

St. Mary's Support of Kairos Prison Ministry Weekend March 8 - 11



How can you help us make this the best weekend possible? There are three special ways:

- **Bake (or buy) Cookies!** Store bought or homemade. If homemade, place in plastic bags; one or two dozen per bag. Please label bags, too. Cookies cannot have any nuts in them. Drop off at Melodie Elam's office by 3:00 PM on March 7.
- **Purchase Meal Tickets:** A \$5 meal ticket sponsors a meal during the weekend for a Kairos participant.
- **Make Placemats and Prayer Strips**

Meal tickets, placemats, and prayer strips will be available at our "Kairos" table on the sidewalk following morning services every Sunday in February.

More about Kairos:

- **Kairos Prison Ministry of Alabama** is part of a world-wide interdenominational Christian ministry reaching out to incarcerated individuals, their families and those who work with them. It is our privilege to have the opportunity to introduce participants to Jesus and then show them the love He has shown us. Kairos of Alabama works with about a dozen correctional facilities around the state including Elmore, the location of our upcoming weekend of March 8 - 11.
- Kairos Weekends consist of 40 hours spent with 42 inmates chosen by the warden and correctional officers. Many times these participants include those who are seemingly unlovable. Once God changes their hearts, it has been shown that they have a great influence in the environments of their institution. Many turn to Christ during the weekend and those who complete the Kairos program are much less likely to ever be incarcerated again.
- The Definition for Kairos is "God's special time." The central message for the weekend is "listen, listen, love, love." We find that in most of these men's lives, there were no role models growing up and no one in prison has listened to what they have to say. So we really try to look them in the eye and "listen." We also encourage dialogue between the participants themselves. (They are divided into small discussion groups each around a table.)
- The men hear several great talks from Thursday-Sunday; each table gets to do a team poster after each talk describing what they heard. They eat the best food that they have had in years. (You can hear a pin drop during the first meal!) Many of the songs we sing sound like what you hear at a Cursillo weekend or Ultreya. And, like Cursillo, there are some great surprises for the participants during the weekend!