



## 2025 Year in Review: CSL First City Teaching Chapter

### A Year of Growth, Service, and Spiritual Community



What a transformative year 2025 has been for the Center for Spiritual Living First City Teaching Chapter! From accredited in-person classes to community outreach, recovery support to celebration, we've grown deeper in our spiritual practice while expanding our reach throughout St. Augustine.

### Education & Spiritual Development

Our year began with a milestone: hosting our first accredited class in Foundations with our entire Leadership Committee in attendance. True to our values, we shared dinner together during class—because fellowship and breaking bread together creates bonds that surpass any planned activity.

Our Leadership also engaged with CSL Board Training videos purchased by CSL First City, providing essential education for our young and developing board members.

Then came a truly special moment: our Founding Minister, Rev. Sherri Cunningham, participated in TWO graduation ceremonies—one at her home church, Mile Hi in Denver, Colorado, and the final class of the Florida Campus before its closing at CSL Cape Coral Florida alongside classmates she'd studied with for several years. Our Leadership attended the Cape Coral ceremony, experiencing firsthand a complete Sunday service, morning meditation, and prayer with a licensed practitioner. What a GIFT indeed! CSL donations covered travel expenses for this invaluable team-building experience.



In October, Rev. Sherri led the accredited class *"Change Your Thinking, Change Your Life"*—a transformative 5-week journey into Science of Mind spiritual principles. Eight participants learned to set meaningful intentions and manifest them through meditation, affirmations, visualization, and Spiritual Mind Treatment.

### Community Presence & Advocacy



We showed up boldly and lovingly in 2025! Our participation in the St. Augustine Pride Parade saw over 20 people walking in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community, wearing custom-designed shirts. We were the only "church" present at the parade finale on the grounds of the Castillo de San Marcos, there solely to show love. We also attended the City Council meeting wearing our custom purple shirts to support Sara Bloomberg the Director of [HOUSE OF PRISM](#) as they received the proclamation for June being Pride Month.

### Recovery & Mental Health Outreach

Your generous donations of over \$8,300 enabled us to participate in multiple grassroots initiatives that amplified our mission!

At the Epic Recovery Fair, we raised awareness about CSL First City, our mission, and offerings while making new friends and strengthening connections in the local recovery and mental health community. We gave away 72 branded bags containing a Science of Mind Magazine, "Holy Moments" book, our class and meeting list, and a letter from Rev. Sherri. Seeing those bags throughout the fair was incredibly meaningful! We also supported a suicide prevention vendor by purchasing several shirts for our team.

Pink Up The Pace brought us together for a 5K celebrating not only Rev. Sherri's journey through breast cancer, but honoring all survivors and those we've lost. Over 20 participants walked with us in custom t-shirts.

On October 12, we hosted a SOBRIETY BREAKTHROUGH workshop at Epic Behavioral Health featuring author John Merkel, who shared his 35 years of sobriety wisdom on the 4th and 5th steps. We purchased 10 books and gave away 20 to approximately 30 participants who learned powerful tools for working through resentments.



On December 6, 13 people joined us for the St. Augustine Suicide Prevention Walk, which we sponsored with a \$1,000 donation.

### Recovery Meetings: A Foundation of Service

We now host 11 meetings weekly in our space—AA, ACA, SAA, Meditation, and Heart, Mind, Spirit Recovery—serving 572 meetings annually with an average of over 3,400 people on various recovery paths.

In 2025, we purchased:

- 20 ACA 12-Step books for a new step study meeting that launched September 5
- 15 additional Plain Language Big Books of Alcoholics Anonymous due to demand and regular attendance

In January 2026, we added an SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) meeting—the only in-person meeting within 25 miles of St. Augustine—along with 10 SAA Green books and pamphlets. We're also adding a CODA (Co-Dependents Anonymous) meeting in Q1 2026.

We began paying a \$150 monthly rent stipend to our gracious host, Mindful Solutions, to help cover utilities, supplies, and cleaning costs.

Our Secretary expanded our menu with two new offerings:

- Tuesday 7 AM "As Bill Sees It" AA meeting
- Monthly Biofield Tuning (replacing meditation on the last Monday of each month) as a love offering fundraiser for CSLFC

Both events enjoy excellent attendance!

### Recognition & Resources

In December 2025, Centers for Spiritual Living Magazine honored us as part of their inaugural Celebrating the Goodness Campaign, featuring us as a Teaching Chapter:  
[Watch Here](#)



Throughout the year, we cultivated an extensive lending library filled with New Thought, spiritual, and recovery literature available to anyone who seeks it. Come for a visit anytime to just sit and be in that energy OR find a new title to take home and return.

## Looking Ahead to 2026

Our goal for 2026 is to give away at least one scholarship for each paid class offered in the community. We're excited to continue learning, growing, and giving back—including attending the Spiritual Living Convention in Reno this April!

## A Heartfelt Ask

Everything we accomplished in 2025 was made possible by people like you who believe in this work. As Jim Lockard teaches in *Creating A Beloved Community*, a thriving spiritual community is built not just on shared belief, but on shared commitment—showing up for one another in ways both seen and unseen. That is exactly what your generosity has helped us do.

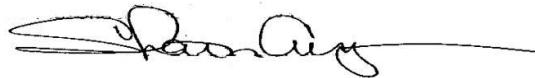
Henri J. M. Nouwen reminds us in *A Spirituality of Fundraising* that giving is not simply a financial act—it is a spiritual one. When we give, we participate in something sacred. We become part of the solution, part of the healing, part of the ministry of Love that moves through this community every single day.

As we step into 2026 with even bigger dreams, we need your continued support. No gift is too big or too small. Every single dollar goes directly toward keeping us out in the community—serving those on the path of recovery, offering spiritual education, and showing up with open hearts where it matters most.

Your Invitation — Your gift is not just a donation. It is an invitation to dance with the Divine.

Thank you for your support, your presence, and your love. CSL First City Teaching Chapter gets to BE a Beloved Community because of you!

With gratitude and love,



Rev. Sherri Cunningham & CSL First City Teaching Chapter