

# Kairos of Georgia

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

September 2024



## Greetings Kairos of Georgia Volunteers!

Where has 2024 gone?!?! So much has happened and yet there is still more to come!



This past July, I had the pleasure of attending our Annual Conference with 15 other volunteers from Georgia, many who were first time attendees! I can't begin to tell you how my spirit was blessed as I shared this experience with them. Their presence brought new meaning to the Kairos theme, ***It's All Ministry!*** I witnessed the three programs - Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside, and Kairos Torch –

*Worshipping together,*  
*Praying together,*  
*Learning together,*  
*Eating together,*  
*Laughing together!*

*It was 'all ministry' as we viewed one another through a different lens  
and confirmed that we truly are Better Together!*

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## Greetings Kairos of Georgia Volunteers! (cont'd)

It was a vivid reminder that we are still *Overcoming, Thriving, Finding the Blessing, Being Blessed, Walking the Talk*, confirming that we are *All In* as evidenced by *Being Present!*

In case you didn't notice, each of the action words just mentioned are all themes of past Kairos Annual Conferences! These themes serve as reminders that no matter where we are called to serve, we all have a job to do, no matter what it is.

The wisdom of Kairos never ceases to amaze me! I pray you too are amazed by this special time our Good, Good Father has given us!

Finally, may we also remember what Jesus said in [John 15:16](#), which is our Kairos of Georgia focus scripture this year,

*“You didn't choose me.*

*I chose you.*

*So, “Whatever you do [no matter what it is] in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus [and in dependence on Him], giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*

**Why? Because It's All Ministry!**

*Beverly*

Beverly Upperman, Georgia State Chair

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## Fourteen Remaining Inside Weekends for Kairos of Georgia 2024!

What a difference 2 years can make! In 2022 we were trying to find ways to support our Kairos inside communities with cards, cookies, and gifts of hygiene and other items. This year we have 14 remaining Fall Weekend events on the books for Kairos Inside and Torch.

### State of Georgia Fall 2024 Kairos Inside Events

9/19	Valdosta SP -- #49
9/19	Walker SP #24
10/03	Whitworth Detention #15
10/17	Atlanta Metro RF #6
10/17	Augusta State Medical #69
10/17	Emanuel SP #19
10/17	Valdosta SP #50
10/18	Macon WDC Torch #69
10/24	Hancock SP #53
10/24	Lee SP #49
10/24	Phillips #26
10/31	Smith SP #18
11/07	Coastal #17
11/21	Rogers SP #42

*"3-4-16 That's the day I dedicated my life to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. I am incarcerated at the Hughes Unit in Gatesville, Texas. I am serving a Life Sentence for Murder. I've been locked up 19 years. I must do another 21 more years before even being considered for parole. Yet I am already set-free. I've never felt so much freedom. A court room judge said I must do a mandatory 40 years. Jesus Christ has set me free. I was Blessed to have been chosen by God to attend Kairos #38 at the Hughes Unit from 3-3-16 to 3-6-16. It was a true God send. I am a changed man, and because of it so is my family. I know all thanks goes to God, and that the people from Kairos are merely God's Tools, but never have I been so appreciative of a tool. Thank you all Praise God for the people you all are because Christ our Savior."*



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## Kairos of Georgia Spring Weekends

**Augusta State Medical Prison # 68 – 4/18/2024** - What a blessing to see the Holy Spirit at work during Kairos 68 at Augusta State Medical Prison (ASMP)! The participants came with willing hearts and, as the Weekend progressed, shared more and more about their Christian journey and how much love they felt from Jesus. Most of the participants shared that they were excited to draw closer to Christ and become part of the Kairos community at ASMP at Closing, and we look forward to seeing them at future Prayer and Shares, Reunions, and Retreats.

In addition to the constant presence of the Holy Spirit, we were blessed with a group of Participants that were quite willing to share, generally had a positive attitude, and professed to us that they were excited to continue their Christian journey. As you know, this isn't always guaranteed. We had several instances of participants meeting with clergy to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We all became very close, and many tears were shed at closing.

No matter what kind of obstacles you run into during your weekend, the Holy Spirit will pick you up and carry you to the finish line! Just open your heart and all will go smoothly.

**John Zook, Weekend Leader**

**Whitworth Women's Facility #14 - 4/18/2024** - On Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 36 women entered the gym at Whitworth Women's Facility in Hartwell, Georgia. They were a mix of timid, scared, distrustful and questioning; not really understanding of what this thing "Kairos" was going to be all about. The weekend unfolded with love, listening and acts of service by our 38 volunteers and tangible evidence of agape love was shown by a supportive outside community. We listened to vulnerable women give heartfelt talks, ate, sang, danced and ate some more! We saw a young woman enter with great fear and a sense of not belonging anywhere. She left with friends and Christian support all around her. We saw gang members open their hearts to another way to live. By Sunday afternoon women greeted each other with smiles, hugs and open hearts. God's glory was revealed and celebrated as they shared their journeys with each other and the larger Kairos community during their closing ceremonies. Praise God!

**Deb Sumpter, Weekend Leader**

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## Kairos of Georgia Spring Weekends, cont'd

**Pulaski State Prison #52 – Listen, Listen; Love, Love.** That's what each Kairos volunteer is called to do, whether inside a prison, a juvenile facility for Kairos Torch or in a facility for a Kairos Outside weekend. The Pulaski State Prison Advisory Council sent a team of eager women volunteers inside Pulaski State Prison for Kairos #52.

The resident participants of Kairos #52 arrived on Thursday, hungry, and not for physical food, like the usual, but they were hungry for spiritual nourishment, acknowledging that something had to change in that place.

Our team consisted of 31 volunteers, 6 of those new to Kairos Prison Ministry and 4 of those returning for their second time volunteering inside, and we were all eager to listen, listen, love, love, knowing that God would honor our intentions and pour out His love on those women, the officers and the staff at Pulaski State Prison.

**Jennifer New, Weekend Leader**



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## Kairos of Georgia 2024 Annual Conference Attendees:



William Zachary (Washington), Octavia Everett (Macon Torch), Pat Cooper (Emanuel), Nita Hodges (KO Georgia), Vanessa Velez Cruz (KO Georgia), Maria Bailey (KO Georgia), Roxann Davis (State Financial Secretary), Jeanenne Brewton (KO Georgia), Walter Straham (State Vice Chair), Dawson Long (State IC Representative), Diane Morgan (State Secretary), Debra Green (KO Coastal Georgia), Beverly Upperman (State Chair), Tonia Broadnax (Atlanta Torch), Ann Mann (Whitworth), Lynne Greene (KO Georgia).



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## Georgia Annual Conference Workshop Presenters



Beverly Upperman, It's All Ministry



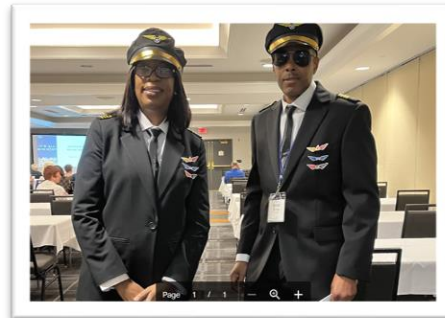
Tonia Broadnax, Kairos Torch



Diane Morgan, Promoting Kairos



Roxann Davis, KO Guests



Walter Straham, Team Meetings



Ann Mann, Displaying a Servant's Heart

The "It's ALL Ministry" conference was infused with purpose and ministry. I want to thank Kairos International for allowing me to host the Kairos Torch workshop this year. I pray that the whole conference had a lasting impact on our Three in One Kairos Volunteer community that caused their heart to have greater enthusiasm and passion to continue their commitment to volunteer inside the prison walls of the incarcerated.

**Tonia Broadnax, Atlanta Torch**

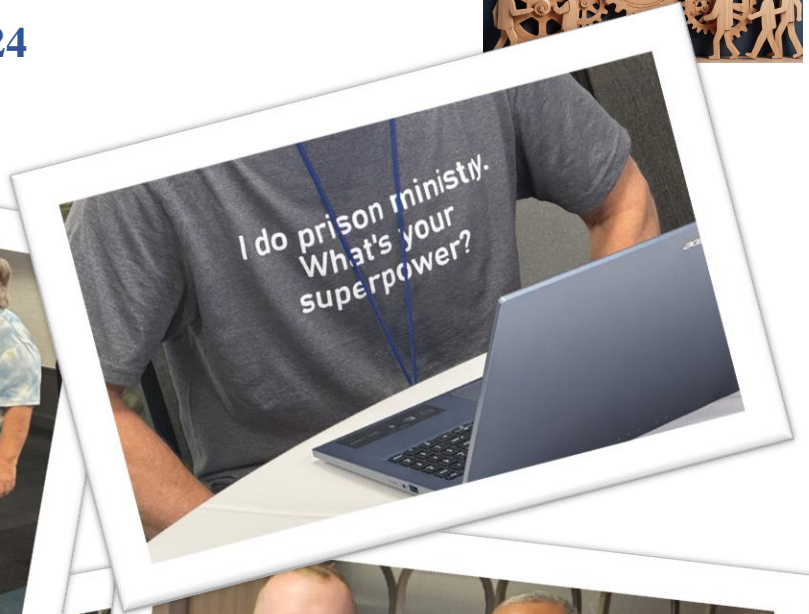
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## Kairos Annual Conference 2024



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## First Year Conference Attendees Said....

*“I had a wonderful conference experience as a first-timer who was not sure what or who to expect. I met several others in the breakout workshops. The topics in the workshops encouraged me about the things we are doing well and ideas for improving what we doing. It was good sitting with my KO family because although we were there for business, there was something different about the fellowship. I treasure the time with my KPMI of GA team, allowing our guards down just a bit. And it was delightful seeing you, Beverly, modeling your new hat collection. The testimonies from speakers in the evening sessions remind me of the parable of the ten lepers, who came back to show their appreciation. Thank you to all who toil to put the conferences together and kudos to our state chair for including us.”*

**Lynne E. Green, MDiv., KO Georgia**

*“For being a first-time attendee, it was a wonderful experience. The breakout sessions were outstanding, so full of useful information. It was very inspirational to be with so many same minded and same focused people. I was moved by the morning devotions and absolutely in awe of the evening session speakers. This conference was a real blessing.”*

**Pat Cooper, Kairos Inside, Emanuel Women's Facility**

*“It was an honor and a blessing to not only attend the 2024 Kairos Annual Conference for the first time but to also be a presenter. I must say it was breathtaking and powerful! The conference offered so much; fellowship, good eating, engaging workshop presentations and live impactful testimonies from individuals whose lives were changed by our amazing ministry. Being a presenter gave me an opportunity to share the knowledge that I have gained through the years, but it also gave me the opportunity to learn from our Kairos sisters and brothers through workshop discussions. What better place to learn than at the Annual Conference? We are better together and It's All Ministry!”*

**Roxann Davis, Kairos Outside**

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*Welcome Home, Good and Faithful Servants*



**Judith Louise Thompson Kelly** was a teacher at Atkinson Elementary School and a member of Waynesville Baptist Church.

She loved spending time with her grandbabies and her schoolchildren. She also spent much time gardening and working in her yard.

Judith loved her church, and was involved in the Kairos prison ministry.



**Paul Baldo Balducci** grew up in the middle of a large Italian family in Richmond, and he loved telling stories from his youth.

Paul volunteered with Meals on Wheels and as a substitute teacher at the Alleluia School, and was involved in Kairos where he loved sharing about God's love with prison inmates.



**Mary Jane Skidmore** moved to Atlanta, GA in 1956 after marrying Robert F. Skidmore. She attended Georgia State University and graduated with a master's degree in education and worked for the Fulton County School System in Atlanta, GA for 24 years.

She joined the U.S. Peace Corps, and was an active member in Christ the King Lutheran Church and served in Kairos Outside of North Georgia.

Her greatest joy was traveling the world and seeing new places. She could often be seen hiking the many trails around Cumming and Lake Lanier.

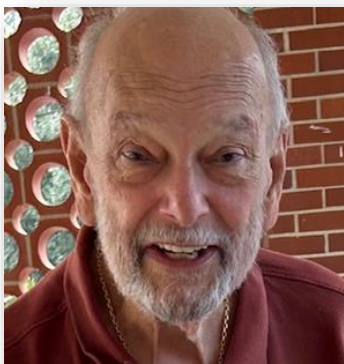
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## *Welcome Home, Good and Faithful Servants*



**Doug Veal Sr.** will be fondly remembered as kind, generous, funny and loving.

He found special meaning as a volunteer for Kairos Prison Ministry, where he found great peace in sharing God's grace.

Of all the titles Doug held, he found the most joy in being called Daddy and Granddaddy.

He leaves to cherish his memory Deborah Veal with whom he shared 48 years of marriage, and a host of other relatives and friends. .



**Randall Richard Wiltrot Sr.** loved his family, and followed his grandchildren faithfully in sports, arts and school accomplishments.

Randy also loved the Lord. He was a proud member of Hillside Methodist Church for 20 years and felt very strongly about spreading the word of Jesus.

He was an active member of the men's ministry, and Randy participated in Kairos Prison Ministry and made two mission trips to Estonia. He also delivered meals on wheels for many years.



**Barbara Pritchett** leaned on the Holy Spirit for her comfort and direction. She was a loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, and friend.

She worshipped and served Mount Paran North Church, Women's Aglow and the Kairos Prison Ministry.

During her five operations in nineteen months, she had no pain, no fear, and had peace at all times. She was in the secret place with Jesus.

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*Welcome Home, Good and Faithful Servants*



**Jean Carol Rhodes** was a member of Divine Faith Ministries in Jonesboro, Georgia, where she served on the Joseph Pantry Ministry and Kairos Prison Ministry until she was no longer able to.

Jean loved her family and was super supportive to her children and the biggest cheerleader to her grandchildren. Jean Rhodes will be remembered by two children, eight adoring grandchildren, brother Ronald Davis; and a beloved life partner, James Hamilton.



**Barbara L. Poetzman**, 78, passed away peacefully at her home in Townsend, GA on June 23, 2024. Born in Arlington, VA on October 27, 1945 to Albert and Frankie Lang, Barbara was a mischievous and joyful child that carried that attitude throughout her life. She found the spark of her life, Robert, who preceded her in death. She is also survived by her daughter, Kelly Jeffries and her brother, Andrew Lang.

Since Barbara was always the life of the party, there will be a Celebration of her Life to be held at a later date.

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## Delicious Pumpkin White Chocolate Cookies!!

*“Made these today with my toddler and ohhh yum. The crunch on the outside from the sugar, the soft cookie on the inside... not all cakey like most pumpkin cookies! :)”*

### •Ingredients:

- 1 T butter, melted
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 4 tablespoons granulated sugar, divided use\*
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 3 tablespoons pumpkin puree
- ¾ cup flour
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- ⅛ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice, divided use\*
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ⅓ cup white chocolate chips

### •Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350-degrees Fahrenheit,
- Combine melted butter, brown sugar and 2 tablespoons of the granulated sugar
- Add vanilla and pumpkin puree, and stir again.
- Sprinkle flour, baking soda, baking powder, ¾ teaspoon of the pumpkin pie spice, and salt on top of the pumpkin mixture, and stir very well to combine.
- Stir in the white chocolate chips.
- Scoop two tablespoons of dough for each dough ball.
- Roll each ball in combined remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar and ¼ teaspoon of pumpkin pie spice. place on a baking sheet 3 inches apart.
- Bake for 10-12 minutes, until puffy and the top of the cookies appear dry.



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## Honoring the Poor

How different would our world, communities, and homes look if we committed to helping the hurting around us?

The writer of Proverbs penned these words: “If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord—and he will repay you!” (Proverbs 19:17 NLT)

There are those who are financially or materialistically poor. Maybe they were born into a cycle of poverty, have hit hard times, or are physically or mentally sick. But there are also those—like Jesus mentioned in Matthew 5—who are poor in spirit. Giving generously to those in need, caring for the vulnerable, and living an open-hearted life is the call of every believer.

Jesus echoed this theme in Matthew 25, explaining that good works like feeding the hungry, clothing the needy, showing hospitality to strangers, and visiting the sick will not go unnoticed. In fact, when we do such things, we're actually serving Jesus (Matthew 25:40). How wonderful would it be to end poverty, stop hunger, and witness the day when the world is entirely at peace? Eventually, Jesus will make all that is wrong right, once and for all. But until then, we get to keep serving Him and loving others every chance we get.

No one can do everything, but we all can do something.

Genuine followers of Jesus will be compelled by His Spirit to love the people He's created. And if that's not enough, we can believe Him when He says that He rewards those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

John put it this way: “If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?” (1 John 3:17 NLT)

When we serve God's people out of obedience, we're really serving Him!

**YouVersion Verse of the Day & Daily Devotion September 19, 2024**

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## It's All Ministry

In the work of Kairos Prison Ministry, our theme for our annual conference was, “It’s all Ministry”. But what does that really mean? When we think of ministry, it’s easy to envision the more visible roles of preaching, leading worship, or guiding a Bible study. Yet, the essence of ministry stretches far beyond these activities.

In Kairos, we are called to a broader understanding, one that encompasses every act of service, every moment of compassion, and every opportunity to show God’s love.

For those of us who volunteer in Kairos, ministry happens in places where the light of Christ is desperately needed. Whether we are sharing a meal with someone who hasn’t had a visitor in years, offering a listening ear to an inmate who feels forgotten, or simply being present during a difficult time, these small actions become powerful ministries.

Ministry isn’t always loud. It isn’t always in front of a crowd. Sometimes, it’s found in the silence of a prison cell, in the quiet prayers we lift up for the men and women and teens and their families who face overwhelming struggles. It’s in the handwritten agape letters which remind them they are loved, or in the cookies baked with care that carry the message, “You are not forgotten.”

All of these things speak of God’s grace, even when words fail.

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## It's All Ministry, cont'd

Kairos teaches us that “everything” we do in Christ’s name is ministry. It’s not just about bringing a message of hope and redemption, though that is central to our mission, it’s also about embodying that message through action. Ministry can be found in our willingness to listen, our ability to forgive, and our determination to be the hands and feet of Christ in some of the darkest places.

This ministry is a reminder that no action is too small, no task too menial, when it is done with the love of Christ. As Paul wrote in Colossians 3:23, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.” Whether we are leading a prayer circle, handing out meals, or offering a smile, each moment becomes part of the tapestry of God’s work in the world.

Let us embrace this truth: “It’s all ministry.” Each role, each gesture of love and compassion, each prayer whispered in faith, all of it counts. God is using every effort to bring about transformation in the hearts and lives of those we serve. And through our collective acts of ministry, we not only bring hope to those in prison but also allow the transformative power of Christ to work in us.

As we continue our work in Kairos, may we be reminded that everything we do, no matter how small, is part of God’s larger plan to reach the lost, restore the broken, and bring hope to the hopeless.

Together, we can make a difference, one act of love at a time.

*Ann*

Reverend Ann Mann, Whitworth Women’s Facility

