WEEKLY MARKET COMMENTARY

For the Week of September 14, 2015

THE MARKETS

Friday's volume on Wall Street was light. Stocks generally rose amid speculation the Federal Reserve will hold off on an interest rate hike when they meet this week. However, energy shares fell after Goldman Sachs lowered its forecast for oil prices through next year. For the week, the Dow rose 2.13 percent to close at 16,433.09. The S&P gained 2.13 percent to finish at 1,961.05, and the NASDAQ climbed 2.96 percent to end the week at 4,822.34.

Returns Through 09/11/15	1 Week	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Dow Jones Industrials (TR)	2.13	-6.11	-1.25	9.93	12.28
NASDAQ Composite (PR)	2.96	1.82	5.02	15.81	16.55
S&P 500 (TR)	2.13	-3.34	0.22	13.39	14.47
Barclays US Agg Bond (TR)	-0.12	0.67	2.56	1.71	3.21
MSCI EAFE (TR)	2.07	-1.98	-8.19	6.74	5.60

Source: Morningstar.com. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Indexes are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. Three- and five-year returns are annualized. The Dow Jones Industrials, MSCI EAFE, Barclays US Agg Bond and S&P, excluding "1 Week" returns, are based on total return, which is a reflection of return to an investor by reinvesting dividends after the deduction of withholding tax. The NASDAQ is based on price return, which is the capital appreciation of the portfolio, excluding income generated by the assets in the portfolio in the form of interest and dividends. (TR) indicates total return. (PR) indicates price return. MSCI EAFE returns stated in U.S. dollars.

Spooky — Five of the seven worst percentage loss days for the S&P 500 in the last 65 years (i.e., dating back to 1950) occurred during the month of October (source: BTN Research).

Chasing Last Year's Best — An equal investment completed at the end of the trading day on Dec. 31, 2014, in the 10 best performing individual stocks within the S&P 500 from calendar year 2014 is up a collective 1.4 percent YTD through Aug. 31, 2015 (source: BTN Research).

More Than Half the Gain — The total return of the S&P 500 over the last five calendar years (2010-2014) is 105.1 percent (total return). The best 12 trading days during the five years (i.e., 12 days out of 1,258 total trading days) produced a 53.7 percent gain. Thus, 1 percent of trading days over the last five years were responsible for 51 percent of the index's total return (source: BTN Research).

WEEKLY FOCUS – Strategies for Volatile Markets

Market volatility, especially dramatic sell-offs, are unsettling to most of us. Here are a few reassuring facts to help you keep a positive perspective and some precautions that may reduce your risks.

Things to remember**:** Historically, stocks have gone down faster than they have gone up, but they also went up more frequently than they went down. Over the last 100 years, the stock market was up 60 to 65 years and down around 35 years. On average, the market declined one year in three. Over the past century, stocks averaged a 9 to 10 percent annualized gain, while bonds returned 6 to 7 percent, and interest-bearing bank accounts earned 1 – 3 percent.*

Things to do: To ride out the storm, focus more on your goals than the current news. Try not to react emotionally; investors trying to time the market by jumping in and out of it run the risk of selling low and missing periods of exceptional returns. While past performance is not a guarantee of future results, most financial experts recommend adopting a long-term strategy when investing in the stock market.

Turbulent times are a good reminder, however, to review your plan regularly. Consider how well it fits your investment time frame, your need for growth and the level of risk you're willing to take. Is your portfolio diversified adequately? Spreading investments over a variety of classes, assets and markets won't guarantee you won't incur losses, but it may limit them. You may want to make plans now to rebalance some of your holdings when the time is right, or you might view a downturn as an opportune time to purchase some investments at reduced levels.

If you're still working, don't let temporary setbacks discourage you from making regular contributions to your retirement plan. Continue to invest a fixed amount of money at regular periods over the years, and you'll buy more shares of each asset when prices are low and fewer when they are high. Using this technique, your average purchase price should be lower than the average market price over the same period.

Finally, be patient. Although it may take some time, markets generally do rebound. In the meantime, please feel free to call our office and set up a time to review your portfolio to ensure it suits your long-term goals and includes a plan for future market volatility.

**stats from Motley Fool Podcast, "Coping With Market Volatility," posted August 26, 2015*

WEALTH HAPPENS.

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* The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) is an unmanaged group of securities considered to be representative of the stock market in general. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is a price-weighted index of 30 actively traded blue-chip stocks. NASDAQ Composite Index is an unmanaged, market-weighted index of all over-the-counter common stocks traded on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System. The Morgan Stanley Capital International Europe, Australia and Far East Index (MSCI EAFE Index) is a widely recognized benchmark of non-U.S. stock markets. It is an unmanaged index composed of a sample of companies representative of the market structure of 20 European and Pacific Basin countries and includes reinvestment of all dividends. Barclays Capital Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged index comprised of U.S. investment-grade, fixed-rate bond market securities, including government, government agency, corporate and mortgage-backed securities between one and 10 years. Written by Securities America. SAI#1300599.1