

# SILVER LININGS



CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

PSWR OLDER ADULT  
MINISTRY COMMITTEE  
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## THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA

This question was posed to Jim Miller, Editor of Savvy Living. The question and his answer appeared in the July 8, 2018 issue.

“What are the differences between Alzheimer’s disease and dementia? My aunt has dementia, but my family members do not know if she has Alzheimer’s disease. This is very confusing to me. Can you help me to understand this?” In response, Miller wrote the paragraphs that follow.

“Many people use the words “Alzheimer’s disease” and “dementia” interchangeably. But, they are not the same conditions. In fact, there is a form of dementia that is completely unrelated to Alzheimer’s disease. Here is what you should know--Dementia versus Alzheimers.

Dementia is a general term for a set of symptoms that includes memory loss, impaired communication skills, a decline in reasoning and changes in behavior. It is typically more common in people over the age of 65.

Alzheimer’s disease is a specific illness that is the most common cause of dementia. Though many diseases can cause dementia--Alzheimer’s--which affects 5.7 million Americans today--accounts for 60% to 80% of dementia cases, which is why you often hear the terms used interchangeably. There are, however, many conditions that can cause symptoms of dementia. Vascular dementia, which is the second most common cause, accounts for about 10% of dementia cases. Vascular dementia is caused by a stroke or poor blood flow to the brain. Other degenerative disorders that can cause dementia include Lewy body dementia, Parkinson’s disease, Frontotemporal dementia, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), Huntington’s disease and Korsakoff Syndrome. Some patients may also have more than one form of dementia. This is known as ‘mixed dementia.’

Dementia is caused by damage to brain cells, but the symptoms can vary depending on the cause. In the case of Alzheimer’s disease, damage is caused by protein fragments, or plaque, that accumulates in the space between nerve cells and twisted tangles of another protein that build up inside cells.

In Alzheimer’s disease, dementia gets progressively worse. It can progress to the point where patients cannot carry out daily activities, speak, respond to their environment, swallow or walk. Although some treatments may temporarily ease symptoms, the downward progression of the disease continues and there is no known cure.

Some forms of dementia, however, are reversible, which is why it’s important to be evaluated by a physician early on. Vitamin deficiencies, thyroid problems, brain tumors, depression, excessive alcohol use, medication side-effects and certain infectious diseases can cause reversible forms of dementia.

Another treatable form of dementia is a condition known as “normal pressure hydrocephalus.” It is caused by a building of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain. This may be relieved by surgically implanting a shunt to drain off excess fluid. This type of dementia is often preceded or accompanied by difficulty in walking and incontinence. (cont)

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**THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ALZHEIMERS AND DEMENTIA (From Page 1)**

To learn more about different types of dementia, including the symptoms, risks, causes and treatments, visit the Alzheimer's Association's website. Using Google, put Alzheimer's Association in the box provided and you'll quickly be shown a link to their website.

**A DATE FOR YOUR CALENDAR, ACTUALLY A COUPLE OF DATES**

The Older Adult Ministry Committee announces that the 2018 Sr. Adults' Retreat for the PSW Region is set for November 1 and 2. Registration forms and information about this event will be mailed out to congregations very soon. In the meantime, save these dates and share them with your Senior Adults.

**AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TRAINING IN SPIRITUALITY AND AGING**

The New Theological Seminary of the West has announced the dates for the 2018 Course that leads participants to receiving the Spirituality and Aging Certificate. We've run these dates in our two most recent issues of "Silver Linings." We hope you have found this information helpful and, more important, if you are one who works with Senior Adults, we hope you will consider register- in to participate. This program begins with a Retreat that is followed by four monthly sessions. Here's the schedule for later this year and into early 2019.

Orientation Retreat, Saturday, September 8, 2018

Course 1: "Aging Defined," Saturday, October 13, 2018

Course 2: "Spirituality and Aging," Saturday, November 10, 2018

Course 3: "Aging in Context," Saturday, January 12, 2019

Course 4: "Spirituality & Organizational Theory, Saturday, February 9, 2019

The location for these sessions will be determined by the registrations that are received. This information will be announced to those who register, as well as to the general public in August.

For more information about this course and/or to register for it, contact the New Theological Seminary of the West. The phone number is: 626-765-9500. Their website is: [www.ntswest.org](http://www.ntswest.org). Their e-mail address is: [info@ntswest.org](mailto:info@ntswest.org). You can also learn more about this program by visiting webpageat: [http:// sccasa.ntswest.org](http://sccasa.ntswest.org). Or Call Doug Edwards, Church Outreach, at 626-756-7170.

**ATTENTION: SENIOR GOLFERS!**

The registration form for the 2018 Don Shelton Memorial Golf Classic was put in the mail on Monday, July 16. If you have played in this event in the past you should have received the registration brochure by now, plus a cover letter from Pat Vannoy, Chairman of the Golf Classic for this year. If you have not yet received a registration form, and you've played in this event before, contact Donna Wood- bridge at First Christian Church, Fullerton. The address is: 109 E. Wilshire Ave- nue, Fullerton, CA. 02832. Or you may call the Church Office and leave a mes- sage for Donna, if she's not there. The phone number is: 714-525-5525. The tournament is set for Monday, September 17 at San Dimas Canyon at 11 A.M.

**FEATURED HYMN**

DISCIPLES USE A LOT OF COMMUNION HYMNS. HAS THIS ONE BEEN SUNG BY YOUR CONGREGA-TION?

"THE VOICE OF JESUS CALLS HIS PEOPLE, 'COME TO MY TABLE AND BE FED!' FOR THOSE WHO COME TO HIM BELIEVING, HE IS THE WINE HE IS THE BREAD. ALL WHO ARE LOST, OR BEAR GREAT BURDENS, ALL WHO NEED COMFORT OR RE- LEASE, COME WHERE THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST JESUS WILL NOURISH US WITH REST AND PEACE.

CHILDREN AND EL- DERS, MEN AND WO- MEN, WHATEVER COLOR, RACE OR TONGUE, IN JESUS FIND THEMSELVES UNITED, IN HIM A HOME WHERE THEY BELONG. WE HEAR YOUR LOVING VOICE, O JESUS, WE LONG, WE HUNGER TO BE FED; IN JOY WE GATHER AT THE TABLE WHERE YOU ARE WINE AND YOU ARE BREAD."

THE TEXT AND THE TUNE FOR THIS HYMN WAS WRITTEN BY JOY F. PATTERSON. IT WAS COPYRIGHT- ED IN 1993, SO IT'S A "NEW HYMN". IT IS ONE YOUR CONGRE- GATION WILL PROB- ABLY ENJOY LEARN- ING. IT'S #426 IN THE CHALICE HYMNAL.