

# BURKETT FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC

*Registered Investment Advisor*



## 2009 4th Quarter Report

### ***IT WAS A ROLLCOASTER, BUT A GOOD ONE...***

Who would have ever thought 2009 would end like it did based upon its beginning? January through March continued an economic slide that started in late 2007 and accelerated in 2008 accompanied by steep losses across all asset classes, i.e. stocks, bonds, commodities, real estate and pretty much everything but cash. Then even quicker than it dropped in early 2009, it rebounded sharply to post the largest percentage gain in stocks since 2003 with the Dow up 24%, the S&P up 19% and the NASDAQ up 45%.

In recent readings, everyone has a prediction for the coming year or the coming decade and typically they are just that – predictions. While neither we nor anyone else knows what will happen in 2010, our thoughts are as follow:

- A slower economic growth than in years past but growth nonetheless
- Job creation but still an abnormally high unemployment figure falling below double digits by later summer
- No inflation in 2010, as the Fed continues to keep interest rates low, but portfolio repositioning for potentially higher inflation in 5 – 8 years
- Low interest rates by historical standards but higher than seen in 2009

In hindsight, it is enjoyable to look at what someone said would happen and compare it to what did happen. This discrepancy between expectations

and reality is why we do not let the expectations and emotions (even ours) govern our investment and financial planning decisions. We build a portfolio based upon individual risk tolerances, cash flow needs and time and make changes to the portfolio as needed on those factors. We could write a multiple page letter on our thoughts but our thoughts don't control what will happen but only how we approach what we think will happen. As such and suffice it to say, it was a great 2009 and our expectations are for a positive return in the equity markets for 2010 but

likely in the low to mid single digits but without the ups and downs seen in 2009. We would be very happy with a mild, boring and normal up year.

If we don't have your email address(es), please provide it or them to us as well as any new or updated cell numbers. This gives us the ability to serve you better and more efficiently. You can email this data to Neil at [neilb@burkettfs.com](mailto:neilb@burkettfs.com) or

Carolyn at [cadkins@burkettfs.com](mailto:cadkins@burkettfs.com). You may also call Carolyn in Rock Hill at (803) 980-3232 or call the Columbia office at (803) 980-3232 and ask to be transferred to Carolyn.

As always, thank you for choosing us to provide you with financial planning and investment management. Please call us to schedule a meeting or simply call us to talk about matters.

~ Burkett Financial Services, LLC

