

August 2024 Church & Community Ministries Newsletter

Becky Currin 919-690-5120

Mailing Address: PO Box 1649, Oxford, N.C. 27565

Christmas in August is a wonderful opportunity to start gathering new toys for the Christmas Toy Ministry! You can keep it simple or go all out. Here are some ideas: Set up a Christmas tree where people can place unwrapped gifts. Add paper angels with gift suggestions or age groups to help with gift selection. Host a special event: Some churches choose a Wednesday or Sunday night to have a Christmas meal (think turkey or ham with all the trimmings!) and invite their church family to bring new toys. Our greatest need is for children aged 9 – 18. Consider taking a child from this age group with you to help choose gifts. Most toys will have an age range suggestion on them. After your collection is complete, you can bring the toys to CCM on any of our open days, and we'll place them in the Toy Ministry pod.

I recently discovered a fantastic way to raise funds for your favorite charity: hosting a blood collection drive with **The Blood Connection**. This organization collects whole blood and distributes it to local hospitals. Each drive requires a minimum of 45 donors. If you can't gather enough donors from your church, consider opening the event to the public as I did or partnering with another church. Donors must be 16 years or older & over 110 lbs. For every donor, your chosen charity receives \$25, and each donor gets a \$25 e-card to spend as they wish. For more info, go to thebloodconnection.org.

WMU Leadership Conference: When: August 13, 7:00 – 8:30, Where: West Oxford Baptist Church. Information will be available for all WMU age groups. Please add this event to your calendar, plan to attend or send representatives. In addition, this is the time to sign up for Murdoch & Central Regional residents through Operation Santa Claus, Central Children's Home birthdays, & Toy Ministry meals.

I will be ordering **Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes** soon! Let me know how many your church wants.

Again, this year, Flat River & CCM have reserved a space in **Oxford's Hot Sauce Festival**. This is a great opportunity to share information about your church & if you like, you may pass out free bottles of water which you will need to provide. Help will be needed to set up a canopy tent & 3 tables. Info on location & set up time will not be known until the week of the festival. Ann will have an online sign-up sheet available soon.

Stocking Stuffers: August - School supplies, Sept – Men's boxers size small - large, October – coloring books/crayons/journals, November -throw blankets, December – decorated gift boxes, rolls of wrapping paper, scotch tape, & gift bags

Central Children's Home Birthdays: August – None

God is at work answering prayers! John Hardy responded to my plea for a volunteer cashier & is doing an excellent job! He holds down the fort on Tuesday & Thursday mornings so that leaves Wednesday until 3:00 & Saturday morning available if you feel led to volunteer on those days. I am also very excited as I believe He has provided a Becky volunteer but that's all I will say about that! God is good all the time!

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.