

More Than Survive: **THRIVE!**



Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

Kairos of Georgia



March 2022

Letter from the State Chair

Hello Georgia!

What an exciting time as we have entered another new year! I can hardly believe that three months have already passed! Time is certainly moving fast and as they say, it is waiting for no one! The Steve Miller Band puts it like this – *“Time keeps on slippin’, slippin’, slippin’ into the future”*! So, the question before us is ‘What are we doing with our time?’

Our Kairos CEO, Evelyn Lemly, recently announced that our theme for 2022 is **“More than Survive – THRIVE!”** What an amazing challenge that has been presented to us. As we are managing our time, are we merely surviving, or are we thriving? I pray that the latter is our overwhelming response! I have noted we have new leaders this year as Advisory Council Chairs. To me, that’s thriving! I have seen new names and faces serving on our Advisory Councils. To me, that’s thriving! We have new members serving on our State Chapter Committee. To me, that’s thriving! We have started going back into our facilities, with two Kairos Inside weekends and a Kairos Torch weekend. To me, that’s thriving! We are constantly receiving requests from those who are interested in becoming a Kairos volunteer. To me, that’s thriving! And most importantly, the fact that you are still here is an indication to me that we are thriving! You have not given up. You have not grown weary in well-doing. You have stayed the course amidst these ever-changing times. You have remained committed to your YES to the Lord!

In closing, I want to encourage you with our focus scripture for the year from Galatians 6:9-10a (GNT), ***“So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest. / So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone...”***

Thankful for another chance,
Your humble servant,

Beverly
Beverly Upperman, Georgia State Chair

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Rebirth of Kairos at Atlanta Metro

Kairos has been very active in the State of Georgia with over 20 prisons hosting Kairos communities. To the list we are now adding a new location at Metro Reentry Facility. Metro will conduct Weekend #1 this May as the very first full weekend activity for this new Kairos community.

As you can imagine it is a very special occasion for those of us on the team. We have been attending reunions as far back as three years ago but with the interruption of COVID it was not practical to consider a Weekend event. But the Kairos Team for Metro #1 had its first team meeting February 26th with over 30 in attendance. We are actively recruiting if you are anywhere in the greater Atlanta area and would like to join us.

We are blessed with a solid inside community of Kairos brothers in residence at Metro already. They have taken on the responsibilities of monthly reunions in fine fashion, supplying solid talks and exceptional worship ministry. We are looking forward to them coming alongside of the outside team in supporting this very first weekend. And the outside Kairos team is blessed with many "veterans" of Kairos in other Georgia prisons over many years. Two-thirds of the outside team have served on weekends before - many for more than ten years.

Please notice requests that you might receive to support us in prayer, especially for May 12-15 when our first weekend is in session. Any letters or other Agape you can share would be gratefully appreciated also.

Richard

Richard Fowler, Metro AC Secretary

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Kairos Torch of Georgia – WELCOME BACK!

In December 2021, the Atlanta Youth Development Center gave the green light for Kairos Torch to return on March 18-20, 2022. Hurray! Since the COVID outbreak, we were the first volunteers to re-enter the facility. When our Weekend Leader, Walter Straham, heard the news, he immediately went into warp speed

3:18 became a theme for us: Team members stopped at 3:18 am or pm to say a prayer for the participants, team, staff, and weekend.

The facility then granted permission to meet the participants a week prior to the weekend! Nine youth were present for the mixer, and it was good to have the icebreaker time. We all enjoyed making the early connection.

Throughout the weekend, prayers were offered, food was plentiful, and fun was had with Lite ‘n Lively activities, and of course the overwhelming presentations. The youth were greatly impacted by the presentations and Mask Meditations. “Who You Gonna Trust” had a strong impact because at some point these young men had been let down by someone they trusted. And now they stand at a crossroads wondering, who can I trust? Another talk that also touched their hearts was the “Walled Off” talk. Abuse was mentioned – which struck a strong chord! So much so that one participant initiated creating a message on a piece of paper that read, “I understand”. It was signed by each participant and presented to the speaker.

The youth were intelligent, courteous, skillful and softhearted. One participant said that if he was not in the Atlanta YDC, he would probably be dead. The weekend brought tears to my eyes, even now as I summarize it. So, the youth were not the only ones impacted – it caused us all to look inside. We all thank God for choosing us for this weekend – we consider ourselves family. And for that, we give God the, Glory.

Cindy

Cindy Jones, Institutional Liaison, Atlanta YDC

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Spotlight: Kairos Outside

KAIROS OUTSIDE is designed to support the wives, mothers and female relatives/friends of men and women who are or have been incarcerated. This is done by providing a safe environment for a short time with Christian people and the opportunity to interact with women in similar situations.

We believe that the women related to the incarcerated are doing time right along with their loved ones. We want to let them know that there is a Christian community who cares about them and their needs. The weekend process will provide an opportunity to not only explore one's relationship with God, but to also experience a time of fun, music, great food and community.

"When I was in prison, you visited me."

Kairos Outside answers *this* question:
"Who visits the visitors?"

The families of incarcerated individuals also pay a heavy price for their loved ones sentenced to prison. The impacts of jailtime are hard for the offenders, but also produce financial hardship, loneliness, stress that comes with raising a family alone, anger, sorrow, and grief – to name a few of the issues facing those left at home.

Kairos outside serves women who are supporting family members in prison.



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Kairos Outside of Georgia Chat with the Chair

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the Chair of the Advisory Council for Kairos Outside of Georgia. I attended Kairos Outside as a guest on #23 (April 2009) and here we are planning #42! I am a retired Special Education teacher, and then I went back to work with a group of energetic three-year-olds at my church's pre-school.

Our Kairos Outside Weekend #42 is planned for September 30th – October 2022. Pam Pitts is God's appointed Leader and Rosa Gilbert will be the Advising Leader. They are diligently working on all the pre-planning details.

We are also excited about a new adventure as we introduce the Kairos Outside of Georgia Newsletter around mid-March. The newsletter is designed to provide encouragement and information. We are on this adventure together.

We are stronger together with God as the ultimate leader! God bless!

Nita

Nita Hodges, Kairos Outside of Georgia AC Chair



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Kairos Outside Administrative Council, State of Georgia



Jeannene Brewton



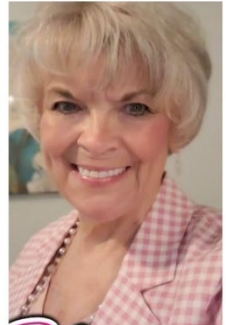
Rosa Gilbert



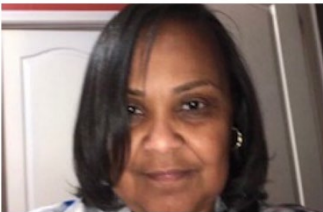
AC Chair Nita Hodges



Vanessa Velez Cruz



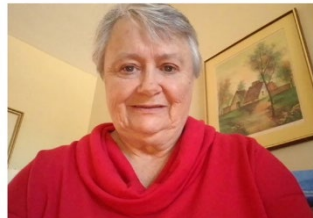
Joyce Moore



Roxann Davis



Gayle Roberts



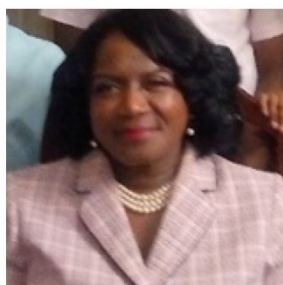
Pam Pitts



Katie Kennebrew



Lynne Greene



Bertha Booth



Pat Sheridan



Pat Hicks

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Coastal State Prison Completes Second Post COVID Weekend

We just finished our second weekend since the DOC reopened the prisons for volunteers in August 2021 at Coastal SP, and have also completed our Instructional.

Due to an unprecedented lack of correctional officers, we had to reduce the number of participants to 36 on our weekends. We're also adapting to smaller spaces (library for community room and classroom for chapel) but the impact of the weekend was not diminished by these changes.

New volunteers are the lifeblood of a vibrant Kairos program and allows us to clearly follow the progressive servanthood model. We recently recruited 10 potential Kairos volunteers (2 clergy) at an Emmaus weekend.

I pray that God will bless us all with new and committed volunteers that will embrace the deep commitment of Kairos ministry.

Thanks for all you do for the Kingdom, it makes and eternal difference!

John

John Ross Kairos Liaison, Coastal SP



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Rest in Peace Dear Friends



Kairos Outside GA

Connie O'Kelley

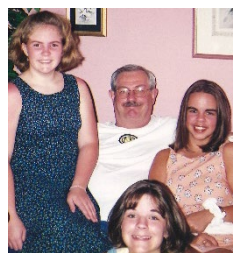
Connie was active in Kairos prison ministry, sharing her faith in Jesus Christ, which impacted the hearts and lives of many incarcerated men, women, and youth. Her kind and sweet spirit touched anyone who knew her.



Kairos Outside GA

Sr. Marilyn Kahl

Marilyn was a Consecrated Religious with Sisters of the Good Shepherd. She was a social worker. She also loved music and had a beautiful voice



Macon State Prison

Douglas Hopkins

Douglas served his country in the United States Navy. He served God with the outreach prison ministry through Kairos and his local Southside Assembly of God Church.



Wilcox State Prison

Bruce Miles

Bruce faithfully served and worshipped at Bonaire United Methodist Church, where he held numerous ministry roles, attended and led Men's Retreats, and consistently gave of his time and talents.

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Ps 23: 5-6

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The Closing of Georgia State Prison in Reidsville GA

The Georgia Department of Corrections recently announced the closing of the Georgia State Prison in Reidsville Georgia. Full closure is scheduled for April 2022. Kairos ministry has been alive and thriving within that community for over 25 years with 30 weekends completed. As that chapter closes, we reached out to Jerry and Angie Bauman, a Kairos couple who served with Team GSP for two decades, and asked them a few questions about their experience and memories.

Q: How long have you been serving in Kairos?

A: Oh wow, Angie and I started back with GSP during weekend #13. I can't remember how long ago that was but considering we were scheduled for Weekend #31 and we stopped having two weekends a year a very long time ago, it has to be 15-20 years ago.

Q: How did you get started with Kairos and the GSP team?

A: Originally I had no interest in doing a prison ministry whatsoever and the thought of going inside a prison was not something I was excited about. However, my nephew invited me to a team meeting on more than a few occasions and at the first meeting, I fell in love with the team. I just enjoyed spending time with Christian men and that helped connect me to the Kairos ministry. Angie was an awesome partner and jumped right into the team support by joining the other women on the cook team to provide meals during the weekend.

Q: With the closing of GSP, what is your focus with Kairos now?

A: We are excited about the opportunity to serve with our brothers and sisters at Rogers State Prison just up the road. Angie and I have served in other ministries with a few of the team members at Rogers and after being unable to serve inside GSP during the past few years due to COVID restrictions, we are excited to be active members in this community again.

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Angie and Jerry Bauman

Q: Angie, what about the ministry hooked you and has kept you serving all of these years alongside Jerry?

A: I have always enjoyed supporting ministries through food service and it was a natural fit with the Kairos team of GSP. What hooked me at first is that I loved sitting at the team meetings each evening of the weekend and hearing the testimonies of God moving within those prison walls. However, the biggest impact over the years has been driving to the prison for the closing ceremony and going past the nameless cemetery plots of prisoners who had passed at GSP. I just couldn't help but wonder if they had an opportunity to accept Christ into their hearts and receive forgiveness and salvation. I knew with every closing ceremony there were more and more people that were coming into a real relationship with Jesus.

Q: Jerry, lastly, what hooked you on Kairos and what would you say to new or potential members of Kairos to help ease the anxiety you felt about entering a prison ministry?

A: I always talk about the fruit of the ministry and to be specific, the Kairos ministry is really a program for "Miracle Grow" fruit. To see those participants come in on Thursday with so much burden, guilt, and shame and shed that in just 3 days to accept Christ is unlike any ministry I have served in. You have to at least serve on one weekend and witness that before you decide if this is for you or not.

Johnny

Johnny Hand. AC Chair GSP Reidsville

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First In Person AC Meeting In Three Years!

The Lee Arrendale Women's Inside Advisory Council got together February 26th, at J Christopher's in Alpharetta for brunch. It was the first time the Advisory Council was able to meet in person in three years! We had Chaplain Bishop as a surprise guest to encourage the Council and boy did it ever! We had a terrific time.

So grateful to serve with such wonderful ladies and serve at Lee Arrendale State Prison under the leadership of Chaplain Bishop.



Left to Right: Rosie Febles, Jean Dugan-Mahr, Deb Sumpter, Enid Merck (AC Chair), Chaplain Susan Bishop, Helga Silverio, Lalena Wilson

Enid

Enid Merck AC Chair, Lee Arrendale Women's Prison

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“I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.”

Psalm 37:25

As we prepare to return back, I would like to share with you a word of encouragement: “It’s time to march on!” With many of the mask mandates being lifted and the COVID restrictions starting to loosen. I am sure there is still some concern for many of us who are up in age. But again, I say “It’s time to march on!”. Whether you march on back inside the prisons or march on outside with your prayers and support, just march on!

Perhaps, when some of us read the scripture above, we think David has reached that place in his life where he’s getting ready to settle down. We might believe he is making one more trip down memory lane just before he passes the mantle to his successor, his son Solomon. Can I tell you this is not a retirement speech; David is not throwing in the towel!

David is giving one of the best motivational speeches of his life and this revelation of truth should rally all of us to march on and lay aside every weight that hinders us. Now it’s time for us to “get going again” ! One of the sweetest gifts God has given mankind is the ability to grow older. God gave me this acronym for the word old; O.L.D. “Out Living Death”. Just because you may be growing old doesn’t mean you’re getting ready to die! You still have some wisdom and knowledge to offer those coming behind you!

Each and every day that we are alive is a day to rejoice and celebrate that God has granted us the opportunity to find the blessing and be a blessing to someone by doing something good for the Kingdom. God doesn’t expect us to be able to do as much as we could do when we were young, but we are expected to do something.

So, here’s my challenge to you. March on this year and look ahead to what God has in store for us in 2022!

Ron

Reverend Ron Jones, State Clergy

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The quintessential American cookie: **Oatmeal Chocolate Chip**

Ingredients

- 2 large eggs, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 cups quick-cooking oats
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour, 1 package instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 cup butter, softened 3/4 cup sugar,
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar

Directions

1. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Combine the oats, flour, dry pudding mix, baking soda and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in chocolate chips and nuts.

2. Drop by level tablespoonfuls 2 in. apart onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 375° for 10-12 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove to wire racks.



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Share the good news from your prison ministry! We love stories, feature articles, pictures, and insights! Help us inspire and empower our Kairos community in Georgia!

Email your information to Shelleyjaneross@gmail.com

*Shout from the highest mountain, The glory of the Lord,
Let all men rejoice in Him, Sing from the highest mountain,
The praises of the Lord, Let all men know the wonders of our God.*

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