

# Opinion/Editorial

## A year after market low, how should you invest?

It's been about a year since stock prices hit their low point during the long bear market. Since then, of course, we've seen a big rally, but some of the decisions you made when the market was at its lowest point may still be affecting your portfolio's performance and prospects. So now that we've reached the one-year anniversary of the market bottom, it's a good time to see where you are today and how you can prepare for tomorrow.

In looking back at the market depths of a year ago, it's important to note that we didn't get there overnight. In fact, stock indexes had fallen about 50% since hitting their all-time high in October 2007, which means investors went through a 16-month downturn. Consequently, it's not surprising that many people, tired of seeing gloomy investment statements month after month, decided to "play it safe" for a while by putting large sums into fixed-rate vehicles such as certificates of deposit (CDs). And a lot of those CDs had one year maturities, which means they're coming up for renewal. If you bought CDs a year ago, you probably did so for their ability to preserve your principal, but in the process you made some trade-offs. First, you accepted a relatively meager income stream, because short-term interest rates, like those paid on your CDs, were low. And second, you relinquished the growth potential you



### Financial Focus

By Lori Fell  
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might have gotten from other investments, such as stocks. So now that we're a year removed from the bottom of a bear market, can you use the money from any maturing CDs to help you make progress toward your financial goals? Actually, if you hold maturing CDs, it's a good time to review your overall investment strategy, possibly with the help of a professional financial advisor.

Take a close look at your portfolio. Is it well-suited for your individual risk tolerance, time horizon and long-term objectives, or should you make some changes? Is it too aggressive for your needs, or too conservative? Is it properly diversified among investments suitable for your situation? While diversification, by itself, cannot guarantee a profit or protect against loss, it can help reduce

the effects of volatility and give you more chances for success. Keep in mind that while CDs are FDIC-insured, other investments carry certain risks that you should understand before investing. Of course, if you hold investments in a brokerage account, it's likely not your only portfolio — you may well be investing through your 401(k) or other employer sponsored retirement plan. If so, keep in mind that you probably don't want your investments to duplicate those inside your 401(k) account. Instead, look at your investment picture "holistically" and seek to diversify your accounts.

Once you've reviewed your portfolio and identified any possible gaps, you can then consider where the money from any maturing CDs can be used most effectively. You probably won't see any festivities marking the one-year anniversary of the market low. But you can celebrate in your own way — by considering available investment opportunities.

*Submitted by Lori Fell, Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Lori will be opening an office in Leslie Spring 2010 and is currently working out of the Mason office. Call Lori at (517) 392-5320.*

## Understanding the purpose of pain 'gives value to experience'

People are fascinating creatures. Scurrying from place to place, from this thing to that, each in their own way, but there is a rhythm to life. Then my eye catches a change in that rhythm as a man hobbles or limps, or shuffles through the maze. He is in pain, and that pain changes the rhythm of things. That syncopation now has become the norm as individuals, families, businesses, whole communities, even countries reel in agony. We are in pain, and each one in their own way runs to find some sort of "pain reliever" only to realize it doesn't last, or it doesn't help.

As one who has lived in pain most of my life, let me share an insight into pain that makes a difference. Understand the three-fold purpose of pain. (1) Pain corrects us. As we experience the unpleasantness of pain, our natural response is to do whatever necessary to escape the present pain,



### From this side

By Terry French  
Pastor  
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and avoid future pain. (2) Pain connects us. Every painful experience connects us with others who have experienced the same thing. Support groups help us to see, help us to accept, or help us to overcome. (3) Pain also exposes us. Pain has a way of revealing the naked nature of our character because it strips away the façade. I've

heard things come out of my mouth that I didn't know were in my heart. Why? Because I was in pain...

I have a "friend" who lost his seven sons and three beautiful daughters in a terrible accident. At the same time he lost his business, his house and all of his possessions. Almost immediately he lost his health, and sitting upon the rubbish heaps of his ruined life, Job said of God, "when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

Not everything in life is pleasant. Pain certainly is not, but it has purpose. Understanding its purpose gives value to the experience.

You're gonna love your NEW LIFE

*Terry French is the pastor at New Life Fellowship in Leslie. He writes a weekly editorial for The Leslie Weekly Guardian. He can be reached by e-mail at [pastortrf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastortrf@sbcglobal.net).*

## Letter to the Editor — Deann Maynard thanks community

I want to take a moment to thank the community for electing me to the Leslie Board of Education. Now that the campaign signs are down and the community has elected two new faces to the Leslie Board of Education, it is time to change our focus from the election to the future of Leslie Public Schools and this community.

It is time to start the healing process. We all need to stand together for our children. There should be no sides or alliances, we need to work together to do what is best for our children.

I truly believe that it will take the community, teachers, and the school board working together to make a difference. I want to encourage our community to get involved. As a mom with busy children, I know how hard it is to find the time, but getting involved does not mean that you

have to attend every board meeting or join every committee. Getting involved can be as simple sending an e-mail. It is important to know how our community feels about our school district. Our community's ideas are important to me. Feel free to contact me when you have a concern or idea for our district. I was elected to represent this community, and I want the community to feel comfortable expressing their ideas or concerns about our school district, no matter how big or small.

Please email me and let me know your ideas at [deann\\_maynard@hotmail.com](mailto:deann_maynard@hotmail.com).

Thank you for electing me.

Deann Maynard  
Leslie, MI

### Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor are welcome to be submitted to *The Leslie Weekly Guardian*. All letters should be no more than 300 words long. Please include the writer's name, e-mail address and phone number for confirmation before printing. Only the writer's name will be published with the letter. Typed letters are preferred for accuracy. **All submitted letters are subject to editing and become property of *The Leslie Weekly Guardian*.**

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