**Julia Bell Begins August 1st as CMBA Communications Coordinator**

***July 30, 2020 Release from the Columbia Metro Baptist Association***



Since the fall of 2018, Julia Bell has been writing *Our Family Stories* for the Columbia Metro Baptist Association about the congregations, people, and ministries of the association. Earlier this year she accepted additional writing and communications assignments.

With the approval of the CMBA Visionary Leadership Community this week, Julia will begin serving August 1st as *Our One Priority Communications Coordinator*. In this role she will function as the coordinator of a strategic communications plan for CMBA.

Specific assignments will include planning and writing *Our Family Stories*, coordinating the production and release of a half-dozen communication vehicles which include written stories, podcasts, video conferences, and the newsletter, and coordination of the association database and the collection of the Annual Church Profile.

In her role she will work as a team member with Chelsea Wester who provides virtual administrative support to the Executive Director several hours per week from her home, and Chris Reinolds, pastor, Killian Baptist Church who produces the CMBA podcast. Many of Julia’s new responsibilities were handled by George Bullard and this will allow him to focus more on several new initiatives launching this year to support *Our One Priority* for our family of congregations.

Julia has many years of experience in journalism, is a native of Columbia, and has a unique lifelong relationship with CMBA. Her father, Jim Smithwick was the director of the Columbia Metro Baptist Association for two decades from the mid-1970s through the mid-1990s. She is a member of Lexington Baptist Church.

Married to Ed Bell for more than 20 years, Julia has two teenage children – Anne Marie and Coulter.

In her role with CMBA, Julia will be working half-time under an independent contractor agreement which allows her to also pursue other interests as she works from the base of her home in Lexington.

Julia may be contacted at [JuliasBell@live.com](mailto:JuliasBell@live.com) or 803.260.3924.