

## ***Baptist Trumpet* 2019 Report**

This has definitely been a year of change for the *Baptist Trumpet* — I'm the only one left in the office from this time last year!

Assistant Editor Maddy Priest resigned to spend more time with her young son, and Marene Waters Hearst is retiring to spend time with her new husband, J.C.

Just so you know, I was Marene's matron of honor, and if I had known that boy was going to swipe her from me, I would've tripped him before the wedding!

I truly love and miss them both... **But God**... has answered our prayers and given us two new highly qualified and wonderful new "family members."

### **New Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper**

Jennifer Marvel, who attends South City Church in Little Rock, has been hired and she began her work with us Tuesday, Sept. 10. She is highly qualified, and has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. (I told her that would really come in handy since she will be dealing with preachers a lot; but the truth is, she'll need it more in dealing with us there in the BMA of Arkansas Building!)

Jen is also certified in QuickBooks and proficient in other computer programs. Her hours will primarily be Monday – Thursday, four hours a day, but will be somewhat flexible.

Her husband, Shawn, serves at Family Life in Little Rock, and they have four beautiful daughters.

Unfortunately, we just found out recently that FamilyLife is moving their headquarters to Orlando, Florida after being in Arkansas for 40 years, and Jen and her family will be moving there. Although we're not sure when that will be, we look forward to working with Jen as long as we can.

### **New Assistant Editor**

Jeff Herring is our new assistant editor. I have known Jeff for over 25 years, and he is a wonderful Christian man who has fit right into our BMA of Arkansas Building family.

He has a Master's Degree from BMA Seminary and also has excellent computer skills. He has already proven to be a big help in updating our website, handling circulation, writing articles, doing *Trumpet* layout and so much more.

Another thing Jeff has going for him is that he is an ordained minister, so he can do something I can't — preach! (Well, to be honest, I do preach, but it's only to Pat and he doesn't listen anyhow!)

Because of Jeff's excellent skill set, I chose to make this position full-time and to increase his salary. As my Mammaw used to say, he is definitely proving to "be worth his keep!"

### **Interactive *eTrumpet***

One of the projects I asked Jeff to work on was something I have wanted for a long time — make the *eTrumpet* and our website more user-friendly. I wanted a way *eTrumpet* readers could click on an article and pull up the entire article in a text format — without having to scroll from page to page to read it. I am pleased to say that Jeff has done that and has also made the photos expandable!

*eTrumpet* readers now receive the regular PDF each week, as well as a link to an interactive *Trumpet* that is hosted on our website.

My hope is that more people will choose to receive the *Trumpet* in electronic form. There are so many benefits, in addition to this newest one:

- You can store the paper in your iBooks or other program on your electronic device for as long as you like.
- You can make the type as large as you need to make reading easier.
- You also have immediate access to the last three months of the paper — before they are added to the archives.
- And the biggest reason is that you'll get the news before the paper is even printed and won't have to depend on the beloved Post Office.

### **Delayed Papers**

The *Trumpet* is “put to bed” on Tuesday and sent to the printer (the *Jacksonville Leader*) that afternoon. It is then printed overnight and delivered to our mailer (America Direct) the next morning. They then put on the labels, carrier route sort the papers and prepare them for mailing. The paper arrives at the North Little Rock Post Office no later than mid-afternoon on Wednesday.

After that... sometimes the Lord only knows!

It has been a continuing problem that *Trumpet* delivery is being delayed — sometimes a week or more.

As a matter of fact, on Aug. 1, I saw a Facebook post from Patty Burke, who lives in Hope, and she had a photo of a *Trumpet* she had just received that day — dated **May 17, 2017!** It looked pretty beaten up, like it had been in the bottom of a barrel for a while; and sometimes I think there are others down there with it!

I've often said that the Post Office is the “bane of our existence” — and it has been that way for the 39 years I've been at the *Trumpet*. But God... my two favorite words again!

A few days ago, I received a call from Jeremy Motes, who is a senior field representative for the Post Office. He actually works in North Little Rock, but is based out of Washington, DC, and was just checking to see if we had any problems.

Of course, I shared this big one with him, and he really seems to want to help. (He is also a Christian who goes to the big First Pentecostal Church in North Little Rock and works in prison ministry. Praise the Lord!)

Jeremy did tell me that, at the North Little Rock facility, they “take extra steps to push this type of publication forward,” which was encouraging. I told him that I just wish that philosophy filtered down to the local post offices!

He promised to help if I could tell him which areas were having problems with delivery.

**Those of you who still get the *Trumpet* by regular mail — are any of you having problems receiving your paper?** If so, would you take a moment to fill out one of these forms so I'll have “concrete evidence” and Jeremy can start troubleshooting the problem?

While these are being handed out, let me take just a moment to put in another plug for our *eTrumpet* version of the paper.

## **eTrumpet**

I know many of you, even those who are computer savvy, still like to get the actual paper; and that's great! But have you considered getting it both ways — regular mail and email — so you'll have the best of both worlds?

It only costs an extra \$5 a year (11¢ an issue) to take the *Trumpet* by regular mail **and** by email. That way, you can see the news on Tuesday evening within an hour of when it goes out to be printed. And when you finally get the actual paper, you can take it to your “reading room” — wherever that is — and read it at your leisure!

If you're on the Church Plan (which I hope most of you are), all you have to do is give an extra \$5 offering to the church each year and tell them you want to “have your cake and eat it too!” If you're on an individual subscription, just give me the information and the \$5 and we'll get you set up!

(By the way, if any of you don't get the *Trumpet* either way, we can surely take care of that, too!)

If you'd like to get the *Baptist Trumpet* both ways — even if you'll humor me and at least consider it — would you just raise your hand, and we'll get the form to you!

One last thing for the computer savvy among you...

## **Facebook**

If you have a computer, and want up-to-the-minute news, I encourage you to like our Facebook page. I check other pages quite often, and try to share them to the *Baptist Trumpet* page so we can get the news out to you quickly.

It is also where we'll post information that is received between issues. By “liking” our Facebook page, you'll be the (as my Daddy Bob used to say) “firstest with the mostest” with breaking news.

Our Facebook updates also appear within 30 minutes on the right side of our website at [www.baptisttrumpet.com](http://www.baptisttrumpet.com).

Maybe some of you are like me, and you may have been dragged, kicking and screaming, into the computer age. But it does have its benefits!

Facebook is a great way to keep up with BMA (and the Christian community at large) news — not to mention keeping up with those grandkids!

## **Thanks!**

Two last things, and I'll hush.

- First, thank you so much for your prayers and your financial support. Our Special Emphasis was only \$31,792.80 this year — compared to \$60,056.94 last year and \$50,976 the year before.

That means the little extra we have saved back for a rainy day is dwindling. But like I said in a recent Notebook article: “God has always supplied our needs at the *Trumpet*, and I know He can (and will) stretch these funds just like He stretched those loaves and fishes.

- Second, I've been asked if I'm retiring, and the short answer is “not quite yet.” God had to drag me kicking and screaming into this position, but He surely won't have to do that when it's time to go!

In January, I will have been at the *Trumpet* for 40 years; and next November, I will have been your editor for 15 years. But I'm still enjoying what I do, and I hope you're still enjoying me doing it.

When the time comes, and all the final decisions have been made, y'all will be among the first to know!

But for now, once again, thank you for allowing me to have the best job a girl can have in the BMA!

God bless you all!