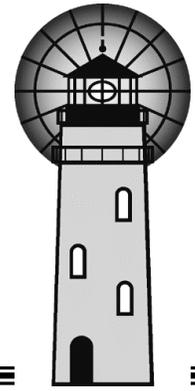


The Beacon



A GUIDING LIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE OF
THE BLADEN & BLUE HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

APRIL – MAY 2018

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Pastor's Page

Tempus Fugit

(Time Flies)

In *The Glass Menagerie*, playwright Tennessee Williams wrote, "Time is the longest distance between two places." Yet the whimsical prose of Dr. Seuss expresses most people's experience with time, "How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?"

The expression "time flies" is shared by all people, especially those of us who are getting older. Time has a way of being elusive; it darts and flutters around us like a fly that can't be caught. Attempting to contain time is a fruitless endeavor because it is ethereal, transcendent and fleeting. Speaking of fruitless, humorist Groucho Marx once said, "Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana."

I've learned it is "fruitless" to allow the past to trouble us since there is no chance of changing it. However, the time ahead of us holds a promise that we can do something with it. I remember family vacations to the Rocky Mountains. As

soon as we crossed the Colorado border my two brothers, my two brothers and I kept looking at the horizon hoping to be the first to see the faint shadowy forms of the mountains. The anticipation of those majestic peaks made us eager to experience the adventure that lay ahead. Hopes and dreams are always in the future, never in the past. The time ahead of us seems to be far away beyond our sight. Still, those events will arise like the ghostly peaks that emerge from the horizon. Time is always in the future, and the events it holds are far away.

In January, I began preparations for Lent and Holy Week – which has come and gone by the time this article is published. Last November, I planned the Advent services and then awaited their occurrence. Now, I am looking forward toward warmer weather to plant my garden and begin fishing.

Which is why Tennessee Williams' quote is significant to me. The time from Advent to Easter, the miles between the border and the mountain or the long cold days of winter before the spring, are always "the longest distance between two places." It is when we can do nothing more than anticipate them. Yet within hours we are climbing the winding road into the highlands, scurrying to till the soil for the seeds and plants or making last minute changes to Holy Week service. Months become weeks, weeks become days, days become hours, hours dwindle down 'til we turn a shovel of earth or make the first hopeful cast or rejoice in the gift of the Risen Christ. It is then we taste the fullness of life made succulent by the time spent waiting.

The time before us brings worry as well. Depending on what phase of life we are in, time holds uncertainty about retirement, jobs, college and even death. Taking liberty with Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, the future is "the

undiscovered country.”¹ We anticipate things that will happen and worry about how they will occur. There is also the anxiety of things that might happen, and if we should prepare to prevent or encourage them.

Why am I obsessed with time in this article? Perhaps it is because in two years I will be eligible to retire. In eight years, retirement will be mandatory. What can I do with the time I have left? Can I still accomplish those things I dreamed of in my youth? It serves no purpose to begrudge why I didn't achieve them. Perhaps I should concede that they are for someone younger and set new hopes that fit in the timeframe ahead of me.

Please don't think I am saddened by what lies ahead. I still have the hope of that young boy eagerly scanning the horizon for the distant mountains. It is a hope expressed by the wizard Gandalf in *The Lord of the Rings*. The wise old man tells his troubled young friend Frodo, “All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

My concerns for my own future are practical and pragmatic. I am confident that God will guide me to whatever purpose He has chosen for me. I am worried about the future of our church and especially the two churches in my care. Yet, I worry about the universal church as well. Worry that is wasteful because just as I have no control over the past, I have little influence on God's universal church. That is God's work. I can only focus on a small, but precious, portion of the Kingdom.

As for that, I can do little more than share in the journey. For God has plans for our churches that I cannot fathom. I have no idea what they are or when they will be fulfilled. I need, we all need, to graciously accept the path which God has laid before us, whether it be troubled or joyful, bitter or sweet, arduous or gentle. But like the far-distant mountains beyond my sight, I know that they are there, and that God is there rising from the future with majesty, promise and hope.

Sonflower Garden Ministry

For the past 2 years the Blue Hill and Bladen Methodist churches have planted a vegetable garden which raises produce for the Webster Co Food Pantry. Additional vegetables are donated to Cornerstone mission in Hastings and to the Life Quest home in Blue Hill.

In 2018 we will once again raise a garden at the Blue Hill UMC. This year we want to expand the ministry and the process by which we distribute the produce. Many of our church members enjoy gardening and usually have more vegetables than they can use. So, in addition to our Sonflower garden, we are asking others to contribute a part of their garden produce for a **Giveaway Farmers Market Ministry**.

The idea is that on a given day each week produce from our gardens will be brought into a designated place in Bladen and Blue Hill and given away. Church members will be there to visit and assist people wanting fresh vegetables and produce. In addition, we will deliver garden produce to people who are unable to pick them up. Hopefully we can get some of our young people to help in these deliveries.

It's that simple. What we need to know is who is willing to donate from their garden and help in distribution. Any surplus food will be donated to Food Pantry, Cornerstone, or local residence.

Please contact Pastor Dan if you are interested in helping. We will then contact you concerning details.



¹ The actual quote is “...death, the undiscovered country from which no visitor returns...”

Through the Bible this Year

Weekly Bible Lessons

April 1 Acts 10:34-43 1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Easter Day Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8	White or Gold
April 8 Acts 4:32-35 1 John 1:1-2:2	2nd Sunday of Easter Psalm 133 John 20:19-31	White or Gold
April 15 Acts 3:12-19 1 John 3:1-7	3rd Sunday of Easter Psalm 4 Luke 24:36b-48	White or Gold
April 22 Acts 4:5-12 1 John 4:7-21	4th Sunday of Easter Psalm 23 John 10:11-18	White or Gold
April 29 Acts 8:26-40 1 John 4:7-21	5th Sunday of Easter Psalm 22:25-31 John 15:1-8	White or Gold
May 6 Acts 10:44-48 1 John 5:1-6	6th Sunday of Easter Psalm 98 John 15:9-17	White or Gold
May 10 Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:15-23	Ascension of the Lord Psalm 47 Luke 24:44-53	White or Gold
May 13 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 1 John 5:9-13	7th Sunday of Easter Psalm 1 John 17:6-19	White or Gold
May 20 Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:22-27	Day of Pentecost Psalm 104:24-34, 35b John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15	White or Red
May 27 Isaiah 6:1-8 Romans 8:12-17	Trinity Sunday Psalm 29 John 3:1-17	White
June 3 1 Samuel 3:1-20 2 Corinthians 4:5-12	2nd Sunday of Pentecost Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 Mark 2:23-3:6	Green

District Annual Spring Meeting

“Come Grow with Us!” will be hosted by Central City United Methodist Church on April 14th beginning at 9:30 am. Registration with coffee and rolls will be from 8:45 – 9:15 am. There will be updates from Epworth Village and Camp Fontanelle, Spring Plantings & METour Programs, Door Prizes and Drawings for MissionU & METour scholarships. Child care, along with their lunch, will be provided upon request. Registration due by April 7th. See Debbie Albers for a registration form.

UMCOR School Kits

In some countries, children don't have books or school supplies. Many have no schoolrooms; classes are held in inadequate or half-destroyed buildings, tents or even the open air. School kits may be these children's only educational resources. Kit list and instructions are available per request from Shirley Ewing, Danie or on our website at <http://www.bluehillbladenumc.org/resources.html>. These boxes will be collected by the UMW during the month of April.

Bladen Church Cleaning Schedule

March	TBD
April	Grandstaffs
May	David & Sharon Berns
June	Mary Karr Family
July	Bonifas Family
August	TBD
September	Jennifer H & Verna K
October	Meyers
November	Tim & Melanie Engelhardt
December	Karen & Susan
Yard Maintenance	Jeff & Shirley

Danie's Diary

Every year it seems that I make the typical “I’m going to get healthy [re: I actually say skinny, but that’s not what you’re supposed to say] this year!” resolution. I have said it many times before. I actually achieved it once, through Weight Watchers, and I kept it off for three years. Then last year happened. I like to blame it on my ankle surgery, but really I just wanted to eat all of the foods. It caught up to me...BIG time...pun intended. I needed to find that discipline and determination that worked for the past four years. It had to be in there somewhere, right?

In January, I decided that I would aim to hit my step goal every single day. I set my Fitbit to only 7,500 during January, and I’ve upped it by 500 each month since. I am very proud to say that I have hit that goal **so far!** Every day I am getting up and moving. Most days I get in some kind of workout to be able to make my goal. I’m so insanely competitive – and in this case, with myself. To miss a day would be to accept defeat. I can’t. No matter how tired I feel or just mentally and emotionally drained I am, I can’t accept defeat. From cards to sports to this, I have never been good at letting myself get beat. I try to be a very gracious loser when I am defeated, but I just don’t have it in me to not give it my all to win. Not always the best look, but, for self-inflicted goals, it is a great character trait to have in your back pocket.

With the physical goal in check **so far**, it was time to tackle the dietary goals. I started the year thinking I would be able to find success by just counting calories using a free app on my phone, but it wasn’t working. It was time to buck up and get back on Weight Watchers. I do online only, so it wasn’t the commitment to having to go to meetings that made me apprehensive. It was the fact that if I’m paying for this program, I really have to do it. It isn’t something I can just halfway do. I have to commit. Really. **So far** I’m really liking the changes I’m making. It is hard to just say to myself you don’t get to eat that or you can only have one bite of this, but the program works because retraining your brain is exactly what needs to happen. I needed to add in more produce. I needed to back **FAR** away from the fried foods. I needed to get my portion sizes in check. **So far**, I’ve been successful.

I need to quit with the “so far.” I fear, though, as soon as I do, and I accept that I **AM** successful, that I will go back to the idea that I have this, just as I thought I did a year ago. That is the scary balance with any goal, isn’t it? When do you accept success? When have you pushed enough? When can you celebrate what you have already accomplished without feeling like you are “done” having to try? For now, it will be a “so far” until I have reached my goal weight, but here’s hoping at that point I can successfully remain **and feel** successful.

Danie's Recipe of the Month

Whenever I happen to find a recipe that both aligns with my attempts at healthier eating and my five-year-old's taste buds, it is a cause for a celebration! Below is one of my most recent celebratory discoveries found on allrecipes.com. I tweaked it just a little for my liking. I hope you enjoy it as much as we did!

Chef John's New Orleans Style BBQ Shrimp

Ingredients:

1.5 – 2 lbs raw shrimp (EZ Peel is the only way to go, and colossal is recommended by the original recipe)
1 T vegetable oil
1 T course ground black pepper
1/4 t smoked paprika
1/8 t cayenne pepper
1/8 t Old Bay Seasoning (optional)
4 T butter, divided
2 c chicken stock
juice of 1 lemon
2 T Worcestershire Sauce
2 dashes hot sauce
6 cloves garlic, minced
1 T fresh or 1 t dried rosemary
1 T cornstarch

Directions:

- 1) Peel shrimp, reserving shells, and place into a separate bowl or Ziploc bag. Drizzle oil over shrimp and season with black pepper, paprika, cayenne and Old Bay. Mix thoroughly to coat and refrigerate covered for at least one hour.
- 2) Place reserved shells in a sauce pan over medium-high heat with 1 T of the butter. Cook and stir until shells are pink, about 1-2 minutes. Add stock, bring to a boil, then reduce to low and allow to simmer for 30 minutes. Strain stock into a bowl through a strainer. Add lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce and hot sauce and stir.
- 3) Place a large skillet over high heat. Brown shrimp in a dry, hot pan for about 1 minute per side. Stir in the remaining 3 T of butter, garlic and rosemary and cook for about 2 more minutes. Remove shrimp from pan and cover with foil.
- 4) Pour liquid in the skillet, stirring to deglaze. Bring to a boil and reduce for five minutes. Pull out 3 T of the liquid into a small bowl and mix with cornstarch until smooth, then pour back into the liquid and stir constantly to thicken to a thin sauce. Add shrimp back to pan and cook for 2 minutes. Serve shrimp and sauce over rice.

Bible Studies and Sunday Schools

Blue Hill

CHILDREN'S DEEP BLUE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will end for the summer in May and will resume next year in September.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

This interdenominational Bible Study meets in the church conference room at 1:30 p.m. each Thursday.

FOURTH DAY COVENANT SHARING

Each week, we welcome our brothers and sisters in Christ to share a time of prayer, devotion, sharing and accountability with each other. Through this weekly covenant, we gather to share our commitment to Christ and witness to our work of faith in our lives and community. **We meet every Saturday at 8 a.m at the Blue Hill UMC.** This covenant sharing is open to all people of faith.

CHRISTIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST

The third Saturday of each month at 8 a.m. Meetings alternate between the Bladen and Blue Hill churches.

Bladen

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Meets Sunday mornings @ 9:15. We will be covering *Is This the End* by David Jeremiah.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Youth classes will end in May. Have a great summer!

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Mondays @ 9 a.m at the Bladen UMC. Everyone welcome! We will continue to cover the book of Daniel.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Meets weekly @ 7:00 pm. We will continue covering "What Makes a Hero."



Bladen UMW

Upcoming Meeting Dates

April 12 @ 2:00 pm

Hosted by Bonna Vance

Lesson by Deb Thayer

May 3 – 5

Conference UMW Spring Retreat

Camp Comeca

April 14

District Meeting in Central City

9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Wednesday, May 16

Salad Supper Ladies' Night Out

6:30 pm @ Bladen UMC

Door prizes, food, fun and fellowship!



April Birthdays

Bladen		Blue Hill	
Laci Fassler	4/1	Jan Wells	4/4
Jennifer Himmelberg	4/4	Jan Zimmerman	4/6
Keaton Karr	4/4	Corbin Johnson	4/12
Caitlin Crowe	4/12	Shari Olson	4/13
Chub Karr	4/18	Wayne Strasburg	4/15
Tammy Rust	4/18	Mason Strasburg	4/27
Reagan Coleman	4/21		
Tim Engelhardt	4/21		
Donna Figgins	4/21		
Brock Karr	4/22		
Melissa Bonifas	4/26		
Aidyn Bonifas	4/28		

May Birthdays

Bladen		Blue Hill	
Johnny Thornton	5/2	Karl Berns	5/6
Dennis Timm	5/2	Ryler Rathjen	5/6
Satie Engelhardt	5/3	Chuck VanBoening	5/8
Bonna Vance	5/3	Jennifer Anderson	5/9
Michael Hohenfield	5/10	Muriel Bright	5/16
Katelyn Karr	5/11	Logan Zimmerman	5/22
Maddie Karr	5/12	Mike Barton	5/23
Roger Lovejoy	5/13	Dee Strasburg	5/29
Pam Nieting	5/15		
James Karr	5/17		
Cindy Timm	5/18		
Jeremy Fassler	5/20		
Harley Jaide, Jr.	5/20		
Zachery Engelhardt	5/22		
Brant Karr	5/28		
Josh Jaide	5/29		
Melanie Engelgardt	5/31		
Bonnie Wilson	5/31		

*Happy
Birthday!*

Anniversaries

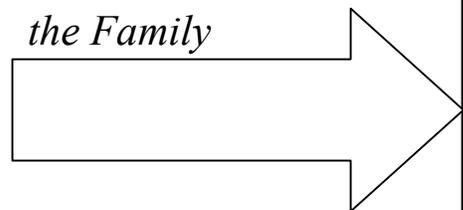
Bladen

Larry & Bonna Vance	4/6
TJ & Tara Vance	4/7
Rob & Diana Wilson	4/9
Brant & Tracey Karr	4/12
Gary & Donna Figgins	4/19
William & Kelly Karr	4/20
Keith & Cindy Pavelka	5/15
Doug & Patty Church	5/16

Blue Hill

James & Heather Zimmerman	4/26
Will & Jan Wells	5/13
Mark & Cheryl Thallman	5/27

***Add fun to
Your Marriage
from
Focus on
the Family***



Find Fun Games to Play Anywhere

Every marriage needs a go-to game. A simple game like "Would You Rather" requires no set-up time, game pieces or box. It travels with you everywhere you go, and it's ever evolving. Ask each other a series of questions like ...

- Would you rather live on a lake or on the ocean?
- Would you rather have dinner at the White House or take an all-expenses-paid two-week tour of Europe?
- Would you rather be Batman or Superman?

You may learn to love playing "Would You Rather" because it could help you dream. Rapid-fire questions at each other, often pausing to ask, "Why?" This game even has the potential for fun debates. If you've been married for some time, you just might begin answering these questions for each other. When you hear an unexpected answer, respond in jest, "And I thought I knew you!"

Greeters & Servers

Blue Hill

April 1 Margaret Zimmerman
April 8 Bob & Marlene Albin
April 15 Mike & Angela Menke
April 22 Mark & Dee Strasburg
April 29 Jan Zimmerman

May 6 Chuck & Mary VanBoening
May 13 Evert & Shirley Barton
May 20 Rod & Shari Olson
May 27 Sam & Lana James

Bladen

April 1 Bonna & Rayburn
April 8 Kevin & Mary
April 15 Troy & Jennifer
April 22 Pete & Delores
April 29 Geneva & Toni

May 6 Meredith & Cheryl
May 13 Zach & Caitlin
May 20 TJ & Tara
May 27 Mike & Pat



Our Offerings to God

Bladen UMC Income & Expenses

January – February 2018

Month	Income	Expenses
January	\$3,668.00	\$3,882.05
February	\$3,372.00	\$4,305.14
Totals for Year	\$7,040.00	\$8,187.19

Blue Hill UMC Income & Expenses

January – February 2018

Month	Income	Expenses
January	\$-	\$-
Feburay	\$-	\$-
Totals for Year	\$-	\$-



Missions

2018 Mission Shares Paid

Church	Our Mission Shares	Mission Shares Paid	Percentage
Bladen	\$7,715	\$1,285.84	17%
Blue Hill	\$-	\$-	-%

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

Your Church Leadership

2018 Blue Hill Administrative Board

Darrel Buschkoetter , Chairperson	756-7070
Kathy Murphy Buschkoetter , Lay Leader	756-7070
Marlene Albin , Treasurer	756-4105
Lana James , Finance Chair	756-3370
Shari Olson , Financial Secretary	756-2584
Dee Strasburg , Recording Secretary	756-5433
Dee Strasburg , Trustees Chair	756-5433
Mary VanBoening , Membership Secretary	756-3842
Margaret Zimmerman , Supt. of Church School	756-3562
Darrel Buschkoetter , Missions & Social Concerns	756-7070
Margaret Zimmerman , Missions & Social Concerns	756-2727
Jenny Andersen , Camping Coordinator	(402) 461-6104
Wayne Strasburg , Ushers	756-3388
Kathy Murphy Buschkoetter , District Cluster/Network Member	756-7070

2018 Bladen Administrative Board

Keith Crowe , Chairperson	756-1172
Bonna Vance Vice-Chairperson	756-3631
Gerald Grandstaff , Lay Leader	756-5588
Shirley Ewing , Treasurer	756-1285
Mardelle Grandstaff , Finance Chair	756-5588
Karen Koelder Financial Secretary	756-1352
Delores Meyer , Secretary, Worship Chair	756-6452
Karen Koelder , Trustee Chair	756-1352
Melanie Engelhardt , Membership Secretary	756-1620
Cindy Timm , Education Chair	756-1662

Contact Information

Melanie Engelhardt , Youth Council	756-1620
Mardelle Grandstaff , Missions & Social Concerns	756-5588
Sharon Berns , Memorial Chair	756-1018
Toni Turner , Prayer Chain	756-1642
Meredith Engelhardt , Ushers	756-1282
Jeff Ewing , President Christian Men	756-1285
Delores Meyer , President, UM Women	756-6452
Pastor Dan Albers	756-2091

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Marjorie Lockhart , Chair	756-1167
Verna Kaufman	756-1142
Jennifer Karr	756-1126
Will Wells	(402) 705-0795

Church Office

Phone: 756-2091 **Email: bhbladenumc@gtmc.net**

Address: 302 S Webster / Blue Hill, NE 68930

Website: bluehillbladenumc.org

Please feel free to contact Pastor Dan at any time.

Parsonage	(402) 756-2092	Pastor	dan122553@yahoo.com
Cell	(402) 746-0185	Church	bhbladenumc@gtmc.net
Church	(402) 756-2091		

Mission Statement for the Bladen United Methodist Church

Our mission is to take the church to the people and to establish new Christian believers. As aspiring Christians, we need to share the joy that our faith brings and to share the good news in our daily lives and in our community.

Mission Statement for the Blue Hill United Methodist Church

We are called by God to be His disciples, to live according to His teachings and to share His love with others so they might come to know Him as their Lord and Savior.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 4/1 – 7 am Easter Sunrise Service w/ Brunch Following in Bladen
- 4/1 – 8:45 pm Easter Service in Blue Hill
- 4/2 – Fire Meeting in Bladen @ 8 pm
- 4/12 – UMW Meeting @ 2:00 pm
- 4/14 – UMW District Meeting in Central City @ 9:30 am
- 4/15 – Bladen Ad Board Meeting @ 11:30 am
- 4/15 – BHCC Worship @ 2:30 pm
- 4/15 – SPRC Meeting in Bladen @ 6:30 pm
- 4/21 – Christian Men's Breakfast in Blue Hill @ 8 am
- 5/3 – 5/5 – UMW Spring Retreat @ Camp Comeca
- 5/7 – Fire Meeting in Bladen @ 8 pm
- 5/13 – Mother's Day
- 5/16 – Bladen Salad Supper Ladies' Night Out @ 6:30 pm
- 5/19 – Christian Men's Breakfast in Bladen @ 8 am
- 5/20 – BHCC Worship @ 2:30 pm
- 5/21 – 5/25 – Pastor Out of Office
- 5/23 – Newsletter Info Due to Danie