



Six Month Market Overview

Is it possible that 2015 is half gone already? It seems we toasted the New Year mere moments ago; now we have time warped directly to summer vacation. When you pack up for that family road trip, throw the Summit Perspective in with your pleasure reading as we offer a quick summary of the top market stories of the last six months. It has been a relatively quiet first two quarters in the markets, much to the disappointment of the financial media, who make their living making mountains out of molehills. Here are a few things you may have heard about in passing as you were busy living life this year:

Diversification Fights Back

Unlike 2014, where the US market roared and most others were flat or negative, this year is shaping up as the year of diversification. While US Markets are posting modest gains (S&P 500 is flat at this writing)¹, international developed markets are posting solid gains. As a result, portfolios with exposure across multiple asset classes are outperforming the U.S. market averages at present. Readers of this newsletter need not be reminded that this is neither a prediction of future nor evidence that this phenomenon should continue. It's merely interesting to note in light of last year's US market superiority.

Interest Rates – Did They Turn?

After falling further in the first two months of the year, it seems that interest rates may be on the rise, despite the Federal Reserve's reluctance to raise short term rates. Using the 10 Year U.S Treasury Note as a measure, interest rates have risen from a low of 1.67% in early February, to over 2.4% at this writing. While these are still historically low rates, it is noteworthy that the rise represents a 40% increase in rates in a short time. Since increasing interest rates have a negative impact on bond prices, fixed income investments have had difficulty posting positive returns in the first half of the year. This is a phenomenon that we have long anticipated – not because

we had a clue about the timing – but merely because the only direction for rates to go was up when they were virtually at zero. It remains to be seen if rates will continue their rise, or creep along as they have over the last few years. Much attention will be paid to the Federal Reserve in the months ahead as pundits debate whether the Fed will raise short term interest rates at all in 2015, raise them once, or even twice before year-end.

Economic Data is Solid

Oil prices (and therefore gasoline) are still relatively low after last year's selloff in the commodities space. This puts more money in the pocket of consumers and recent data² suggests they are starting to spend it a bit. Job creation is continuing at an appropriate pace and we are seeing signs of wage pressure, which signals workers earning more in a tighter job market. For businesses in hot markets like the Bay Area, anecdotal evidence from our client base suggests that the competition for talent is in full swing and hiring is very difficult.

Greece/Europe

It seems that Greece and their ongoing financial struggles dominate the headlines every couple months or so. Each time, the European Union and the International Monetary Fund continue forward after much hand wringing and sabre rattling. Short

“...THIS YEAR IS SHAPING UP AS THE YEAR OF DIVERSIFICATION.”



term traders may enjoy the volatility created by the rumors that a Greek default will somehow have major impacts on the markets, but the long term investor should probably just ignore the noise. Greece's economy doesn't even approach the size of Silicon Valley, much less the total world markets. While headlines from fiscally challenged governments may be part of our existence for a while, we encourage investors to stay the course and let these issues play themselves out. In the last few years there was a debt crisis in the U.S., Cyprus was in trouble, Greece has had several rounds of crisis and Spain and Ireland were all in a fiscal mess. While these issues haven't been fully resolved, the markets have worked out their reaction and moved on.

If you have questions about these items or any other market news that might be on your mind, we invite you to give us a call or stop by for a chat. We hope you enjoy the Summer edition of the Summit Perspective, and your travels lead to some great memories to share when we see you.

Give Blood & Save Lives



Carmen Piggee
Client Services Representative

A tremendous thank you to all who participated in the Summit blood drive on June 29th.

According to the American Red Cross, our drive was very successful! We ended up registering 34 donors and surpassed the collection goal of 20 units of blood. Up to 78 lives will be saved because of our clients, team and centers of influence!

The difference you've made is indescribable for our local hospitals and many patients in need. We appreciate all the hard work and effort that went into making this drive a real success.



Keith Campbell
Operations Manager

Team Spotlight

Jay Gilson, Senior Director



Jay has 35 years of experience working with closely-held businesses, their owners and large family groups. His favorite part of the work is developing meaningful relationships with the client which enhances his ability to help the client reach their goals. His passion is the entirety of the planning landscape where each client presents a unique challenge. Evaluating the options and providing the needed guidance is just plain fun!

Jay is an integral part of Summit's exit and succession planning team as they work with business owners through the process of transition strategies. Jay also lends his technical expertise in collaboration with other tax and legal professionals throughout the process. Being able to speak their language is tremendously helpful in the teamwork necessary between professionals.

Jay's passion outside the office is cycling, where his average ride covers more miles than most of us care to drive in a day! A couple of guys at the office have gotten him hooked on fly fishing, and he and Julie are making it a point to travel more abroad. Jay is a Registered Representative of Securian Financial Services, Inc.

Michael Schomaker, Financial Advisor

After decades of unofficially helping friends and family with financial questions, Michael made the advisory business his career and began helping clients formally. Seventeen years of investment modeling, cash flow management, and strategic planning in corporate America gave Michael important financial knowledge, but it couldn't compare with the personal connection he enjoys with his clients today. Advising clients allows Michael to build strong, trust based relationships where he can make a difference and have a positive lifelong impact.

On the personal front, Michael is making a bid for the "most interesting man at Summit!" He loves the outdoors and takes every opportunity to wakeboard, camp, ski or just hang at the beach. He also rocks the guitar while performing in several local bands, and he served our country as a member of the US Marine Corps and was a champion long range marksman. Michael is a Registered Representative and Investment Advisor Representative of Securian Financial Services, Inc.



Check Out Our New Website!

We have been hard at work and are thrilled to unveil the new site! The goal of the site is to be more user friendly so you can stay up to date on the latest industry news and all the client offerings available for you as a part of the Summit Family.

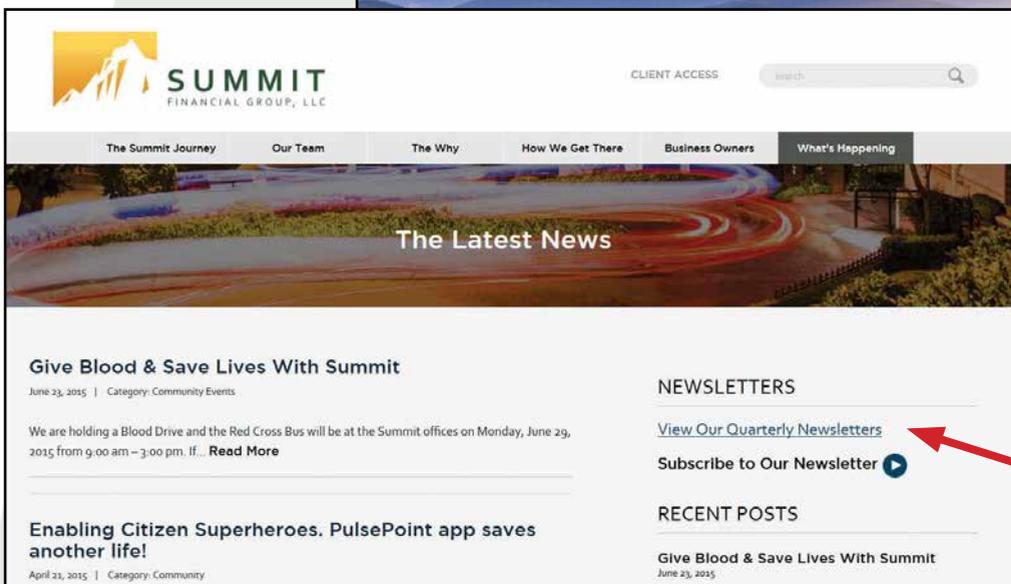
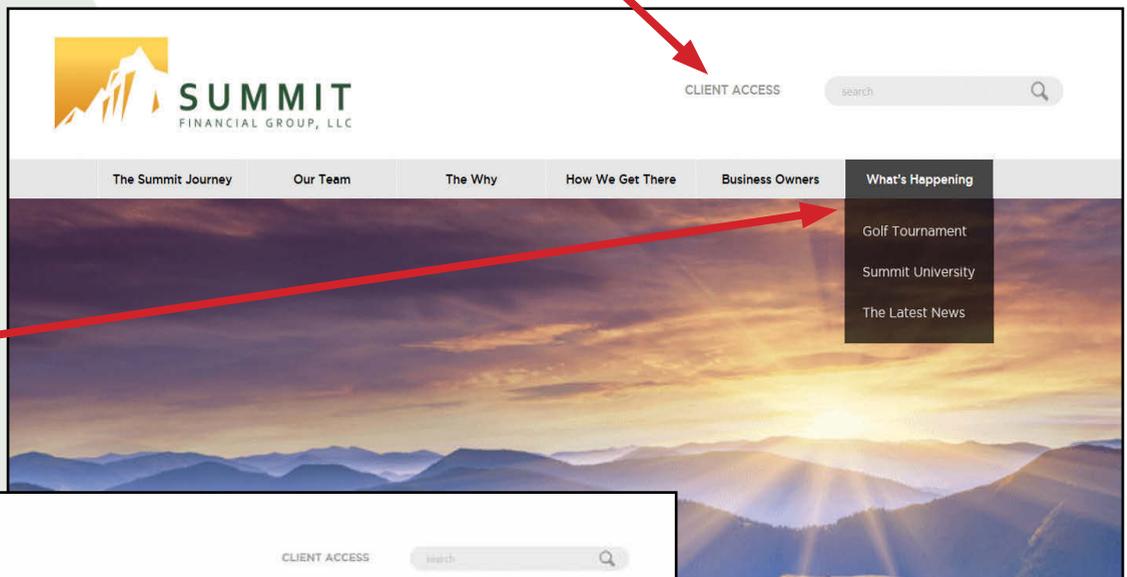
A COUPLE OF THINGS YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT:

ACCOUNT LINKS –

Do you use the Account Links tab on our site to access your personal financial website or Securian Accounts? These links are now found by clicking on Client Access, at the top right of the site.

WHAT'S HAPPENING –

Be sure to check out this section! You will find upcoming Summit events, charitable events, free educational seminars, the latest news, articles, white papers and more.



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER –

If you want to read our current or past issues online, you will find it here. You can also sign up to go green and forego the paper copy.

If you have questions on where to find something or would like a tutorial on the site to make sure you're utilizing all the services Summit has to offer, we would love to chat with you.

Call us at 925.866.7800 or feel free to reach out to your advisor. Happy surfing the new Summit website!

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

All proceeds benefit Surtec Adopt-A-Family

Monday, September 14, 2015

Ruby Hill Golf Club, Livermore

12:00pm - Shot Gun / 5:00pm - Auction / 6:00pm - Dinner & Awards



You don't have to be a golfer to participate in the 2015 Charity Golf Tournament!

SPONSOR

All sponsors will have logo recognition in the Event Program and be a Hole Sponsor with Tee Signage. Please submit your logo by September 1st.

\$3000 ALBATROSS SPONSOR: Includes 8 golfers + 8 additional dinner guests + main listing in Event Program

\$1500 EAGLE SPONSOR: Includes 4 golfers + 4 additional dinner guests

\$1250 BIRDIE SPONSOR: Includes 2 golfers + 2 additional dinner guests

\$750 PAR SPONSOR: Includes 1 golfer + 1 additional dinner guest

\$500 HOLE IN ONE SPONSOR: Tee Signage at Hole In One on course

\$300 BOGIE SPONSOR: Hole Sponsor with Tee Signage

ATTEND

\$200 GOLF REGISTRATION:

Includes round of golf, lunch & dinner

\$50 SUPERTICKET:

Includes 2 Mulligans, 5 Raffle Tickets, a chance to win a Vacation and a chance to take a \$100,000 shot!

\$75 DINNER & AUCTION ONLY



DONATE AN AUCTION ITEM

Do you have sports suites or tickets, wine, travel, gift certificates, etc. that you are able to donate? All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

To register, sponsor, or donate please download the registration form from our website, or contact Jenn Rogers at jenn@summitadvisors.com or 925.866.7800.



Facebook Photo Competition



We are looking for a new background for our Facebook Page. If you like to take photos, we invite you to send in a photograph of a summit. We will pick one to feature as our Facebook background picture.

The first ten entries will get to select a charity to whom Summit will make a \$50 donation! Please send your submission to jenn@summitadvisors.com by August 15th.