

Proactive Gratitude

By Chase Kerby, CFP®, AIF®

My family's Thanksgiving celebrations have always been as traditional as an American holiday can be. There is turkey and stuffing, football on television, and my sister Chelsea challenging me to break the wishbone. Of course, I have heard of other families doing alternative Thanksgiving meals like Chinese food or Waffle House, but I would fear for the poor soul that would ever suggest that to my mother.

One tradition that I've come to appreciate more as I've gotten older is going around the table to say what we are thankful for in our lives. I remember as a child being annoyed by this ritual. As soon as it started, I would quickly rack my brain for something to say that I indeed was thankful for but would also not make me sound foolish in front of dozens of older relatives once it finally came to be my turn.

This year I have more than a few seconds to consider what I am thankful for, so I hope to offer a more articulate answer than I did in those days. Personally, I have a lot to be grateful for in my life. I have my health, a wonderful family, and a career that is both challenging and rewarding. Many of these things are entirely out of my control, but others are a direct result of choices I made in the past.

My goal this year is to reflect and be thankful for those particular actions that got me here. However, I also want to spend time looking forward at the decisions I have in front of me that will be part of my future Thanksgiving reflection.



The Kerby kids with their spouses and children



2022 Contribution and Benefit Limits

Hannah Whatley, earns AIF®



Hannah Whatley, CFP® of Rather & Kittrell, has been awarded the Accredited Investment Fiduciary® (AIF®) designation from Fiduciary 360 (fi360). Fiduciary 360 is an organization offering training, tools and resources to promote a culture of fiduciary responsibility and improve the decision making processes of fiduciaries. The AIF designation signifies knowledge of fiduciary responsibility and the ability to implement policies and procedures that meet a defined standard of care.

Fi360 is the first full-time training and research facility for fiduciaries, and conducts training programs at universities throughout the United States and abroad. In addition to the AIF, fi360 also offers the Accredited Investment Fiduciary Analyst™ designation, making those who earn the designation are recognized professionals, trained to perform fiduciary assessments which measure how well investment professionals are fulfilling the fiduciary duties required of them by the applicable investment legislation, case law and regulatory opinion letters.

For 401(k) and other qualified plans:

401(k), 457, and 403(b) max annual elective deferral limit: \$20,500

401(k), 457, and 403(b) plan catch-up contribution limit: \$6,500

Defined Contribution Plan annual limit:
Lesser of \$61,000 and 100% of compensation.

SIMPLE Plan contribution limit: \$3,000

Traditional & Roth IRA contribution limit: Lesser of \$6,000 and 100% of compensation

Traditional & Roth IRA catch-up contribution limit: \$1,000

Defined Benefit Plan annual limit under IRS Section 415: \$245,000

Annual allowable compensation limit for deduction, benefit, and contribution purposes:
\$305,000

Highly compensated employee: \$135,000

Key employee (top-heavy plan): \$200,000

Social Security Wage Base: \$147,000

For full details on limits, visit the IRS website. Annual contribution rates are based on the IRS 2021 limitations and are subject to change.



It's Tailgate Time in Tennessee!



Or, at least it was at the Farragut Professional Park in November, as RK hosted a lunchtime tailgate party for the entire office park.

The afternoon was filled with burgers, dogs, cookies, cornhole, and camaraderie.

Excellent food was served by Mike's Fried Green Tomatoes Food Truck. They are available at 865-237-7998.

A good time was had by all, even our lone Kentucky fan, Daniel Maupin (far right), who was much less happy on Saturday! Go Vols!

5 Questions with Crystal Meldrum



Wedding day for John & Crystal.

Crystal is a Client Service Manager with Rather & Kittrell. She has worked in the financial services industry since 2000. Crystal focuses on Client Service in order to connect with clients, advisory staff, and custodians to ensure that our clients receive the most efficient, cost effective, and accurate services the Rather & Kittrell team can offer.

You've been at RK for 16 years. What changes have you seen during your time here?

New offices, new people, and new processes, but always the same intent to do what is best for our clients.

What is your role in serving RK clients?

I get the pleasure of connecting with the clients

for the purposes of making their experience with our team as smooth, effective, and efficient as possible. I try to be the easy button in an industry that can be very overwhelming for some people.

Tell me about the Brittany Johnson Golf Challenge that you started.

The Golf Challenge is a fundraising event we host annually to fund The Brittany Johnson Memorial Scholarship fund. My daughter Brittany Johnson loved people and she loved helping others. People often say to "Love Like Britt". So, the best way I could find to extend her loving spirit is to create a scholarship that provides opportunities for students to attend college in her name. The golf event is one of two events and it is by far the largest funding vehicle. We have been blessed with approximately 80 participants each year and we have 25 volunteers that donate their time and efforts in Britt's memory.

You have played, coached, and been involved with basketball most of your life. What's your favorite basketball memory?

I have lots of memories, but one stands out just because it displays an incredible heart and competitive spirit that you just cannot teach or manufacture. Several years ago I was watching my daughter Hailey play for her TN Fury team. It was a very competitive game against a big rival. Hailey was asked to foul the player to stop the clock. She stopped the player alright! She dove for the ball and the offensive player's knee connected with Hailey's nose. Coach Hodge ran over to Hailey on the court as her nose started to pour blood, and before he could get it stopped, she was asking him "Can I still play?" That was the first thing Coach Hodge told me when I went to check on her. That memory is a great example of the person Hailey has grown to be. She makes her momma very proud!



Crystal with her youngest daughter, Hailey

Best piece of advice you've ever received?

Do everything as if you are doing it for the Lord. He's always watching and you're always His daughter.

Crystal Meldrum is a Client Service Manager with Rather & Kittrell. Crystal is available at cmeldrum@rkcapital.com.

Happy Thanksgiving from Rather & Kittrell



- *What if today we were just grateful for everything? – Charlie Brown*
- *We must find time to stop and thank people who make a difference in our lives –John F Kennedy*
- *Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance. –Eckhart Tolle*
- *The secret to a great thanksgiving dinner is to have someone else make it. – Anonymous*
- *I am thankful for nights that turned into mornings, friends that turned into family, and dreams that turned into reality. – Unknown*

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Alex and Chase Kerby with Maple

Today, I am thankful for my health. But, how do I work to maintain healthy habits?

I am also thankful for my family's holiday traditions. Is there a new one I would like to start?

I am thankful for special people in my life. Not just the ones at my Thanksgiving table but friends and mentors too.

What is something I can do for them now to show how much they mean to me?

This Thanksgiving, I am choosing proactive gratitude. This exercise has taught me that many things we are thankful for are more within our control than we may think, and there is a real impact in living a more intentional and thoughtful life. I encourage you to spend a little time this season reflecting on what you are personally thankful for, plan a few actions in the future you will appreciate, and be prepared with a good answer when it makes it to your turn at the table.

Chase Kerby, CFP®, AIF® is an Advisor with [Rather & Kittrell](#). Chase can be reached at ckerby@rkcapital.com.



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We act as our client's family CFO to make certain their financial resources are aligned to address any key financial concerns and to assist them in financial education for future generations.

We desire to assist clients by preserving their wealth, mitigating income taxes, guiding wealth transfer planning, protecting assets from being unjustly taken, making an impact with charitable giving, and ensuring collaboration among their trusted advisors.