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**WORD SEARCH!**  
**VALENTINE'S DAY**  
FIND AND CIRCLE THE WORDS ON THE LIST...WORDS MAY BE FOUND ACROSS, DOWN, OR DIAGONALLY--FORWARDS, BACKWARDS, AND SOMETIMES OVERLAPPING. HAVE FUN!

Z M T I C W U Q B U Y X  
F O I L P Y O B E K T R  
R L C S N E Y C M K P A  
M M A L O V E B I R D S  
U E R A I L V Q N L C E  
E E D M D N O N E S A R  
H S S I K P L N R N N E  
T N R N A Q I E K E D N  
A O R A J T W N W W L A  
V O B D N O S G K P E D  
Q L K E L S D E R O S E  
X L L F E T M I O E V T  
B A L F Y F A Q M T S G  
V B M U S I C A A R T V  
O I H T A G L A N Y R J  
O A R S Y D N A C Z A D  
J E W E L R Y L E W E J  
E S Q E T A L O C O H C

BALLOONS	GIFTS	PINK
BE MINE	HEARTS	POETRY
CANDLES	I LOVE YOU	RED
CANDY	JEWELRY	ROMANCE
CARDS	KISS	ROSE
CHOCOLATE	LOVEBIRDS	SERENADE
FLOWERS	MUSIC	VALENTINE
	STUFFED ANIMALS	

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**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

The Board of County Road Commissioners of Muskegon County, Michigan has adopted a meeting schedule for the year 2010.

<b>January 20, 2010</b>	<b>July 14, 2010</b>
<b>February 17, 2010</b>	<b>August 18, 2010</b>
<b>March 17, 2010</b>	<b>September 22, 2010</b>
<b>April 21, 2010</b>	<b>October 20, 2010</b>
<b>May 19, 2010</b>	<b>November 17, 2010</b>
<b>June 16, 2010</b>	<b>December 15, 2010</b>

The above meetings will commence at 10:00 A.M. in the offices at 7700 E. Apple Avenue, Muskegon, unless otherwise modified by special notice. Special meetings may be called as needed pursuant to the Open Meetings Act

The public and/or interested citizens are welcome to attend the meetings when the Board of County Road Commissioners meets to consider all matters before the Commission.

Kenneth J. Hulka,  
Manager Director/Clerk

 Celebrate in honor of  
America's first president  
by Rev. William Randall

After the Constitution was ratified, the great task of its implementation faced its framers. They chose electors in ways determined by each state. On the first Wednesday of January in 1789, the first election took place under the new Constitution. Seventy-three electors were chosen to vote for the first president. Four men were unable to attend, but all sixty-nine electors voted for George Washington. John Adams had a bare majority in his election as vice president.

Washington hesitated to accept the presidency because he was 57 years old. After many years of public service, he would like to have spent his days quietly at his plantation overlooking the Potomac River.

When one visits Mt. Vernon, one senses the serenity of that site. Preservationists have successfully maintained the plantation in its original state.

On April 16, 1789, the president-elect wrote this humble entry in his diary: "About ten o'clock, I bade adieu to Mount Vernon, to private life, and to domestic felicity; and, with a mind oppressed with more anxious and painful sensations than I have words to express, set out for New York, with the best disposition to render service to my country in obedience to its call, but with less hope of answering its expectations."

There were crowds and ovations as Washington's carriage entered towns along the way. Church bells rang and there were cannon salutes. When Washington entered Philadelphia, people lined the streets. They did not shout, "Long live the king," but "Long live the father of our people." When the entourage crossed by boat to New York City, the boats on the river and in the harbor were beautifully decorated. In the evening, fireworks brightened the sky and throngs walked the streets, shouting and singing.

The inauguration took place in New York City on April 30, 1789. At nine o'clock, crowds gathered in churches and asked for God's guidance for the president and the new nation.

About twelve o'clock, the procession moved from the president's house to the Federal State House where, on a balcony, he placed his hand on the Bible and took the oath of

office. The Chancellor of the State of New York proclaimed George Washington as President of the United States. Following the discharge of 13 cannons and cheers from the crowd, they went to the senate chamber where he made his inaugural address. When the ceremony was concluded, he and the vice president, and speakers of both houses of Congress went to St. Paul's Chapel where the New York Bishop of the Episcopal Church, who also served as Chaplain of the Senate, conducted a worship service.

There were birth pains for the new nation, but government's functions fell into place. Taxation was one matter as well as was duties on products. It is interesting that President Washington asked the same favor that he requested when he took command of the Colonial armies during the War for Independence. He asked to serve his country without pay. He would only accept money needed for expenditures.

The business of government was openly conducted and the people were very attentive to its progress. One concern at that time was that government was not centrally located. After two years, Washington announced that a site had been selected on the Potomac River. Philadelphia was chosen as a temporary location until the new capitol, named Washington in honor of the first president, was established.

Manufacturing was encouraged and every man was free to establish a little business of his own if he wished. The government, unlike our nation's recent unfathomable increases in the deficit, sought to operate free of debt. Instead of highly taxing businesses and well-to-do families, Alexander Hamilton declared that it was the obligation of the national government to pay back the money states had borrowed to support armies of the Revolutionary War. If men who loaned this money were repaid, they would have something to invest in manufacturing that would employ workmen and aid prosperity.

This new nation was a nation under God. It was and is a representative form of government that must be maintained. Many are concerned as President Obama appoints czars over sectors of government who have more authority than Congress and are able to operate independently. We need checks and balances and morality in government where votes are not purchased but won by the merits of legislation and consideration.

Concerned citizens must insist that our nation be governed according to the Constitution with respect to God, the author of liberty.

The observance of Presidents' Day can remind us all of the foundations of our freedom. •

 **When a loved one dies**  
by Clif Martin

Al Schneider has written a most touching article in the January / February issue of the Senior Perspectives paper that is published by Senior Resources of West Michigan. If there are no copies left where you usually find them, take a drive to the Tanglewood facility on Seminole Road in Norton Shores, the former D and W store. You can get free copies there.

Al's article, "Smiling through Grief," is a review and commentary of a book written by a woman who seemed unable to mourn the loss of her husband as she thought she should, and of Al's own difficulty with the grieving process.

There is probably nothing more personal and subjective, no more likely to cause family disagreements, than the question of how we are supposed to act and feel when someone dies. Should we spend days, weeks, or even years grieving over the loss? Do we cry a lot or smile, remembering the good times we had together? What about celebrating the person's life with a laugh-filled party? Is it somehow dishonoring the deceased if there is no final service of any kind? Disagreement over those questions can split a family and cause terrible pain just when they most need each other.

I find that many younger persons don't like talking about end-of-life issues for their aging parents. They don't want to deal with it. Maybe it makes them realize that they, too, will die someday and they don't want to think about that. When you get into your 80's, where Al and I are now, you know your time on earth is growing short and talking about it and making your own final arrangements become remarkably easy. There's nothing morbid about it, it's just business that needs to be taken care of.

I urge the older readers of the FAN to let your loved ones know exactly what your wishes are, not only about final services, but about disposition of your property. Don't leave it to chance or the courts. Put it on paper, hire a lawyer, make it legal. Please do not leave your family in a position of wondering and arguing about what you would have wanted. I have asked my offspring to accept and carry out my stated wishes even if they might not agree with some of them. I have told them that they will not all handle their parents' passing the same way and that's OK. It's all right if you cry a lot or don't cry at all, or if it takes days or weeks before you can deal with your feelings. We all react in different ways and at a different pace. But you must not insist that others in the family feel or act as you do.

For some beautiful thoughts to help you with your grieving process, pick up a copy of Al's article. If you have loved ones who need to read this, please get it to them. It might be the most loving thing you can do. •

 **Scripture as life**  
by Rev. R.A. Shackles

Have you ever thought of how often we complain that people read the Bible regularly, yet it seems so often to make little or no difference in their behavior, how they live out their daily life? Perhaps it has even been true in your own life!

You read the Bible — or hear it read in church — and yet somehow it seems not really to make much of any change for you. Perhaps, as many do, you complain that that seems so often true of your own, as well as others' lives.

One of the reasons this happens is that we tend to read the Bible as a study of things that happened at least two thousand years ago. Even those who loudly proclaim against using Scripture as a book of history do precisely that — read it as "the old, old story!" Consequently, we end up detached from the Bible — its teachings and content — as something objective, and not subjectively a part of our lives! As a result, it becomes easy to excuse ourselves from its precepts. Oh, we believe in God — but not really immediately. He — including Christ — becomes sort of like the concept of the earliest Scripture times — a God far off and not near. Even Jesus becomes a figure from history rather than our living Savior truly present to us.

This is not new. It has afflicted even the greatest spiritual giants. For example, Symeon the New Theologian (949-1022 A.D.) once said, "For even if I had looked into the divine Scriptures, which the saints edited and constantly read about these things, I would have received them as though they were about other men or addressed to others. I remained insensitive to all that was written." (The Discourses, XXXV) It was only when a counselor helped him to realize those words were indeed meant for him, personally, that Symeon found them life-changing.

So it must be with us. We need to learn to turn to the Bible as consciously and sincerely — prepared for best by careful prayer — seeking what the Lord wishes our personal commitment to be. It is when we forget history and begin to realize that the Word is for me, for my life, today and must therefore hold my spirit in bondage to its vital truth, that the Bible will become truly life to us! As long as it is history, it is for others, not us! But if we submit in faith and confess, "Thy Word, O God, is Truth," that the Scripture becomes, is life to us. If you find that your Bible reading is really only an intellectual exercise, then consider changing that by praying, "Thy Word, O God, is Truth; now let Thy Word change me — now!" that is when the Word will truly come alive for you — and not until! Think about it! •