

Musings by Mitchell – May 2018

After a long winter that Mother Nature seemingly wanted to keep around, **SPRING IS HERE!** Yes, she waited until May, but hopefully by the time you receive this, the ice will be melted as well. Yes, I know, some areas may not be thawed, but they can use their ice houses for the Minnesota fishing opener.

Year to date, the 2018 market has been turbulent. As many of you have read and discussed with me as well as other financial pundits, the market probably will continue to be unsettled throughout the year. The volatility comes from many areas. We have strong geopolitical issues, a strong economy that has a rising interest rate environment, a stock market coming off two very good years, and an upcoming mid-term election. Many of these items we have discussed in our meetings. One thing we know is that we don't know what is going to happen tomorrow, and what happened yesterday is no longer relevant. Because of this, we need to ensure we review our financial portfolios, including but not limited to our investments and their allocations, our debt-serving obligations and structures, and our cash reserves. We must stay the course through turbulent investment times by ensuring we have the right investment allocation and diversification for our investment goals and objectives. Turbulent times are often the best times to invest as opportunities arise that normally would not be available. If these opportunities come along, we will review and rebalance them to ensure all our options and tools are being used.

One of the greatest things about springtime is experiencing the growth and regrowth of life in all aspects—growth beginning from nothing, other things growing bigger and strong, some growing older and frail, and unfortunately, others passing to our Father's heaven. Life is a wonderful circle with many ripples and joys throughout it. My family, like many of yours, has celebrated all of life's circles this year. Our family's fourth child, Ms. Ava, is almost five months old now and keeps her parents and siblings on their toes. Our six-year-old twins, Jack and Lily, continue to sprout longer legs and arms while finishing kindergarten in a short month or so. Mr. Henry, at age 11, continues to challenge us with his growth and love. And sadly, we lost our beloved Ms. Sally Marie, our family's 12-year-old golden lab. Sally was never the best hunter, jumper, or other dog with "purebred" traits based on pedigree standards. She was the best at one thing, however—companionship. Like many before and after her, whether animal or human, she had the inherent nature to understand and reflect true nurturing to the ones she loved. She taught our family the meaning of unconditional love and admiration. We will not mourn her passing, but celebrate the life, love, and joy she gave us.

As you open the garage and take stock of the seasonal tools needed for life, don't forget to also look at your financial life's toolbox as well. Having the right tools or replacing those in need of it is a great idea to help you better prepare for up-and-coming tasks and future endeavors. The same should be said for your financial toolbox as well. Before the boats hit the water, the pools open up, and the barbecues are fired up, why not take a little time in May to double-check your financial toolbox and overview it as well. Let's be honest—once summer is here, we simply want to focus on the enjoyment of our fantastic summer weather and the gamut of family and friend activities that come with it.

If you come across a hiccup, a question, or a need, don't hesitate to call us to help you navigate through it. While doing all of this, I would ask you to say "thank you" to others around you and "I love you" to your loved ones.

Life is short, so why not smile and be happy throughout it.

Sincerely,

Mitchell J. Thompson, CFP®
Navigating Clients to Financial Success™