

# STRATEGIC STEWARDSHIP

*Guiding You Through Life's Transitions*



March/April 2019

## Security is a Concern For All of Us



### Is your email secure?

Many of us routinely use email and don't think twice about sending information, documents, or even pictures that contain information we might not want to be public. However, in today's world it seems more and more likely that someone might be getting access to that information somewhere in the email chain, either from the sender or the receiver.

We want to let you know that your emails to and from Strategic Stewardship are secure. All messages that we send to you are encrypted so that when they travel from us to you, the encryption prevents someone from reading them along the way. For most of you, this will be transparent as your email provider supports modernized encryption security. However, not all providers do, so you might get an email that says you have a Secure Message and requests you to sign in to retrieve your email. You will get a separate email the first time with a unique password for you. While we apologize for any extra effort it takes for you to access our emails, please know it is for your security.

### Sending a document to us

If you need to send documents to us we prefer that you use our online secure dropbox that you can access as follows:

- Got to our website: [www.strategicsteward.com](http://www.strategicsteward.com)
- At the top of the page you will see a drop down for **Client Access**
- When you hover your mouse cursor over Client Access you will get two options, choose the lower option "**Client Secure File Upload**"
- On the next page you will see a blue [HERE](#) link to click which will take you to the page to put in your information and upload your document or documents.
- We will be notified that there is a document uploaded and can retrieve it securely.

### Freeze your credit

And speaking of making your life more secure, have you frozen your credit at all three credit bureaus? This is one of the easiest and quickest things you can do to prevent someone from opening credit in your name. If you are worried about companies needing access to your credit score it is relatively easy and painless to unfreeze your credit for a period of time at the specific credit bureau where they want to check. Then it automatically goes back to frozen when that time period is over.

Consumer advocate Clark Howard has easy step by step instructions on his website. Just Google Clark Howard Credit Freeze.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the steps Strategic Stewardship and Kestra Investment Services, LLC takes to protect your privacy and sensitive information, please give us a call at 678-888-0419.



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### • A Mission To Serve •

- Advisors offering wealth management advice and services with excellence
- Creating close relationships with our clients on a long-term basis
- Encouraging the charitable and stewardship aspirations of our clients for the wealth that has been entrusted to them

## 6 Principles for Financial Success

### Principle #1: Spend Less than You Earn by Michael Pemberton

*With this newsletter, we are beginning a six-part series by our own Michael Pemberton on Six Principles for Financial Success that all of our advisors emphasize repeatedly (with ourselves and) with our clients. The first article is about spending less than you earn and developing a spending plan.*



**After the financial crisis in 2008**, Ron Blue, the founder of Kingdom Advisors, was asked by a Senate Subcommittee to testify about what the average American family should do in the current economy. One of the main points that Ron made was that “Americans should spend less than they earn”. Consistently following a spending plan each month is the key to accomplishing this goal. Sounds simple, right? Simple but hard to do! It’s hard because we haven’t developed the habit. Below are five steps to develop the habit of following a spending plan each month. The benefits of this habit formation are debt elimination, better communication with your spouse about money, more savings, and more giving!

**Pray and ask God for help** Jesus said “apart from Him we can do nothing” (John 15:5). God made all of us to know and have a loving relationship with Him. He wants to guide us in our financial decision making! We just need to invite Him to help us. Ask God to help you each day to be disciplined and intentional with your spending. I often pray this and I’ve found is that God is faithful!

**Pick your system** Will you use Mint.com, Quicken, spreadsheets, an envelope system, or the handwritten method? The system you choose needs to be one that you know (or can easily learn) and are comfortable with.

**Set a time weekly to track your progress** After choosing the system, set a plan for what days during the month you will track your spending against your plan amount (for resources on how to set up a spending plan see below). I update our finances every Friday morning. It takes me around 10-15 minutes. Once the update is complete, I send a report on how much we’ve spent against plan to my wife. This allows us to correct any errors that I make that she sees and remind ourselves of how much is left for the rest of the month. We used to do this twice a month, and found it was too overwhelming and we couldn’t track our spending as well. Weekly allows you to stay on top of everything.

**Realize this is going to hurt before it gets easier** Each January, tens of thousands of people sign up for gym memberships. Their resolution is to get in shape. Then each February most of those people aren’t in the gym anymore. Building a habit of working out or tracking your finances isn’t easy.

**Remind yourself of the benefits** The benefits of spending less than you earn are numerous. We’re able to give to help more people. We’re able to save more and get out of debt. Most of all we can experience the joy of pleasing God in stewarding His resources!

Know that you can faithfully track your spending plan. This is what God wants for you and with His help anything can be done. Building this habit will impact your intimacy with God and also be a huge blessing to your family!

## Bring Your Estate Plan Into the 21st Century

You know your estate plan accounts for your physical assets, such as real estate and vehicles. But does it cover digital assets such as email and online bank accounts? If you don't include digital assets in your estate plan, your estate's executor and your family members may have difficulty accessing them without going to court.

### Defining Digital Assets

Digital assets include email accounts, online bank and brokerage accounts, online photo galleries, digital music and book collections, and accounts with social networks like Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

For business, digital assets might include websites, domain names, client and other databases, electronic invoices, email correspondence, and a variety of important records and documents that are stored electronically on the company's servers or on a web-based storage site.

### Assessing Negative Outcomes

Traditionally, when a loved one dies, family members go through his or her home to look for personal and business documents. Today, however, many of these items don't exist in hard copy. Unless your estate plan addresses your digital assets, how will your family know where to find or access them?

Suppose, for example that you opened a brokerage account online and elected to receive all of your statements electronically. Typically, the institution sends you an email - which you may or may not save - alerting you that the current statement is available. You log on to the institution's website and view your statement, which you may not download to your computer. If something were to happen to you, would your family or executor know that this account exists? Perhaps you save all of your statements and correspondence related to the account on your computer. But would your representatives know where to find them? And if your computer is password protected, how would they get in?

Even if your family knows about a digital asset, they'll also need the username and password to access it. If they don't have that information, they'll need a court order to access the asset. This can be a time-consuming process - and delays may cause irreparable damage, particularly when a business is involved. If your representatives lack access to your business email account, for example, important requests from customers might be ignored, resulting in lost business.

### Implementing Planning Solutions

The first step is to conduct an inventory of all your digital assets, including any computers, servers, handheld devices, websites or other places where these assets are stored. Next, talk with your estate planning advisor about strategies for ensuring that your representatives have immediate access to these assets in the event something happens to you.

Although you might want to provide in your will for the disposition of certain digital assets, a will isn't the place to list passwords or other confidential information. A will is a public document and amending it each time you change a password simply isn't practical.

The best solution at this time is to establish a master password that gives your representative access to a list of passwords for all your important accounts, either on your computer or through a web-based "password vault."

### Using Online Tools

Another option is to use an online service designed for digital asset estate planning. Popular services include Entrustet, AssetLock or VitalLock. Each service established procedures for releasing passwords and other information about digital assets to a designated beneficiary in the event that you die or become incapacitated. Some require a death certificate or other confirmation, while others send you periodic emails and release information to your designated representative if you fail to respond to the emails.

### Addressing Ownership

The strategies outlined here help your representatives identify and gain access to digital assets after you're gone. But it's also important for your estate plan to deal with ownership issues involving digital assets. This can be done in your will. Or you can set up a trust that provides the trustee with the authority to manage digital assets and transfer them to your beneficiaries according to your wishes.

### Rolling With the Changes

Your estate plan shouldn't be a static document. Review and revise it regularly to address major life changes and, in the case of digital assets, technological advances. Your estate planning advisor can help you update your plan.



www.strategicsteward.com

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## Could Working a Little After 70 Become Routine?

Some baby boomers and Gen Xers hope that they can work into their seventies. Is that hope unfounded? It may not be. Consider the nation's shifting generational demographics, and how they may reshape the workforce.

In 2035, Americans older than 65 will outnumber Americans younger than 18 for the first time, and by the mid-2030s, the percentage of physically demanding jobs may be lower than it is now. Jobs in information and service technologies could predominate – an ideal environment for highly educated adults who see no reason to stop being productive. Many of these seniors will be aware that the longer you can put off claiming Social Security in your sixties, the larger the monthly benefits are expected to be – currently, they are projected to be as much as 75% larger when claimed at the latest possible age of 70 versus age 62. Evidence suggests that the population of employed Americans is already skewing older. As a *Forbes* article notes, the percentage of working men aged 65-69 increased 10% from 1995 to 2016; for women aged 65-69, the increase was 12%. Once again, baby boomers could defy expectations.<sup>1</sup>

1- [forbes.com/sites/kerryhannon/2019/03/04/reimagining-retirement-with-purpose-and-a-paycheck](https://forbes.com/sites/kerryhannon/2019/03/04/reimagining-retirement-with-purpose-and-a-paycheck) [3/4/19]

## Pimiento Cheese Sausage Balls

*A variation on an old favorite!*

- 1 pound pork breakfast sausage (I like Jimmy Dean or Swaggerty's)
- 12 oz. Palmetto Cheese or pimiento cheese of choice (or blend of cheeses)
- 2 ¼ cup Bisquick
- Dash of paprika and red pepper

If you don't eat pork, you can substitute turkey sausage. It works just as well! If you're using turkey sausage, add 1-2 tbsp oil to make up for the fat.

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
2. Add sausage and pimiento cheese to a large mixing bowl. Mix to combine.
3. Add Bisquick and spices (if using). Knead with hands until it's all combined into a large ball.
4. Scoop and roll into 1-inch balls.
5. Place sausage balls on a baking sheet lightly sprayed with cooking spray, or lined with a silicone baking mat. You can keep them closer together since they don't spread.
6. Bake for 15-18 minutes, until they're golden brown on top.

Store in air-tight container or zip-lock bag in the refrigerator for up to a week.

