

The Journey...S

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

Issue 6
Ostara, 1999

This year has been going good so far. We've had a very positive response to the lunar rituals. Attendance has been fairly small, about 10-15 people each time, with a good core group, which makes for a nice intimate ritual. It rained at the first two, but for the third one, Ash, we were actually able to do it outdoors.

Church of the Spiral Tree is now registered to do business in Georgia. This means that anyone wishing to put together a local CST group there can do so. If anyone in another state wishes to start a group, you just need to let us know so we can take care of the legal end here.

Full info on starting a CST grove in your area is on the web site, < <http://www.mindspring.com/~spiraltree> >, including the application forms and rules. We also have info there on youth memberships and becoming ordained as a minister, as well as the full text of the Bylaws. Recently I put up an archive of some of my old articles, mostly on holidays such as Samhain and May Day, plus one on the origin of the modern calendar.

We're still planning on a temple building at our land in Waverly. The weather has been too bad at each Sabbat to do any work, but hopefully this spring we can get started on it.

Faerie-Faith Link: Don't forget that 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.

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

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

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

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, such as:

writers and artists for the CST newsletter; editing and publishing the CST newsletter; handling networking contacts, including publishing lists in newsletter; other business and administration associated with the newsletter

CONTACTS:

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

Ametisi Hawthorne (Merilee Barber): 36, new student, stones, crystals, herbs, books on the craft. Alone here in Mobile. P.O. Box 91781, Mobile, AL, 36691.

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

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

Lora Melendez: P.O. Box 8202, Dothan, AL 36304.

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

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.

Willow Blue: <willowblue21@hotmail.com>.

CST Calendar:

Note on the Lunar Rituals: The 13 lunar tree rituals are Faerie Faith rituals, with all of the Faerie Faith trappings (somewhat different from traditional Wiccan rituals). It is strongly suggested that if you would like to attend these rituals, you should plan to attend all 13 rituals, rather than just one or two throughout the year, in order to get the full benefit from them. Also, several of the rituals will be set for early to late afternoon, so we can go out and cut wands from the appropriate tree in daylight, and do some other workings before the ritual actually begins. Please pay attention to the stated arrival time! Firmer times and locations of lunar rituals will be available closer to the date of the ritual.

March:

March 20, Spring Equinox, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. At midnight, Gwalchmai and Pelayah will be handfasted at Roxanna, nearby.

April:

April 3, 6:00 pm, Alder Moon ritual.
April 30, Friday, 6:00 pm, Willow Moon ritual. (Note: date may change!)

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, 6:00 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, 7:00 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 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

October:

October 23, 5:00 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, 4:00 pm, Reed Moon ritual.

December:

Yule and Elder Moon ritual, December 18, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 4:00 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 27-31, 1999	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
Earthdance	Sep. 10-12, 1999	FDR State Park, Pine Mtn, GA

MINUTES

CHURCH OF THE SPIRAL TREE

Board of Directors

January 31, 1999

The meeting was called to order by Craig Kerr at 5:00 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

Old Business

Still no word from the IRS about our tax-exempt status, mailed August 28, 1998.

No work has been done on the temple building due to the weather. Craig also hasn't gotten price quotes on lumber yet.

We got the outhouse moved from Roxanna to Waverly; we now have semi-primitive facilities on-site.

New Business

The church is now registered in both Alabama and Georgia. The registered agent in Georgia is WillowBlue, in Carrollton. We can now do business in Georgia, which means that anyone in that state wishing to form a local CST group may do so.

The new registered agent for Alabama is Jody Newell, in Auburn.

The application forms and general and specific rules for Groves and Branches was approved. These have been posted on the web page.

The underage drinking problem we saw beginning seems to have been stopped, due to stricter enforcement and discussion with teens and parents.

A pagan photographer and a reporter (non-pagan) from the Birmingham Post-Herald came to a handfasting and our Samhain ritual in November 1998. The subsequent article and photos were published on December 17, 1998. The article was very positive, except for a bit by a Jehova's Witness evangelist, but his comments were refuted nicely by Kat in Montgomery. Shortly after the article appeared, the Associated Press picked it up, and it's been published in (that we know of) papers in Dothan, Montgomery, Auburn, and Mobile, AL, Decatur, GA, and Panama City, FL. It's probably been in many other papers that we don't know about yet. Rumor has it that it was carried nation-wide, and even put out on some international email lists. The complete text and photos are on the web page.

Kat in Montgomery and Leslie in Birmingham are working on a cover school program for CST to provide homeschooling resources for members and other pagans in Alabama and Georgia. If members in other states are interested in this, we may consider registering to do business there, to make it legal.

The last two rituals had to be held in the barn due to rain, and at the last one, cars got stuck in the mud. We plan to talk to Odessa about using a spare room in her house during rain, at least until we can get the temple building complete and the driveway improved on the Waverly land.

The next CST ritual will be on March 20, for Ostara. It will be held at Waverly.

The next two meetings were scheduled to be held May 2, 1999, and August 1, 1999, in Auburn, Alabama.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

S

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)
-------	-----------------	----------	--

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:

May 2, 1999, Auburn, Alabama; August 1, 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):

Lunar	Date of Full Moon	Date of Ritual
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) (Note: date may change!)
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

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED