

## Mother's Day Luncheon

By Michelle Deuling

**Proverbs 31:30**

*Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*

On May 12 The Ladder held its annual Mother's Day Luncheon. The focus of the luncheon was to honor our mothers and highlight the servanthood of a mother as depicted in the Bible.

The staff at the Shelby Public Schools kitchen put together a delectable spread of chicken parmigiana, three sides (including local asparagus), and lemon bars for dessert. We are grateful for the school, as well as our 11 volunteers (along with seven Ladder youth) who worked diligently to set up, serve the food, and clean up following the event.

Guests were encouraged to wear their favorite apron. Noreen Campagna shared her mother's aprons via a special display. Cyndie Kiel (pictured at right) wore an apron of her own creation, which featured fabric from the 1967 Montague bicentennial, junior high home-economic projects, her sister's bicentennial dress, and other outfits she and her female family members sewed years ago.

There were approximately 60 women (and several adoring husbands) present at the luncheon, who shared laughter and camaraderie during a game of Mother's Day Family Feud and a mother-themed crossword puzzle. Several ladies went home with one of the lovely floral bouquet centerpieces from the tables. We are thankful to Shelby Floral for giving us a discount on the flower arrangements! Many brought in a copy of their favorite recipes earlier that week, and we compiled them into a cookbook to share with all who came. At the end of the event, all women were challenged to give a letter of thanksgiving to their mother, daughter or other special woman in their lives.



Above: The ladies enjoyed a delicious meal. L-R: Amy, Leota, Vilene, Nina, Noreen.



Left: Ladder volunteer Rachel (right) brought her mother Cyndie (middle) and sister Jessica to the luncheon. Check out those amazing aprons!

## Father's Day Luncheon

By Brian Beckman

**Ephesians 6:1-4**

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" —which is the first commandment with a promise—"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

Being a dad is such a blessing and very rewarding, but it is a 24/7 challenge. Every year we teach the youth the command in the Bible to honor their mother and father. Along with lessons, we wanted to practice serving our dads, so we invited our youth to come and help at a celebration for dads.

The Father Day's Luncheon on June 12 started with a corn hole tournament. After several games, Gregg Herin and his father Bob (pictured at right) won the corn hole championship. A dart tournament followed. Gregg won first place and Stan Briggs won second place. Each winner received a pass to the 2023 Country Dairy Super Social on July 1.

Shelby School Food Service provided a delicious dinner of Swiss steak, potatoes, coleslaw and pie. Tim Balcom, a humble man who grew up in Ferry, shared about the tale of two men, one who lived for God and one who lived for self. His story was straight from the heart. After the devotional, people left with food, a tire pressure gauge in a small paper t-shirt, and large cans of snacks as door prizes.

We are grateful for all the opportunities God gives us to honor people at The Ladder, especially parents!



Above: We served 53 meals at our Father's Day Luncheon June 12.



Left: Ladder volunteer Bob, who attended the luncheon with his wife, son and daughter-in-law, went home with some loot and a full belly.

# LIVE WELL

Pursuing God's best in mind, body & spirit

## A Big But

By Sue Beckman

Things aren't always as they first appear. Consider your first thought in reading the title of this article!

On May 6, The National Day of Prayer, men and women from our community gathered once again to pray for our land. The prayer movement began in 1952 when a young evangelist, Billy Graham, led services for approximately 20,000 people on the steps of the Capitol. Later that year, on July 4, 1952, Congress proclaimed a joint resolution for a National Day of Prayer to be observed. The observance, which was moved to the first Thursday in May by President Ronald Reagan, has been proclaimed each year since.

This year, 40 individuals gathered at The Ladder to call upon the LORD on behalf of our community and our nation. As our prayer time drew to a close, those in attendance didn't want to stop! God had blessed us with His Spirit and opened our eyes that things are not as they appear!

Yes, we see a world that is broken. We see deception. We see corruption. We see evil.

Things aren't always as they first appear. As Kirk Cameron recently asked, "What if the past three years have not been a national setback, **but** a divine set-up for a spiritual comeback for the family of faith?"

**But** is one of my favorite words in Scripture. Throughout the Bible we see **but God**, or **but Christ**, or **but when**. It's a word that changes our thinking. It's a word that changes our course.

Something was lost, **but** now it's found. Someone was dead, **but** now alive. A person was blind, **but** now can see. There was no way, **but God** made a way. **But** is a word that introduces the interven-

tion of God. All seems hopeless, and then we recognize **but God**.

### Psalm 73:26

*My flesh and my heart may fail, **but God** is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

### Genesis 50:20

*You intended to harm me, **but God** intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*

### Acts 13:29-30

*When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. **But God** raised him from the dead.*

### Ephesians 2:1, 4-5

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked. **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.*

Things aren't always as they first appear. On May 6, men and women walked away from our time of prayer with renewed hope and a renewed fervency to pray for our land. They may have come hopeless and dejected, **but God** showed up and intervened as His people gathered to pray. He revealed to us that He IS attentive to our cry and He IS intervening—at work and fulfilling His purposes among us. His intervening presence among

us changed our thinking and changed our course.

All seems hopeless, **but God** IS intervening in our land. There IS an awakening among us. God IS purifying His Church and redeeming the lost. He is transforming lives, families, and communities across our land. He IS opening our eyes to see, and we proclaim with the Psalmist when all seems hopeless:

### Psalm 31:14-15

*But we trust in you, O LORD;  
We say, "You are our God."  
Our times are in your hand;*

As a community center, it is altogether right and vital that we pray for our community. But clearly, what is happening in our nation impacts our community. And so, we commit ourselves to praying for the Ladder, our community and our nation. Join us. Gather with us as we pray. Hard? Hopeless? **But God**....

### NEW SCHEDULED PRAYER TIMES

- ◆ Pray for Our Nation: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month 12:00-1:30 p.m.
- ◆ Pray for The Ladder & Our Community: (Men's Group) Thursdays 9:45-10:30 a.m.
- ◆ Pray for The Ladder, Our Community, & Nation: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Pray for Our Youth: Daily 2:30-3:00 p.m.

*All are invited!*

## CELEBRATING LIFE

### Dave Richards

October 7, 1946—June 14, 2023

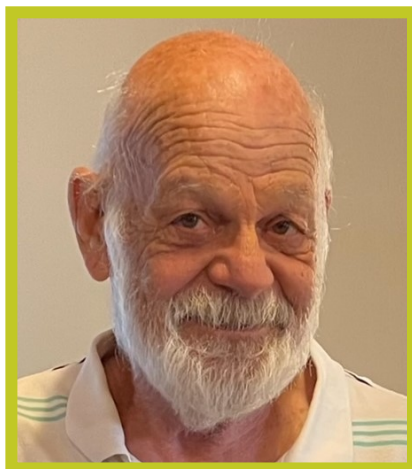
By Michelle Deuling

As I tear down a box to put in the recycling area, I am again reminded of one of the most generous men I have ever had the privilege of knowing. Dave Richards was always looking and listening for ways in which he could serve.

Dave, the father of four children and one foster child, had a huge influence on the many people who observed his generosity and kind heart. Family was his number one priority, which was evident in the care he gave to his wife and teenage son. He also counted The Ladder as family, as he helped with one need or the other. He blessed so many people with his thoughtfulness and care.

We are so grateful for the many ways Dave served his community here at The Ladder throughout the years. Dave showed his care for people when he would sit and keep others company so they didn't have to eat alone, even though he had already eaten. He also loved to cook and share his delicious soups and stews with all of us. Ladder staff member Fawn Lenon recalls, "He would share food with someone here who needed good home cooking. I could see his love for his fellow brothers and sisters."

During the COVID shutdown, Dave played a huge role in transporting boxes of food to The Ladder from the school every week, so we could distribute them to those in need. He did anything we asked of him, such as watering the plants daily, polishing the floors, and building a cart for the tables. "Dave was a tremendous asset to The Ladder, the staff and the members," recalls The Ladder's director, Brian Beckman. "He provided a full-service operation. When he heard The Ladder needed a bike rack, he made one for us. We are already missing this kind-hearted man. We have come to realize all the chores Dave did for us and for others."



Insert 2b