



Lunch Moms—Sharing the love of Christ every Tuesday!

Coming Soon:

Thursday@The Gate Serve Day	Apr 25
Tuesday Lunch Senior Recognition Day	May 21
Thursday@The Gate Senior Celebration	May 23
Gate Golf Tournament	Aug 17

In this issue:

What's Tuesday Church Lunch?	1
Speakers of Faith?	2
Alumni Speakers	2
The Vision	2
President's Thoughts	2

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Inside THE GATE

The Gate Youth Association

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WHAT'S TUESDAY CHURCH LUNCH?

- ⇒ **23 Years since Church Lunch started**
- ⇒ **2 Volunteers serving 20 years or more**
- ⇒ **200 Largest attendance at Church Lunch**

The Year 1988. Central High School, freshman Guyanne Hopkins (Berry) had a dream to get CHS athletes together for a meal and a devotional message. Her mom, Sharon Hopkins, did what most mothers do....made a good thing happen and "Church Breakfast" was served!....until morning basketball practices emerged and Plan B gave way to Tuesday Church Lunch. That was approximately 800 Tuesday Lunches or 23 years ago.

Janet and Allison—two of the "original" Lunch Moms



A typical Tuesday Lunch over the past 23 years

With the help of Janet Piper and Allison Omlid, the three women began serving lunch to about 30 students. Today Allison and Janet are joined by 8 additional terrific Tuesday Lunch Moms representing 6 different area churches. The team of ten plan, purchase, and prepare teen comfort food each Tuesday for 125-200 CHS students and staff to enjoy in 20 minutes or less while listening to inspirational words shared by people of faith and good will.

Tuesday Church Lunch @ The Gate. A place to be known, encouraged and experience the love of Jesus . . . generation after generation.

WHO ARE THE SPEAKERS OF FAITH?

- ⇒ 34 The number of inspiring talks given each year
- ⇒ 6 Speeches by Church Lunch Alums this year
- ⇒ 5 Number of Pastors speaking this year

Sharon Hopkins' extended family is still involved with Church Lunch in significant ways in addition to two more daughters and a whole volleyball team of grandchildren having their favorite lunch over the years. Within the past 6 weeks her husband, semi-retired Calvary Chapel Pastor, Rick Hopkins, her brother-in-law, county commissioner and Gate Board Member, Mike Ainsworth and her nephew, CHS athletic trainer, Jeremy Ainsworth have all shared inspirational stories of personal miracles, hope for the future and God's love with the Church Lunch crowd. The Gate story has many similar chapters. They all have the same theme. Monmouth-Independence students come to be known, encouraged and experience the love of Jesus through the extraordinary efforts of dedicated long



Commissioner Ainsworth shares

CHURCH LUNCH ALUMNI SPEAKERS



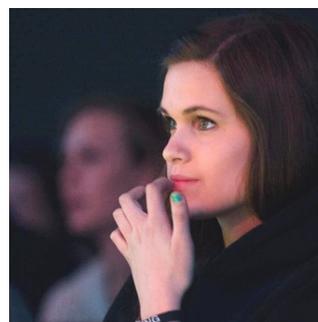
Ashlee Heide shares

Alumni like Jeremy Ainsworth returning for a memorable comfort food lunch at Christmas or Spring breaks have always been joyful times of reconnecting with high school friends and the ever-caring church lunch moms. Many alumni seek to say thanks for making church lunch a place to be known, encouraged and experience the love of God by going a step further and being a church lunch speaker. Recently, Church Lunch alums Seth Halligan, Zach Halligan, Tyler Robison, Ashlee Heide, Casey Parks, and Jeremy have challenged students and staff by sharing personal testimonies, life verses, and personal triumphs and defeats. Young adults relating to young adults make the sharing of God's word more relevant in today's world. The Gate is very thankful for young adults being positive role models and giving back to their community...or perhaps they are already paying it forward for the day when their own children will come to church lunch!

PURE REBELLION

"In June, it happened. God spoke to me. He told me so clearly that this was His plan, His will: I want you to bring Pure Rebellion here. I want you to put this event together, spreading your faith throughout this community, telling everyone who I Am." says Ashleigh Berry, a senior at Central High School. It was a huge blessing to be able to work with Ashleigh on her senior project to bring the Pure Rebellion event to Independence and for The Gate to be able to host a

prayer time specifically for Pure Rebellion. Over 650 people showed up for Pure Rebellion's Friday night presentation at Central High school's Auditorium and God used the messages powerfully to speak to teens who normally attend The Gate's ministries as well as many others from all over Polk County.



Ashleigh during Pure Rebellion

OUR VISION

Our vision is a community where future generations experience, follow and serve Christ.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The vision of The Gate is a community where future generations experience, follow and serve Christ. Hopefully through the articles in this newsletter you can see that the ministries of The Gate are doing just that. The Gate is providing opportunities for the teens of our community to first of all experience the love of Christ by observing people serve in His name. Secondly, they are given opportunities to place their trust in Him personally and to serve their peers. Long term, the hope of The Gate is that these teens will become community citizens who give back by using their gifts to serve the next generation. The experience and service of the Hopkins and their extended family challenges me to think about how my family is serving.

Ben Boleda