

SILVER LININGS



CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

PSWR OLDER ADULT
MINISTRY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER, 2017
VOLUME 7, No. 11

BUYING A NEW CAR FOR AN OLDER DRIVER

In response to a question about helpful resources to assist a parent to buy a new car, Jim Miller, Editor of "Savvy Living," offered the following in the September 15, 2017 issue of his newsletter.

"With more than 40 million licensed drivers in the US, age 65 or older, many automakers are designing vehicles that are more friendly to older drivers. But what makes a good car for seniors? Here's some suggestions from both Consumer Reports and the American Automobile Association.

Consumer Reports recently released its rankings of the top 25 new cars for Senior drivers. Each vehicle on the list offers excellent, or very good ratings, in categories like reliability, safety, road-test performance and owner satisfaction. In addition, many of the vehicles offer a variety of features that are extremely important to older drivers, such as these.

Easy front-seat access: Vehicles with low door thresholds, wider door openings and step-in heights make getting into and out of a car easier for those with physical limitations.

Good Visibility: Being able to see well out of the front, sides and back of a vehicle is important for drivers of all ages and sizes.

Simplified Controls: Easy-to-read gauges and simplified/intuitive controls for changing the radio, shifting gears and adjusting the heating and cooling is a high priority among older adults.

Bright Headlights: Powerful headlights can make driving at night easier for people with decreasing or compromised vision. The rankings also considered extra safety features, standard or optional, like back-up cameras, automatic emergency braking, forward-collision warnings and blind spot warnings.

CR's picks include a variety of compact and midsize sedans and SUV's, two minivans and a station wagon from seven different automakers. Here is the top 25 ranking, starting from the top: Subaru Forester; Subaru Outback; Kia Soul; Subaru Legacy; Kia Sportage; Toyota Highlander; Toyota Prius V; Toyota RAV4; Honda Odyssey; Nissan Rogue; Honda Accord; Ford C-Max Hybrid; Hyundai Sonata; Toyota Camry; Subaru Crosstrek; Toyota Sienna; Honda CR-V Honda Pilot; Kia Forte; Ford Escape; Toyota Corolla; Kia Sorento; Ford Flex; Hyundai Santa Fe; and Hyundai Tucson. For more information, see ConsumerReports.org/elderly-driving/top-25-new-cars-for-senior-drivers.

Another great resource that helps seniors evaluate and choose a vehicle that meets their needs is the AAA online tool: 'Smart Features for Older Drivers.'

At SeniorDriving.AAA.com/SmartFeatures, drivers can check problem areas such as diminished vision, cognitive decline, limited upper body range of motion, decreased leg strength, arthritic hands, weight conditions and height limitations. The tool will identify vehicles that have the features that will best accommodate the driver's needs. Although this tool looks at model-year 2016 vehicles, in many cases the features shown are carried over to 2017 models. They also have a Smart Features brochure you

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CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING

Many Senior Adults find it difficult to go shopping due to health and the lack of transportation. As a result, the challenge of shopping for Christmas gifts for family members and friends can be difficult, if not overwhelming. So consider these alternatives as you contemplate doing your Christmas shopping for 2017.

1. Shop online. Most department stores provide their customers with the opportunity to shop online and will make sure that purchases made online will be delivered in a timely manner.

2. Shop using catalogues. Most people get a host of catalogues from various sources, such as Land's End or L. L. Bean, plus many more. Purchases made from catalogues are guaranteed for delivery before Christmas, even is purchases are made as late as December 22nd.

3. Give gifts in the names of family members and friends that provide needed resources for various ministries and non-profits. This can be done by participating in Alternative Gift Markets or Alternative Gift Fairs. Congregations in many communities, including Disciples' congregations, host these events generally in early November. Your Editor is aware that First Christian Church, Fullerton, will have its annual Alternative Gift Faire on Sunday, November 5 this year. It begins at 11 A.M. and concludes by 1:30 P.M. If your congregation does not host such an event, you're welcome to come to Fullerton. There will also be delicious tri-tip and bratwurst sandwiches to purchase that day. Ministries such as these will be represented: Global Missions, Habitat for Humanity, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Bread for the World, Disciples Volunteering and many more to which you may make a gift. For those who need to give a gift that can be wrapped, Third World Handarts will be present with items for purchase. If you cannot make it to Fullerton, or your congregation does not have such an event, you can contact non-profit organizations of your choice about giving Christmas gifts through them. They will be delighted to assist you in making a monetary gift in someone's name and will provide you with beautiful greeting cards you can send to the persons on your gift list to let them know you've given a gift in their name. So, you are encouraged to look for an Alternative Gift Market in the area where you live. Chances are you will find one, maybe more than one. Thinking about the future, you are encouraged to talk with the members of your congregation about your planning and hosting such an event prior to Christmas 2018!

AN ADDITIONAL WORD

Last month we shared the results of the 2017 Don Shelton Memorial Golf Classic, sponsored by the PSW Region, held on September 18 at the San Dimas Canyon Golf Course in San Dimas. The winning Senior Foursome came from Mill Creek Christian Church, Bakersfield. Congratulations to Mill Creek!

Since that report was shared with you, we have wrapped up the financial aspects of this annual event. The profit generated this year was just in excess of \$20,000. By early November, we will distribute checks in the amount of \$3,333.33 to each of the six ministries that benefit from the PSWR's annual golf tournament. Those ministries are: All Peoples Community Center, Chapman University's DOC Students, Disciples Seminary Foundation; Eastmont Community Center, Project IMPACT and the Regional Church's Summer Camp and Conference Scholarship Fund. Our 2018 tournament is set for September 17.

FEATURED HYMN

NOVEMBER BRINGS US TO THE CELEBRATION OF THANKSGIVING. DO YOU KNOW THIS HYMN?

"LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING A SONG OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD OUR CREATOR TRIUMPHANTLY RAISE; WHO FASHIONED AND MADE US, PROTECTED AND STAYED US, BY GUIDING US ON TO THE END OF OUR DAYS. GOD'S BANNERS ARE O'ER US, PURE LIGHT GOES BEFORE US, A PILLAR OF FIRE SHINING FORTH IN THE NIGHT: TILL SHADOWS HAVE VANISHED, ALL FEARFULNESS BANISHED, AS FORWARD WE TRAVEL FROM LIGHT INTO LIGHT.

BY LAW GOD ENFORCES THE STARS IN THEIR COURSES, THE SUN IN ITS ORBIT OBEDIENTLY SHINE; THE HILLS AND THE MOUNTAINS, THE RIVERS AND FOUNTAINS, THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEANS PROCLAIM GOD DIVINE. WE, TOO, SHOULD BE VOICING OUR LOVE AND REJOICING WITH GLAD ADORATION, A SONG LET US RAISE: TILL ALL THINGS NOW LIVING UNITE IN THANKSGIVING, TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HOSANNA AND PRAISE!"

CONSIDER SINGING THIS HYMN. IT'S #717 IN THE CHALICE HYMNAL.