



# the JOURNEY...



Official newsletter of The Church of the Spiral Tree — an ecumenical Pagan church

## Church of the Spiral Tree News

### CST Board of Directors Meeting Summary Saturday, September 19, 2015

The 2015 Auburn Pagan Pride Day (PPD) was a great success! PPD was held September 19, 2015, at the Davis Arboretum on the Auburn University campus. We had classes all day long, followed by a wonderful harvest season ritual by Kat H. We collected 193 pounds of food for the East Alabama Food Bank (a copy of the letter to the Food Bank is below). The event was very well attended, with about 200 people visiting throughout the course of the day. We also gained six new CST members.

The fundraiser lunch was a huge success; it made a little bit of extra money for CST, and kept attendance up, as people did not have to leave the site to go eat lunch elsewhere. We will definitely be doing this lunch again next year.

The Opelika-Auburn News, the local daily paper, sent a reporter who wrote up a very nice and unbiased story, which you can read here:

[www.oanow.com/news/auburn/article\\_01f0b65a-5f16-11e5-823f-8f0d2d64cdb7.html](http://www.oanow.com/news/auburn/article_01f0b65a-5f16-11e5-823f-8f0d2d64cdb7.html). The Auburn Plainsman, the campus newspaper for Auburn University, also published a good article: <http://www.theplainsman.com/article/2015/09/donald-e-davis-arboretum-hosts-auburn-pagan-pride-day>.

Our annual General Membership & Elections Meeting was held at PPD. The proposed changes to the Bylaws were unanimously approved, and Terrin was elected to be the Member-at-Large. This year we actually had four candidates running for the position, all of whom were well-qualified and eager to have the position. A huge thank you to Terrin, Kimberly, Joshua, and Don for participating!

One thing which was slightly disappointing was the small amount of voter

participation. Out of 66 members, only 21 voted. Hopefully next time members will feel more invested in the outcome of the elections.

At the meeting there was a bit of discussion about the role of the member-at-large; he or she will more directly represent CST members, as the remainder of the Board of Directors is appointed. A new email address will be created for this position, so you will be able to contact this officer directly.

There was also discussion about potentially adding appoint BoD positions to represent other traditions in the area or in the membership. The discussion included pros and cons of doing adding someone new, how long to wait, and what threshold we should meet before adding a new BoD position. There was a suggestion to do an informal survey of the membership to ask what tradition or path each of us follows.

The Board has decided to have at least a couple of our regular sabbat rituals at a public location, such as a city park, in order to raise more awareness of Paganism and of CST. Our first public ritual is still to be determined, but will likely be held at Town Creek Park in Auburn. However, our Yule ritual, and most of our other rituals, will be at a more private location.

Nicole asked about doing more open things, such as open houses, Meetups, etc., along the vein of PPD. This would be great to let other Pagans in the area know that there are others around like them. We may decide to do a monthly Meetup at a restaurant, something fairly low-key.

In order to continue the conversation we had at the meeting, a new Facebook group for paid CST members will be created. Groups are more conducive

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#### CST Board of Directors:

- **Founder:** Linda Kerr
- **Gangani Tribe Representative & Board Chair:** Seba O’Kiley
- **Faerie Faith Representative:** skippy
- **Solitary Representative:** Member X
- **Member-at-Large:** Terrin

#### CST Staff:

- **Sacred Grove Academy  
Director:** Linda Kerr
- **Newsletter Editor:** (open)
- **Webmaster:** Linda Kerr

#### Church of the Spiral Tree

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# Circle of Life

*Birthdays for October-November-December! Happy Birthday to the following CST members:*

- Camille P. (October 4)
- Kaitlin L. (October 12)
- Audrey V. (October 31)
- Jason V. (November 6)
- James M. (November 6)
- Amanda T. (November 8)
- Linda K. (November 10)
- Gary F. (November 15)
- Don M. (November 17)



- Jillian S. (November 21)
- Gary F. (November 15)
- Stephen B. (December 1)
- Madeline S. (December 2)
- Marcus R. (December 13)
- Samuel C. (December 22)
- Laura J. (December 26)
- Shuree M. (December 27)

## Ministers

CST, being a church, may ordain any member age 18 and over as a minister, as long as they have been a paid member for at least one year. We are currently re-vamping our program to better serve our membership and community.

The policies below have been put in place to ensure that CST and our ordained ministers remain committed and connected to each other and is effective for all ministers ordained in the year 2012 and on.

### Eligibility Requirements

You must be a currently paid member of Church of the Spiral Tree, and not incarcerated.

You must have been a paid member of CST for at least one year previous to applying to become a minister.

- You must be at least 21 years of age.
- Your application must include a photocopy or scan (front and back) of official picture ID; e.g. driver's license, student ID, state ID, work ID, etc.
- Your application must include your payment of \$50 for the ordination fee.

### Important

Paid members of CST who are currently incarcerated are not eligible to apply for ordination through CST.

The President of CST reserves the right, as Head Chaplain for all ministerial functions, to deny and/or revoke any ordination as determined by vote of the Ministerial Committee and the Board of Directors that said minister has misrepresented him/

herself or CST; or has behaved in a manner that is inconsistent with the policies or bylaws of CST or behaves verbally or physically in a manner that has a negative impact on the reputation or credibility of CST.

It is the responsibility of all ministers to be informed of and conduct ministerial work in accordance with local, state, and federal laws.

### Ordination is for a 3-Year Period

Your ordination will be good for a period of three years, during which you must maintain your paid CST membership.

After this three-year period, if you still meet the eligibility requirements and your membership has been maintained continuously, you may apply to renew your ordination (\$25 fee).

### How to Become Ordained

The ordination process begins with your application (found on our website: [www.spiraltree.org/ordain.shtml](http://www.spiraltree.org/ordain.shtml)) along with the \$50 fee. Your application will be reviewed by the Board of Directors. If you are not approved, \$40 of your fee will be refunded.

If ordained, you will be entered into our database and will soon receive your certificate of ordination and a card to carry with you.

### Maintaining Paid Membership

If the paid CST membership is not maintained during this three-year period or at any time thereafter, the ordination will lapse 30 days after the membership lapses. After renewing your membership, you may apply again to become ordained, for a \$50 fee.

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to back-and-forth conversations, whereas pages are better for putting out one-way information. Also, groups can be kept private and closed, while pages are public and open.

Here's the financial after-report for PPD.

### Expenses

Site Rental \$165.00  
Insurance \$134.00  
Banner, Signs \$190.08  
Flyers \$198.50  
Food for Lunch \$110.00  
**TOTAL \$797.58**

### Income

Vendor Fees (12 x \$15) \$180.00  
Food/drink sales \$177.50  
T-shirt sales \$60.00  
**TOTAL \$417.5**

**TOTAL LOSS: \$380.08**

### To: East Alabama Food Bank, 375 Industry Drive, Auburn AL 36832

Our organization has a food donation for the East Alabama Food Bank. On September 19, 2015, Church of the Spiral Tree, an ecumenical Pagan church, hosted the Auburn Pagan Pride Day at the Davis Arboretum on the Auburn University campus. We requested that all attendees bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Food Bank.

CST prefers to support local charity organizations like the Food Bank, which directly help the community at large and do not have any particular political or religious affiliation. We greatly appreciate the work you do for the community, and we do not need a receipt for this donation.

Sincerely, Linda C. Kerr, Founder,  
Church of the Spiral Tree



## Message from an Inmate

We few Wiccans and Pagans who are at Riverbend Correctional Facility in Milledgeville, GA, were granted the right to celebrate Imbolc this year. In addition we were able to celebrate the past three Sabbats. We have been fighting for our rights to come together not just once a month for esbat, but to celebrate our eight holy days. Even though our group here has gotten smaller over the past couple of months, we are still blessed to be able to come together and learn.

## About CST

Church of the Spiral Tree (CST) is a non-profit, volunteer-staffed, ecumenical Pagan 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 attend, to ordain ministers, and to extend our tax-exempt status to sub-groups of CST.

One of our ministries is Sacred Grove Academy, a Pagan church cover school program for homeschooling families in Alabama. 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.

*Church of the Spiral Tree is classified as a 509(a)(1) & 170(b)(1)(A)(i) organization. We are tax-exempt under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3).*

# The Dance of the Circle

*By Nion, Beltane '96*

The young maid, dancing under the star lit sky  
Unashamedly naked and free, full of life and zest.  
She dances the dance of life and of things to come.  
Energetic and exuberant, wild and free,  
She dances of the future of what will be.

The Mother, full breasted with belly overflowing,  
Pregnant with life of the things that are.  
Self assured and confident, sensuous and vibrant.  
The vessel of Life waiting to be borne from the womb.  
Mother, Protectress, Life bearer, Creator of all.  
She dances the dance of love fulfilled.

The Crone, aged and wise, body withered and old,  
Life lived and lessons learned.  
Wise with the wisdom of countless ages, She has seen it all.  
Stately and slowly, She walks the path of the Circle that She has  
Trode so many times before.  
She is there to greet us at the portals of Summerland,  
To counsel us and give us rest and peace at the end of our days.  
Preparing us once again to greet the Maid and to be borne anew  
by the Mother.  
She dances the dance of what was and what will be.

The Horned One, antlered and cloven hoofed.  
Virile and strong, stern and compassionate, fierce and gentle.  
Phallus erect, full of the seed of fertility to join in the dance of life  
with the Mother.  
Son, Lover, Father, Consort, King of the holly and oak.  
The Dread Lord who gives us peace at the end of our days  
And greets and protects us till it is time again to be reborn.  
He dances the dance of life renewed.

The seasons come and the seasons go,  
What is will be, what will be, is.  
We are born, we live, die and are reborn again,  
Ever renewing, changing, growing, living, dying, and reliving again.  
We all dance the dance of the Circle,  
For we are part of the Maid and of the Mother,  
The Crone and the Horned One, and They are part of us.  
We seek, They answer with love and life, peace and rest.  
We are They; They are us.

Blessed Be.



# The Struggles of an Incarcerated Pagan

By Tatum

Merry Meet!

My Elder had asked me to write an article on the struggles we incarcerated witches deal with. There are brothers and sisters who are incarcerated who are Pagan or have similar beliefs. These people are strong and devoted in their faith, and they are also criticized for their beliefs. I am one of those many who are constantly judged in prison. My brothers and I have to fight and argue with the prison system just to be able to properly practice our beliefs. And as humble young witch myself, I take the proper and appropriate actions to deal with prejudices. I do not dislike or hate these people for their lack of knowledge about the religion. I've come to understand that this ignorance has been programmed into the masses of the world. But I pray one day they'll understand the ways we believe, and accept the fact.

Personally, I'm an eclectic witch of strong morals and beliefs. I seek peace, knowledge, and friendship. I, as well as my brothers behind these walls, strive to practice our beliefs, but are bombarded with many obsta-

cles. The staff here constantly gives us the run-around, with the tools and other accessories we ask for. We don't mind buying the tools and other things; in fact, we insist on buying them ourselves, and we will buy them through a legitimate vendor such as Azure Green. And this is the point I bring up to the prison staff, and I still get a prejudiced response, or no response at all. I just finally got a religious form approved for an altar cloth for our community, and it took two months. This is not a complaint, just a thought as to why it takes so long. These items are for our worships and rituals, and that's all. I constantly explain our ways to the staff and inmates. They believe our chanting and reciting is some form of Satanism or evil doings, when in fact it's the total opposite, as I tell them. "We don't believe in or practice such negativity." Some understand and some just don't want to. "An open mind lets in greater light." This is a quote I wrote and truly live by.

They restrict the things we are allowed to have, but I will push harder

and harder to get to use the religious rights we were given, and I won't stop until this movement is accomplished. Even through the courts if need be. So mote it be!

Some of us Pagans and others have no help, and we seek it. I ask those who are reading this article, to help those who have the shackles on them. Correspond, send information, write encouraging letters, teach them. There is nothing more noble than a person teaching another person. You give the gift of love, hope, and knowledge; for them to further their lives and path. It's an amazing feeling to help others out of love. When my brothers ask me for help or advice, I give it to them, with love. I'm 24 years old. I believe age is the body and time, and the heart is the character and quality. And I look at a person's heart rather than their body age. So my message to all you brothers and sisters out in the world: help your brothers and sisters in their struggle. Do what you think is necessary; show your heart.

I'm a strong believer in our religious movement, and I will continue to push further and further until our goal is achieved. Blessed be!



## Mabon Ritual for Solitaries

Set up your altar with the quarter candles...and any special quarter marking items you may use in your rituals. Cover your altar with a red cloth and lay out your ritual items. For Mabon, you should use a cornucopia filled with harvest items, but you can always use whatever you have at hand. Decorate your altar with items such as acorns, wheat stalks, oat springs, pine and cypress cones, vines, garlands of greenery, apples and other fall fruit, flowers, and grain.

Altar Supplies: incense, burner, cauldron, chalice of water, salt, pentacle, boline, four element candles, chalice of wine, wand, autumn-colored ribbons tied on the boline. Autumn leaves for decoration. Three candles (white, red, black) set around the cauldron. Place ivy in the cauldron (artificial can be used if a live plant isn't available).

When you have your altar set up, take a shower or bath for purification and don your ritual clothing and jewelry. Sit quietly and meditate for a while, to ground and center, before begin-

ning the ritual. When you feel ready to begin, play some soothing music associated with the Sabbat and your ritual.

After the circle is cast, light the three candles around the cauldron and say:

*I call upon the blessed Lady, queen of the harvest, giver of life and plenty since before time began. Bestow upon me Your joy and beauty, power and prosperity. So mote it be.*

Salute the ivy-filled cauldron with your ribbon-adorned boline and say:

*I call upon the Lord of the harvest, sacred King, giver of riches and protection since before time began. Bestow upon me your strength and laughter, power and prosperity. So mote it be.*

Take your boline in your power hand and the wine chalice in the other. Say:



# 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.

**Gary Fimple #1204170:** I am looking to correspond with any Wiccans. Augusta Correctional Center, 1821 Estaline Valley Rd., Craigsville, VA 24430.

**Dr. Katharyn Privett-Duren** (and family): Minister, Priestess of Gangani Tribe of Alabama.

**LaTonya Jones of Peoples**

**Care:** Auburn Alabama, (334) 524-1364.

**Madeline W.S.:** makalinakitten mother@yahoo.com.

**Neil Ferrell #39921:** Lovelock Corr. Center, 1200 Prison Road, Lovelock, NV 89419.

**Nion and LeePhether** are vibrational alchemists who facilitate Reiki sessions/attunements based on Usui, Lightarian, and other non-traditional methods. Ordained as clergy (Nion CST, Lee CST & ULC), they offer handfastings/weddings, baptisms, requiems (passing-on rites), as well as spiritual guidance. They are on the council of The Sweet Potato Clan of The Free Cherokees and are pipe carriers. As certified Angel Therapy Practitioners (ACP) and certified Wholeness Blessing Facilitators they are excellent listeners. Nion and LeePhether reside in West Georgia and can work in the Southeast USA. Contact info: ion011@aol.com, Leephether@gmail.com or 404-789-4178.

**Richard Edward Peebles**

**#523160:** I will correspond with Wiccan gay or straight males and females alike; I only ask to write and make friends, and an opportunity to learn something new in Wicca. Riverbend C.F.,

FB-23, 198 Laying Farm Rd., Milledgeville, GA 31061.

**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: "Skippy" Rob Von Allmen, 425 Webster Road #934, Auburn, AL 36832, skippy\_the\_witch@yahoo.com, 334-826-3953.

**Robert Kaczorowski:** Bobby kac@silverhands.net.

**Shuree Munden-Wagstaff:** shureezinleather@yahoo.com.

**Siryng Dolphinson-Bradford:** la.siryng@yahoo.com.

**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 DreamScapes and Da' Gallery, metaphysical supply and service oriented business in Auburn, AL. As an ordained minister, I offer legal communions, handfastings, handpartings, Wiccanings, and requiems (passing on rites). At the stores and across the US, I offer ongoing classes, workshops and various teachings. Look for me in the Panhandle of Florida and North Georgia quite often too! Stephen A. Bradford, 1635 S. College St., Auburn, AL 36830, (334) 887-0989, or (229) 395-0963. Email: tyernan2003@yahoo.com.

**Rev. April Iris McLeod:** P.O. Box 916 Grand Bay, AL

## **RITUAL**, *continued from page 4*

*Always has life fulfilled its cycle and let to life anew in the eternal chain of the living. In honor of the Old Gods, I mark the fullness of my life and the harvest of this year's lessons.*

Walk three times doesil around the circle, beginning in the east, chanting:  
*The year-wheel turns, and bounty comes.*

Move back to the altar and place the boline on it. Set the wine chalice briefly on the pentacle. As you make the following toast, raise the chalice high each time before taking a sip.

*To the good seasons that have gone, and to the good ones yet to come.*  
*Blessed Be!*

*To the Goddess! May She bring peace and fulfillment to all of her children.*  
*Blessed Be!*

*To the God! May He protect His followers and bring prosperity and happiness.*

*Merry meet, merry part and merry meet again! Blessed Be!*

Now is the time for meditation and spellwork. Associated spellwork would include those for protection, wealth, security, and/or self-confidence. If you don't have any spellwork, celebrate with Cakes and Ale, then release the circle. Clean up, and you are done.



# CST Calendar

CST and its affiliate Groves welcome church and community 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. We usually 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. You do not have to be a member of CST to participate! 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. Please visit [www.spiraltree.org/upcoming.shtml](http://www.spiraltree.org/upcoming.shtml) for up-to-date information, directions, and links to RSVP for each ritual. Rituals without at least five attending will be cancelled.

CST EVENTS	DATE	LOCATION/HOST
Yule Ritual	December 20, 2015 (Sunday)	Roxanna, Camp Hill AL

**Board of Directors' Meetings:** The next BoD meetings are held four times a year. The most recent meeting was held September 19, 2015. Please check the website at [www.spiraltree.org/upcoming.shtml](http://www.spiraltree.org/upcoming.shtml) for the date and location of the next meeting.

## Upcoming Festivals (Not CST events):

**FallFling:** October 15-18, 2015; Roxanna AL

**Dragon Stead's Samhain:** October 30-November 1, 2015; Roxanna AL

**Moondance:** May 26-30, 2016; Roxanna AL

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

