



The Journey...



Official Newsletter of Church of the Spiral Tree - an Ecumenical Pagan church

President's Point

During the month of August, CST held a membership drive with reduced rates for new and renewing members. It was a great success. Five individuals and six families renewed; four individuals and three families joined as new members.

Your memberships are the life force of CST. The membership dues are essential to paying for CST administration expenses. Even more so, the energy from the support and confidence of our members is the spiritual base that represents all that CST stands for: freedom of religion; equal rights for everyone regardless of gender, race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, lifestyle, employment, etc.; connecting with your higher power in your own way, not the in the way you are told by another. Our members are the most important part of our church, because by supporting CST, you are not only supporting these ideals, but making them a reality.

Unlike many other religious organizations, CST does not expect anyone to contribute 10% of their income. Providing for yourself and your family comes first, especially in times of recession when so many are living on limited funds due to job losses and pay cuts. Also, many of you are living on fixed incomes such as disability, social security and unemployment. Our members must keep themselves and their families strong to be able to be strong members of the CST community. It is heartwarming and touching that so many of you, even in these tough times, consider CST to be as an important part of your lives and spirituality as

demonstrated by your membership. I personally am inspired by your dedication. I, along with the other members of the Board of Directors, will strive to make sure that these ideals remain a reality for our church.

Love and Light,
- **Cathy Rankin, President, CST**



Church of the Spiral Tree
P.O. Box 8396
Columbus, GA 31908
(706) 489-1017
cst@spiraltree.org
www.spiraltree.org

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CST Directors:

President *Cathy Rankin*
Vice President pro-tem . *Linda Kerr*
Secretary/Treasurer

..... *Stephen Bradford*
Member-at-Large *Vacant*
Member-at-Large *Vacant*

CST Staff:

CST Admin Assistant . . . *Linda Kerr*
Sacred Grove Academy Director . . .
..... *Patricia Greer-Middleton*
Sacred Grove Educational
Consultant

..... *David Michael M.Ed.*
Pagan Prisoner Ministry

..... *Cathy Rankin*
Military Affairs *Marcus P. Rice*
Newsletter Editor *Linda Kerr*
Webmaster, CST & Sacred Grove . . .
..... *Linda Kerr*
Ritual Organizer . . . *Cathy Rankin*
CST Founder/Advisor . . . *Linda Kerr*

Circle of Life

🌿 Birthdays for October-November-December! Happy Birthday to the following special people:

Chris Middleton (October 2)
David Michael (October 4)
Archer Farris (October 9)
Delia Taber (October 9)
Kaiden Holden (October 17)
Cheryl Riley (October 24)
Lynn Bishop (October 29)
Brian Holden (November 3)
Linda Kerr (November 10)
Chris Smith (November 10)
Don Mikovitz (November 17)
Amara Adelle Oliverson
(November 27)
Destiny Berleue (December 1)
Stephen Bradford (December 1)
Mona Crawford (December 1)
Jasmine Ard (December 2)
Mike Berleue (December 4)
Adena Coffee (December 6)
Suzanne Storey (December 6)
Angela Farmer (December 11)
Marcus Rice (December 13)
Alexander Mascum (December 18)
Emily Farmer-Alroth (December 23)

Newsletter Deadlines

Our newsletter, "The Journey," is an important outreach tool to our members; as such, CST is committed to publishing this newsletter on a regular quarterly basis. Publication dates and deadlines are as follows:

March 21 (deadline: March 1)
June 21 (deadline: June 1)
September 21 (deadline: Sep 1)
December 21 (deadline: Dec 1)

Please note that these deadlines are **firm!** Any submissions received after these dates will be published in the following newsletter.

Our Board of Directors meetings are held around the cross-quarter days (Imbolc, Beltane, Lammas, Samhain), to allow updates and news from these meetings to be published in the next newsletter.

Who Are We?

Church of the Spiral Tree (CST) is a non-profit, volunteer-staffed, ecumenical Pagan/Wiccan church, designed to foster and celebrate a sense of community and family among Pagans, both locally and in other regions of the country/world. CST celebrates the unique Pagan family: parents, children, elders, and extended family. It is an ecumenical church in that it encompasses all traditions, and is non-exclusive. It welcomes all who revere the Earth Mother and who respect themselves and others, regardless of which tradition one is affiliated with.

CST was incorporated in August 1997 to provide a legal, tax-exempt status to the Pagan community. This status enables us to offer to the community a variety of open rituals that anyone may attend, to ordain ministers, and to extend our tax-exempt status to sub-groups of CST. One of our projects has been the forming of a Pagan cover school program for homeschooling families in Alabama: (Sacred Grove Academy). CST also has a Community Relief Fund, so we can collectively donate money in the name of an established Pagan church to individuals in need and to disaster relief efforts, including the American Red Cross. CST is also pleased to offer a Pagan Prisoner Ministry, which provides outreach to incarcerated members (on hold temporarily until funding improves), and a Military Affairs Committee, which offers support to deployed Pagan military personnel.

If you have important news that you would like to share in Happenings or Circle of Life in the Yule edition of "The Journey," please email your info to Linda Kerr at info@spiraltree.org, or mail to CST, P.O. Box 8396, Columbus, GA, 31908, no later than December 1, 2010.

Info About Our Services:

Ministers: CST, being a church, may ordain any member age 18 and over as 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."



News Tidbits

Raffle

Church of the Spiral Tree's Military Affairs Committee is working for your military troops!

As reported by a CST member stationed in Texas: "I am an Army HR NCO working in my Battalion's S1. In playing around with eMilpo, the primary personnel web based application that the Army uses, I discovered that Church of the Spiral Tree is one of the few Pagan organizations listed by name on the drop down menu under Religious Preference. I thought that was really, really cool! I have met personnel that were associated with one or two of the others on the list, but this is a lot closer to home! Way to go CST!"



Social Networking

In addition to CST's website, www.spiraltree.org, you can also keep up with CST happenings in several places on the Internet.

Yahoogroups:

CSTevents is a moderated, announcement-only group where we post notices about upcoming rituals and other special events.

TreeTalk is an un-moderated chat group for CST and community members to talk and share wisdom and knowledge.

CSTministers is a moderated group strictly for those who are ordained ministers through CST, to help with address changes, and provide a forum for ministers to post questions or information related to their ministry

Facebook:

We also post notices of upcoming rituals and other events on our Facebook page.

<www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/pages/Columbus-GA/Church-of-the-Spiral-Tree/81596562207>

Twitter:

The Facebook page is linked to Twitter, so if this is your preferred medium, you can keep up with our activity here!

<<https://twitter.com/SpiralTreeCST>>

MySpace:

Finally, we have our MySpace page. We don't post information about upcoming rituals or events here, but we do have current information about CST here, as well as providing a way for people who are interested in CST to connect with each other.

<<http://www.myspace.com/churchofthespiraltree>>



CST is sponsoring a fundraiser for our building fund by raffling off a handmade Zen coffee table, with the drawing to be held at Moondance 2011. The table will be on display variously at Bio-Buzz in Albany, GA, at DreamScapes in Auburn, AL, and Cosmic ConneXion in Kennesaw, GA. The table is hand-carved by Hans Brandt. It comes with a handmade rake and spade, five rocks with each representing one of the five Chinese elements, and sand to be added once it finds a home. Photos and purchase details are posted on our website, www.spiraltree.org. If you win and are not present at Moondance 2011, you will need to plan to pick up your table at one of the display locations unless you make other arrangements with one of the Board of Directors officers. Tickets are \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. If you purchase a ticket by check or money order, please note on it that it is for table raffle. You can also purchase tickets online through PayPal and at Bio-Buzz, DreamScapes, or Cosmic ConneXions, and in person at any CST ritual or event including at the CST booth at the festivals Fall Fling, Pagan Family Reunion, and Moondance.



CST Calendar:

Church of the Spiral Tree welcomes church members, beginners, newcomers, solitaires, and anyone else interested in participating in rituals honoring the Sabbats and new & full moons. 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 ritual, 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. Children of all ages are welcome. Donations to the Church are entirely optional but appreciated.

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

2010

Mabon: September 18, Cathy & David's house, Manchester, GA, 6:00 pm Eastern. Potluck - 6:00 pm, Ritual - 7:00 pm, Discussion group - 8:00 pm, Music & drumming - 9:00 pm- midnight. All times Eastern Daylight time. No overnight guests, please.

CST Yard Sale: October 2 - Yard Sale at Fair in Gay, GA. We need donations of things to sell and volunteers to help run the tables. We must be there by 6:00 am to set up.

Membership Meeting & Elections: October 16 - FallFling, Dragon Hills, near Carrollton, GA.

Full Moon Lodge: October 23 - Hosted by People of the Sacred Earth, Salem, AL.

Samhain: October 30 - Location & time TBA.

BoD Meeting: November 7 - Auburn, AL.

Full Moon: November 20 - Location & time TBA.

Yule & Full Moon: December 18 - Location & time TBA.

New Year's Eve Party & Ritual: December 31 - Location & time TBA.

2011

Earthdance: September 9-11, 2011 - Kolomoki Mounds, Blakely, GA.

For info on any of the above, email Cathy at <cathycst@yahoo.com>.

Upcoming Festivals (Not CST events):

FallFling Oct 14-17, 2010 Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
<http://www.faeriefaith.net/FallFling.html>
PFR Nov 19-21, 2010 S.T.A.R. Retreat, Camilla, GA
<http://www.bio-buzz.com/PFR>
Moondance May 26-30, 2011 Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
<http://www.faeriefaith.net/Moondance.html>

For info on any of the above, email Linda Kerr at <murgen@faeriefaith.net>

The Tea Room (Based on the Japanese Tea Ceremony) by Jenna Boxley

The tea room is a simple place, devoid of furnishings and equipped with little decoration. It's constructed to be a place to focus one's mind, to remove the distractions of the outside world and become one with the calm environment.

It's important to apply the tea room mindset to our daily lives: remove the clutter. We're inundated with so much information that it can run together and become difficult to process, or we simply ignore things that we should possibly retain but don't because blocking off a swarm of information is a simpler method of coping than any other.

Simplicity is a concept often lost, but an important one and one that can be found in the tea room and should be applied elsewhere. With simplicity, we can achieve a calm, tranquil mindset.

We all know that stress can be a primary source of health issues, minor and major. Remove clutter, remove stress and begin your journey on the path of tranquility. Remember the tea room and what it symbolizes and begin to apply its concepts to your life and observe the changes the direction in your life will take as a result.



Contacts:

You get a free contact listing with your membership. You may also submit your listing at any later time. As an additional service, you can send letters to CST, and we will forward them to your intended recipient.

Angela Ragsdale: 10470C Rush Lane, Grand Bay, AL, 36541, classymomma1@yahoo.com.

Angela S.:
wyanetmagenta24@aol.com.

Ellen Horn: 3201 1st Ave. #335A, Columbus, GA 31904; valana@toast.net.

Revs. James & Rita Middleton:
Known as Papa James & Mama Rita. James is ordained under the ULC, does all rites of passage and closed circles, is based out of Dragon Hills Retreat in Bowdon, GA, a spiritual place that offers a safe haven. No event is too small or too big. (770) 258-0863 or drdjmid@aol.com.

Jeremy: I am a 2nd Degree self-initiated Celtic Witch. I am starting up The Blue Water Pagan Grove. If you are in the area of Sanilac County and St. Clair County in Michigan, call (810) 937-7868.

Dr. Katharyn Privett-Duren:
dr_privett@yahoo.com.

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: 425 Webster Rd. #934, Auburn, AL 36862, <skippy_the_witch@mindspring.com>, (334) 826-3953.

Siryndolphinson-Bradford:
Siryndolphinson can be reached at her new store Cosmic ConneXion in Kennesaw, GA, where we have a vast array of metaphysical and root-working supplies. Also offering in-depth classes, workshops, and seminars, at some of which Siryndolphinson shares different topics on the many paths she has traveled, and the specific tools she utilizes today. She is available as a speaker at other venues on request. Siryndolphinson is an intuitive reader who offers Tarot, Aura, and Obi (shell) readings, and in-depth palmistry at the store, and has other readers available. She is a Usui Reiki Master/Teacher with Lightarian incorporating crystal healing, chakra cleansing, pendulum clearing/balancing, guided meditation, energy work, lfa based root work, and spiritual/healing advisement. Her work as a minister includes all rites, most rituals, and she is willing to travel. Siryndolphinson is founder of the CST grove S.T.A.R. (Sacred Tribe of Ancient Roots), and creator of the Pagan Family Reunion (PFR). Siryndolphinson can be reached at Cosmic ConneXion, located at 3600 Cherokee St. Suite #113, Kennesaw, GA 30144; (770) 919-9193, and has a Yahoo group, a Facebook page, and currently working on a website, www.Cosmic-ConneXion.net. The store is affiliated with Bio-Buzz and Dreamscapes, owned by her husband Stephen Bradford. Siryndolphinson commutes but primarily resides in Cartersville, GA where she also offers classes. She can be reached at (229) 395-9718, la.siryndolphinson@yahoo.com, or cosmicconneXion@yahoo.com.

Nora "Kat" Blansett: 4544 Hwy 1 RR # 2, Three Mile Plains, Windsor, Nova Scotia, Canada B0N 2T0.

Sacred Earth (Maka Wakan):
email: wanblee2@netzero.net; (706) 987-7179.

Stephen Bradford, aka Tyernan WaterOak: An intuitive medium and natural healer. Within my Eclectic Witch and Yoruba Path, I do Tarot readings, rootwork, chakra balancing, crystal healing, energy work, and Reiki. I own Bio-Buzz Botanica, a metaphysical supply and service oriented business in Albany, GA. As an ordained minister, I offer legal communions, handfastings, handpartings, Wiccanings, and requiems (passing on rites). At the store and across the US, I offer ongoing classes, workshops and various teachings. Bio-Buzz is also the home of Albany Pagans and the Magickal Mystery Tour, which is an ongoing discussion of anything metaphysical and spiritual related topics. I offer these services and classes with help from the community at my other store in Auburn, AL called DreamScapes, our second location of metaphysics and spiritual supplies galore. Look for me in the Panhandle of Florida and North Georgia quite often too! Stephen A. Bradford, 612 N. Slappey Blvd., Albany GA 31701, (229) 438-5878 or (229) 395-0963. Email: tyernan2003@yahoo.com.

Taavi Kellett: Can be reached by cell phone at (706) 527-0919.



The Church of the Spiral Tree

Membership Form

By filling out the following form, I certify that I am of legal age (18), (under 18 fill out section below) and that I will respect myself and others, especially when attending official Church of the Spiral Tree functions.

Today's Date: _____

Full Legal Name: _____ *DoB: _____

Legal Name Member #2 (if Family membership): _____ DoB: _____

Legal Name Member #3 (if Family membership): _____ DoB: _____

Legal Name Member #4 (if Family membership): _____ DoB: _____

Legal Name Member #5 (if Family membership): _____ DoB: _____

*Date of Birth (optional) is requested so we can send birthday greetings

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email (1): _____ Email (2): _____

For minors under age 18 only:

I certify that my minor child has my permission and approval to join as a member of the Church of the Spiral Tree. I understand that I am responsible for assuring that my child is respectful him/herself and of the beliefs of others and conducts him/herself in an honorable and respectful manner, especially when attending CST functions.

(Signature of Parent or Guardian)

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!**

Our most popular memberships, with varying lengths:

Individual _____ \$20 1 Year; _____ \$35 2 Years; _____ \$45 3 Years

Family (includes kids; all family members must be immediate family only, living at same address)

_____ \$35 1 Year; _____ \$60 2 Years; _____ \$80 3 Years

Other membership options, all one year long:

_____ \$15 Student/Poor Person/Youth (under 18) (please attach a short note demonstrating financial need OR be sure parent or guardian signs above)

_____ \$50 Sustaining Member (receives all benefits plus our undying thanks)

_____ \$100 Contributing Member (receives all benefits, our eternal thanks, and a listing in the newsletter once/year)

_____ \$200 Patron(ess) Member (receives all benefits, our everlasting gratitude, a yearly listing in the newsletter, and a certificate)

Lifetime memberships (receives all benefits for a lifetime (this life only, sorry!), our everlasting, undying gratitude, a yearly listing in the newsletter (if desired), and a certificate)

_____ \$400 Individual _____ \$500 Family

OTHER: _____ Donation to CST: (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 8396, Columbus, GA 31908 cst@spiraltree.org <http://www.spiraltree.org>

For CST use only:

Amount of payment: _____ Date payment received: _____ Received by: _____

Method of payment: _____ Cash _____ Check _____ Money Order _____ PayPal _____ Date Card/New Member Pkt issued: _____

Expiration: _____ Notes: _____

Church of the Spiral Tree

Absentee Ballot

2010 Annual Membership Meeting, October 16, 2010, 12:00 pm

ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS/OFFICERS:

President

- Cathy Rankin
 _____ (write-in)

Member-at-Large

- Jonathan Medley
 _____ (write-in)

Vice-President

- Linda Kerr
 _____ (write-in)

Member-at-Large

- Joy Brown-Newsome
 _____ (write-in)

Secretary/Treasurer

- Stephen Bradford
 _____ (write-in)

PROPOSED CHANGES TO BYLAWS:

1) In Article VII, Officers, section 7.3, add the sentence "All such officers and agents must be active members in good standing and qualified to perform the duties of their office." Revised section will read as follows:

7.3: The Board of Directors may appoint such officers and agents as it may deem advisable, who shall hold their offices for such terms and shall exercise such power and perform such duties as shall be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors. All such officers and agents must be active members in good standing and qualified to perform the duties of their office.

1) Approve Disapprove

2) In Article VII, Officers, section 7.6.3, remove the words "and Priesthood."

7.6.3: Minutes of Board meetings shall be prepared by the Secretary and distributed to the Board members ~~and Priesthood~~ not more than two weeks after each meeting.

2) Approve Disapprove

3) In Article X, Decision-Making, remove section 10.5: Proxy Voting. This method of voting is not needed now that email is so prevalent. (To view this full section, go to <<http://www.spiraltree.org/ByLaws.html>> or call, mail, or email to request a hard copy of the ByLaws.)

Also, in section 10.4.1, remove the words "choosing to vote by proxy," as this will no longer be applicable. Revised section will read as follows:

10.4.1: Members attending the General Meeting, ~~or choosing to vote by proxy,~~ may not submit mail-in ballots.

3) Approve Disapprove

4) In Article XII, Groves, remove all sections 12.1.1 through 12.11.2; and in Article XIII, Branches, remove all sections 13.1.1 through 13.8.2. (To view this full section, go to <<http://www.spiraltree.org/ByLaws.html>> or call, mail, or email to request a hard copy of the ByLaws.) These sections consist of the specific rules for Groves and Branches, respectively. By removing these from the ByLaws, the BoD will have the discretion to make changes to the specific rules without having to call a special meeting to make changes to the ByLaws. The remaining sections will simply describe the structure of Groves and Branches, respectively. The amended versions of these articles are below:

ARTICLE XII, GROVES

12.1: Grove. The basic local organizational congregational unit of Church of the Spiral Tree shall be the Grove. A Grove is a small intimate group of at least three, and it is recommended, not more than 13, Church members, organized in a local area to learn about, discuss, and creatively practice the purposes of the Church.

ARTICLE XIII, BRANCHES

13.1: Branches. If a chartered Grove desires, or if two or more Groves form in close proximity, they may form a local Church of the Spiral Tree Branch, designated with an appropriate local identification. This would then become the public body that would hold open meetings and services, be listed in Church publications and electronic media, advertise in the Yellow Pages, etc. with the original Grove or Groves taking a less public position, and no longer expected to hold open meetings.

4) Approve Disapprove

Comments on any of the above:

NOTE: You must be an active (paid) member at the time of the Annual Membership Meeting for your vote to count! If you choose to vote absentee, you cannot change your vote or vote again in person at the meeting.

Your vote will remain confidential, but for our records, please provide your name and current address.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Please mail to CST, P.O. Box 8396, Columbus, GA 31908, or email to info@spiraltree.org, so that your vote is received no later than October 9, 2010.

Board of Directors' Meetings:

Held four times a year; check website at <<http://www.spiraltree.org/officers.html>> for date of next meeting

Important Dates for 2010:

<i>RITUAL</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SPONSOR</i>	<i>LOCATION (HOST)</i>
Mabon	September 18, 2010	GGG	Cathy & David's house
Elections	October 16, 2010	Linda Kerr	FallFling, Dragon Hills
Full Moon Lodge	October 23, 2010	PSE	Salem, AL
Samhain	October 30, 2010	TBA	TBA
Full Moon	November 20, 2010	TBA	TBA
Yule & Full Moon	December 18, 2010	TBA	TBA
New Year's Eve	December 31, 2010	TBA	TBA

GGG = Green Gate Grove (Columbus, GA); PSE = People of the Sacred Earth (Salem, AL); STAR = Sacred Tribe of Ancient Roots (Albany, GA); TBA = to be announced

A note on CST membership: For all new and renewing members, please remember that your membership dues go 100% to administrative costs for CST and our ministries such as the Military Affairs Committee, providing support for our Pagan soldiers through the distinctive faith based groups that we sponsor and through our community relief fund. Your membership also makes a statement for your personal freedom of religion as well as helping to establish Pagans as an integral and positive influence in the local communities and in the world in general.

Church of the Spiral Tree
 P.O. Box 8396
 Columbus, GA 31908

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED