

Kairos of Georgia

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

December 2025



Greetings Kairos of Georgia Volunteers!

Looking Back and Looking Forward

In preparing this message for our last newsletter of 2025, I was reminded of the first two lines of an old hymn, *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*. The words “When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died...” prompted the title of my message.

When I look back at the cross of Christ, I can’t help but look forward with promise because of what He did! Context always makes a BIG difference!

When I look back over this year 2025, there have been many losses, endings, disappointments, failures, and the list can go on and on. But when I keep these things in proper context of the blessing of *“Unto us a child is born...”*, it pales in comparison!

As I close the chapter on my service as State Chair, I am reminded of a verse in Ezra 3:13 that says, *“No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise.”*

There is some sadness (and weeping) in my heart to leave this role as I look back over the past six years and see the decrease in our volunteer base and the number of Advisory Councils that have gone inactive. However, I have joy in my heart as I look at the dedication and commitment of those who have remained. This gives me excitement and anticipation of the bright and promising future as God’s chosen leaders move our State forward.

It has been my honor to serve you, Kairos of Georgia, and as I always pray, “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to You; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.”

Continuing to serve joyfully in this season and those to come!

HAPPY HOLY-DAYS!

Beverly

Beverly Upperman, Kairos of Georgia State Chair



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December 2025



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December 2025

2025 Closeout Prayer Call



Kairos of Georgia,

Thank you for uniting in prayer to close out the year. For those who were present on the Zoom line, and for the countless others who committed to pray, your presence, faithfulness, and willingness to serve through prayer did not go unnoticed. As volunteers, you give not only your time, but your hearts, and we are truly grateful.

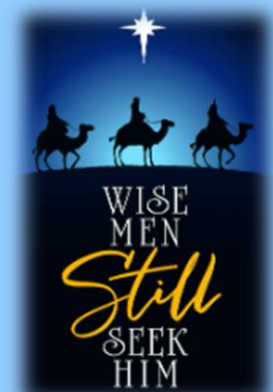
Scripture assures us, *“God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people”* (Hebrews 6:10). Every prayer lifted, every moment of intercession, and every act of service offered in faith matters to Him.

It was a blessing to close the year united in prayer, seeking the Lord together and trusting Him for what lies ahead. As we move into the new year, be blessed with the promises of God. May He go before you, strengthen you, and establish the work of your hands (Psalm 90:17).

We are reminded that prayer remains central to all we do. Scripture calls us to *“be faithful in prayer”* (Romans 12:12) and to *“pray without ceasing”* (1 Thessalonians 5:17). As you continue to serve, may prayer remain your foundation, your strength, and your connection to God’s sustaining grace.

Special thanks to Ann Straham (KT Macon), Diane Morgan (KI Whitworth), Vanessa Velez-Cruz (KO GA), Michael Creighton (KI Atlanta Metro), Gayle Roberts (KO GA), and Tonia Broadnax (KT Atlanta) who stood as intercessors for KPML, our State, Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice and our three Kairos Programs.

Thank you for standing firm and serving faithfully, remembering that *“your labor in the Lord is not in vain”* (1 Corinthians 15:58). We look forward with hope and expectation to all that God will do through you in the coming year.



Kairos of Georgia

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

December 2025

Weekend Leader Comments



Kairos Outside Coastal #1, 11/07/2025, Roxann Davis

It was an honor and a true privilege to serve as God's Appointed Leader for Kairos Outside Coastal GA Weekend #1. I thank God for choosing me and entrusting me with this opportunity. From the beginning, God knew that Weekend #1 was A New Thing Coming and He chose this team specifically for it. Although many of the team were new to the ministry, we accepted the task God placed before us. We came together, prayed together, worked together, and through His guidance, we succeeded and gave Him all the glory. The purpose of a Kairos Outside Weekend is to show God's grace, His unconditional love, and to remind each woman that she is not alone and can have a deep and personal relationship with God.

The 16 Guests who attended were exactly the ones God intended to be there. Each one received a blessing uniquely prepared for them, just as the team did. Together, we showed our Guests that unconditional love does exist, that the Kairos Outside family is here for them, and that loneliness is a choice they never have to choose again.

As the Weekend unfolded, we saw God faithfully fulfill the very goals of Kairos Outside: • A safe place was created, where women felt protected, welcomed, and free to be themselves. • Unconditional love and acceptance were offered in a Christ-centered environment that embraced every Guest just as she was. • The sharing of life's journey happened naturally; through stories, tears, laughter, and deep moments of connection. • Spiritual growth was nurtured, as hearts softened and faith was strengthened through talks, meditations, prayer, and worship. • Participation in supportive community was encouraged, with Guests discovering that they do not have to walk this road alone. • And above all, each woman was given the opportunity to experience and pursue a relationship with God, the One who heals, restores, and loves without condition. Through our conversations and shared experiences, the Guests were able to see and feel that no matter their situation, no matter the thoughts they wrestle with, no matter the mountains or obstacles ahead, turning to God, building a relationship with Him, and keeping the faith is essential. He is the one constant in our lives, the one who always works for our good. There is no price tag on His love, and because of that, lives were truly changed.

Kairos of Georgia

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

December 2025

Weekend Leader Comments, cont'd



Kairos Outside Coastal #1, 11/07/2025, Roxann Davis (cont'd)

Kairos Outside Coastal GA Weekend #1 was a beautiful success from beginning to end, exceeding every hope and every prayer poured into its preparation. The spirit of unity, compassion, and genuine love filled every moment as Guests and team members came together and experienced God's healing in powerful, unexpected ways. Barriers softened. Burdens were lifted. Women who arrived as strangers began forming bonds that felt like family. From heartfelt conversations and shared tears to laughter, worship, and quiet moments of reflection, every part of the Weekend testified to what happens when hearts are open and God is at work. Every act of service, every prayer, and every expression of kindness became part of a larger story; one of restoration, acceptance, and grace. What made this Weekend truly extraordinary was witnessing the Guests rediscover their strength, dignity, and worth through the love poured out around them. Healing didn't just touch individuals; it flowed through the whole community, leaving a lasting imprint on every heart. The success of Weekend #1 is not measured only by what took place during those days, but by the seeds of hope planted; seeds that will continue to grow long after the closing ceremony. It was a sacred reminder that when God's people come together with open hearts, transformation isn't just possible... it's inevitable.



Kairos of Georgia

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

December 2025

Weekend Leader Comments, cont'd



Washington #27, 11/20/2025, Bobby Thomas

The presence of the Holy Spirit was so evident in the Family Table interactions, the music, the talks, the chapel time...even the cookies! We had a veteran team plus three new team members. The commitment to surrender ourselves each morning to be the Hands and Feet of Jesus all day, brought Glorify to God. Hearing these men speak on the three questions plus open mike at closing was confirmation of what God can accomplish through this ministry.

Smith #19, 11/06/2025, Charles Henderson

Although the Weekend was fraught with obstacles, including potential new volunteers being unable to receive Georgia Dept of Corrections approval in time and several medical challenges that caused team members to drop, we were able to serve the planned 30 participants. Friday morning, the prison went on lockdown due to thick fog, and apparently one of the dorms was on lockdown, and the participants from that dorm weren't supposed to have shown up on Thursday. Once we thought we had brought in alternates, the participants from that locked down dorm showed up. Praise God, we didn't have to dismiss anyone.

Again, but God would have His way, and we were able to complete all of the planned talks and activities with enthusiasm and changed lives. We had a good number of counseling requests on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday, but only a few on Sunday. Every table reported good participation, and there were no reports of distracting issues. In the end, there were many professions of hope, new faith and renewal of faith, and the revelation of God's love through Kairos. Praise the Lord, another successful Kairos Weekend that I pray brought glory to the Father. Thank you for this opportunity and honor.



Kairos of Georgia

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

December 2025

Weekend Leader Comments, cont'd



Atlanta Metro #8, 10/16/2025, Thomas Hall

This Weekend could not have gone better. There were no complications, distractions or crises, and the Spirit of God was definitely at work in this community of Participants. The Talks and Meditations were all first rate and well received. The discussions were meaningful. The music was appropriate and energizing. God's love was everywhere. In the awesome column, I can say that the level of participation in singing songs was especially outstanding. Many of the Participants seemed excited to worship. The worship was the best I've seen at a Weekend. Most of the Participants seemed to crave it. Especially the songs. And I saw a lot of tears when the Agape bags were opened. And the Forgiveness Ceremony was awesome, but it always is. The Cross Ceremony was, for me, a particularly emotional and moving experience. The opportunity to look into the eyes of the Participants as I placed the crosses and they answered the call to trust Christ, is one I will not soon forget.

Macon Torch #5, 10/17/2025, Jamie Wittenberg

This is my story about Macon Torch Weekend #5. Our team did a great job of meeting the needs of the young ladies that attended our Weekend. We served six young ladies from the Macon Youth Development Center. The girls felt loved and learned how a relationship with God can change their lives. The team stayed within the Riverbanks all Weekend. All table families truly became a family by time the Weekend ended. We had a Mixer and met the young ladies we would serve on our Macon Torch Weekend #5. Everyone seemed very receptive and excited about being involved in a Kairos Torch Weekend. On Friday night of the Weekend, all six girls were present. On Saturday morning two of our participants were unable to attend because of a discipline issue, so the Volunteer Coordinator selected another young lady that only had 47 days left to be at the Macon YDC and felt she could benefit from the Kairos Torch program. Even though we were very delayed in starting our meeting on Saturday, the team worked hard, and we were able to complete the schedule by 7:15 p.m. Sunday was a day of being REAL with each other and bonding as a family. The young ladies and the team built strong relationships and by chapel time, each young lady was recognizing why they needed God in their lives. God is Great all the time! The Macon Kairos Torch team #5 gives God all the Glory!

Kairos of Georgia

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

December 2025

Weekend Leader Comments, cont'd



Whitworth #17, 10/02/2025, Cindy Schwartz

The team trainings were awesome, informative, well attended, and fun. When the Weekend began, I felt the team was trained up, prayed up, fired up and ready. I was ready! The team was ready! We had done the Biblical "Martha" preparations and were ready for the "Mary" part. On Friday, I felt like I was constantly putting out little fires and focusing on minor details. By Saturday, I had a change of heart; I decided to "Let Go and Let God." Core team leaders that were phenomenal were: Inside Coordinator, Agape, Observing Leader, Music, Head Clergy, and Kitchen. The Forgiveness Ceremony was AWESOME!! The Holy Spirit was moving. Hearts were touched. It was very emotional. The participants were engaged and the effect of Weekend # 17 was evident in their words of the Closing Ceremony. At all times, the focus was on God's unconditional love and the spiritual life of the participants. For them ,everything was perfect! Ultimately, that was the goal. We were obedient, and therefore, we were successful. Our team had more new volunteers than many previous weekends. (Even though it was not 1/3 of the team, there was a great effort to recruit new volunteers.)

ASMP #70, 10/16/2025, Chuck Lee

This was a truly fabulous Weekend! The Holy Spirit filled all of us, and most of the residents indicated they intended to continue with the Kairos team inside ASMP.



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Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

December 2025

Weekend Leader Comments, cont'd



Coastal #29, 11/13/2025, Ryan French

We had an amazing Weekend and there was no doubt in anyone's mind that God showed up and did His mighty works!!! One participant had a seizure during the Weekend. It happened at the end of the day and through mass amounts of prayer, he made it back the next morning! God is AWESOME! He received a loud applause when he returned!

Another awesome thing was after we had to change our Weekend date back a week, we had more volunteers than we originally did! Some other great things were we had someone on our team give His first talk!! Then during the Instructional Reunion another new team member gave his first talk. We had four brand new guys on this Weekend, which was great!

We also had a Spanish speaking table, and we had a Clergy, a Table Leader and an Assistant who spoke Spanish to translate. We even had music printed out in Spanish so they could sing with us!



Kairos of Georgia

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

December 2025

Weekend Leader Comments, cont'd



Emanuel #19, 10/02/2025, Michele Barton

We finally had Weekend #19 after two cancelled Weekends! Before our October 2024 Weekend, we had a hurricane that spread its damage across much of our area including Emanuel Women's Facility; then in the Spring, we lost some beloved team members who passed away and others who lost family members. We needed the promise and hope of Kairos, so our team eagerly awaited Weekend #19, desiring God's comfort and healing, all in God's time.

Well, He showed up in all His glory—He brought us new recruits and revived our spirits. God knit our hearts together as a family to share the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ with 24 participants at EWF. We were blessed to see God open hearts and tear down walls. Our diverse volunteer team traveled from across the state to Swainsboro. The inspiring talks and meditations led to thoughtful table discussions and amazing sharing at the poster parties and open mic. Overall, the Holy Spirit just took over and rewarded us all with a blessed Kairos experience!



Kairos of Georgia

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

December 2025

Christian Chaplains & Coaching 2025 Peace in the Storm Conference



It was a privilege to attend the 2025 "Peace in the Storm" Chaplains Conference held at the Billy Graham Center in Asheville, NC.

The Conference emphasis was the calling of chaplains and clergy to bring the presence, wisdom, and hope of Christ into the crises and storms of others. Rooted in Scriptures such as Psalm 46, Matthew 25, and 1 Peter 3:15, speakers stressed biblical, Spirit-led ministry, reminding us that discipleship is relational, compassionate, and anchored in truth.

Highlighted were the deep needs of a fractured and suffering world experiencing loneliness, despair, incarceration, and moral confusion. The conference leaders encouraged us to say "yes" to God's divine appointments, stepping boldly into places where pain and possibility meet.

Practical tools for care included honesty, transparency, and discernment in knowing when and why to speak. Sessions also included learning how to prevent suicide.

Throughout the conference, powerful testimonies affirmed that God still transforms lives.

Light overcomes darkness.

And we are all called to embody Christ's hope wherever we go.

Ann,

Ann Mann, Kairos of Georgia State Clergy

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God,
The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."*

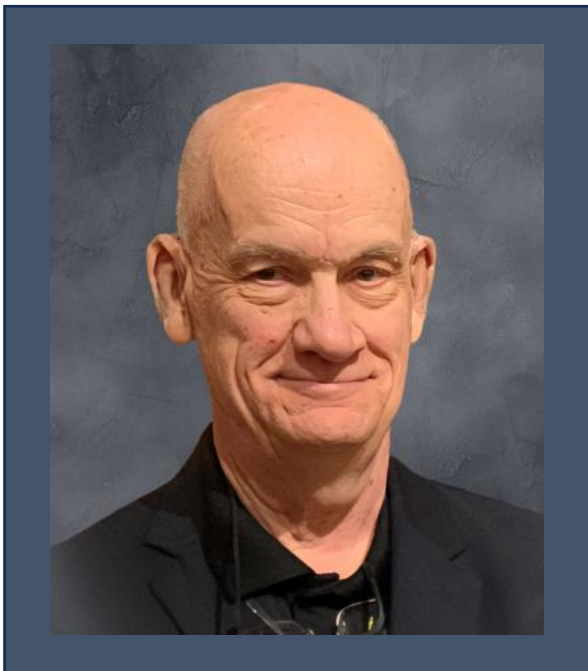
Kairos of Georgia

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

December 2025



Welcome Home, Good and Faithful Servant



Mr. David Walton Panter, age 84, of Jefferson, Georgia, entered rest Friday, December 19, 2025. Mr. Panter was born in Atlanta, Georgia, the son of the late Ralph Calvert Panter and the late Eleanor Ploszay Panter. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by a twin brother, Daniel Panter and a sister, Rebecca Duvall.

Mr. Panter retired from Conway Trucking. He is a member of St. Catherine Laboure Catholic Church, Jefferson, GA, a member of Franciscan Fraternity and was a 4th degree Knights of Columbus. He was a veteran of the United States Navy but he was most proud of his 40 years serving Kairos Prison Ministry.



"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!"

Kairos of Georgia

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

December 2025



Easy Peasy Christmas Pretzel Treats!

This pretty holiday platter is easy to prepare and gives you a chance to play in the kitchen with your kids or grandkids.

INGREDIENTS NEEDED FOR THIS RECIPE:

Pretzels – You will need to use mini pretzels for this recipe. **Hershey Chocolate Kisses** – You will need one chocolate kiss for every pretzel base.

M&Ms – Any candy-coated chocolate will do, just use one that is festive like red and green M&Ms!

HOW TO MAKE PRETZEL TREATS

First, preheat your oven to 250 degrees F.

While the oven is heating, line a baking sheet with parchment paper and arrange the pretzels evenly without allowing them to overlap or touch.

Next, unwrap each Hershey Kiss and place one in the center of each pretzel. Place the baking sheet back in the oven for 4 minutes.

Remove baking sheet and gently press M&M candy into the warm chocolate kiss.

Voila! You have delicious treats to share with your friends and family!



Kairos of Georgia

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

December 2025

A Heart to Serve: Clearing the Clutter

In this season of preparation, I have taken a simple but symbolic step. I rented a dumpster. My goal is to finally clean out my garage so that I might park my car inside. For the garage to function as it is intended, first I must clear out the clutter.

This is true in our spiritual lives as well. For us to be the people God creates us to be, first, we must clear the clutter.

Mark 1:3 reminds us, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Preparing is clearing space. It is removing the distractions, resentments, fears, and noise that crowd out the voice of God.

When we clear the spiritual clutter, we make room for Jesus. We make room for quiet, for prayer, for Scripture, for forgiveness, for compassion, yes, even for kindness toward those who exhaust us, and grace toward ourselves.

Perhaps you carry a rough place that needs leveling, a valley of sorrow that needs filling with hope, a mountain of bitterness that needs lowering, or a crooked path of fear that needs straightening by trust.



The good news is this: God is with us, and God will help us. But first, we must prepare the way and clear the clutter so we can hear His voice. Only then will we have a heart to serve. A heart ready to hear, ready to respond, ready to share the love of Christ.

Ann,
Ann Mann, Kairos of Georgia State Clergy

Kairos of Georgia

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December 2025

Kairos of GA 2026 State Chapter Committee



CONGRATULATIONS to the newly elected 2026 State Chapter Committee! Join in prayer for wisdom and guidance as they unite to do the work of ministry.

Chair	Walter Straham
Vice-Chair	Lester Harvey
Secretary	Diane Morgan
Financial Secretary	Roxann Davis
Treasurer	David Griffin
IC Representative	Dawson Long
IC Representative	Vanessa Velez-Cruz
Agape Coordinator	Edward Bynum
Website Development Coor.	Ladson Golden
Clergy Training/Recruiting Coor.	Ann Mann
AKT Coordinator	Angela Straham
Programs Coordinator	Robert Carter



Kairos of Georgia

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

December 2025



All is Calm, All is Bright.