals, but so far this year only two have taken place. The last one, a healing circle in May, went really well. We just don't have any people volunteering to do rituals right now. Of the sabbat rituals, we've held Imbolc and May Day. Spring Equinox was canceled because of SerpentStone's festival that same weekend.

Some possible fund-raising ideas were discussed. Last year we tried to set boxes around the Auburn University campus to collect things that students throw away, and sell them at a yard sale, but the Housing people already have that option tied up. And we can't collect things at dumpsters. So that idea, while a good one, just won't work at Auburn. Other ideas are needed.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

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MINUTES

CST Board of Directors

June 17, 2000

The meeting was called to order by Craig Kerr at 8:00 am, at Waverly, 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

Due to a wedding, the Lammas ritual will be re-scheduled for August 12.

The lunar rituals will continue to be scheduled, but will only take place if someone volunteers to write and run them. This year they always occur on a weekend when Craig and Linda are out of town.

Linda forgot to mail out notices and absentee ballots prior to the General Membership meeting this year, so ballots were mailed out late. Results of the officer elections will be shown in the Minutes from the General Membership meeting, in this issue. It was decided that Linda needs a clone.

Rob suggested we have two General Membership meetings - the main one at Moondance to elect officers, and another at FallFling in November. The Membership meeting this year at Moondance was attended by all CST members present at Moondance. Having another one at FallFling may draw some members who don't normally attend Moondance, or who weren't able to make it.

CST has plenty of operating funds for the year. It had already been decided at the previous BOD meeting to put some of the money in a saving account of some sort; this will be accomplished this month.

Stormy had suggested earlier that we do some type of fund-raising to build a church building or purchase land; maybe have pagan-friendly bands play at Bodega's, a bar in Auburn. This was done last year to help a community member, and it raised \$3000. We will approach Stormy further about this possibility.

CST is in need of a volunteer to manage things like fund-raising, working with community charities, and local publicity. We also could use a notary public, to be available to the members and the community in general.

CST has been asked to participate in and help co-coordinate Pagan Pride Day in Auburn, in conjunction with Pantheon, the Auburn University pagan student group, run by Cliff. Some possibilities for locations were mentioned, including the Arboretum or Kiesel Park. Pagan Pride Day has to include a fund-raiser for a community charity. The Battered Women's Shelter was mentioned as a possibility. We could also have a blood drive and/or a bone marrow drive.

The CST Library is still in the works. Stormy has offered space in her house; she has a room that only needs shelves and other furniture, and she is very centrally located. Skippy has offered to catalog the books and maintain the database over the Net.

The next two meetings were scheduled to be held August 12, 2000, in Auburn, Alabama, and November 12, 2000, at FallFling, Dragon Hills, GA.

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

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:

August 12, 2000, Auburn, Alabama; November 12, 2000, FallFling, Dragon Hills.

Annual Meetings of the General Membership:

November 12, 2000, FallFling, Dragon Hills, near Carrollton, Georgia

May 27, 2001, Moondance, Dragon Hills, near Carrollton, Georgia (includes election of officers)

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

Date of Full Moon	Date of Ritual
July 16	July 15, 2000
August 15	August 12, 2000
September 13	September 16, 2000
October 13	October 14, 2000
November 11	No ritual scheduled
December 11	December 9, 2000

Sabbat Dates:

Lammas	August 12, 2000
Fall Equinox	September 22, 2000 (Pagan Pride Day - Friday)
Yule	December 22, 2000 (Friday)
Imbolc	February 3, 2001
Spring Equinox	March 24, 2001
Beltane	April 28, 2001
Summer Solstice	June 23, 2001
Lammas	August 4, 2001
Fall Equinox	September 22, 2001
Samhain	November 3, 2001 (?)
Yule	December 22, 2001

Church of the Spiral Tree
P.O. Box 186
Auburn, AL 36830

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED