



A Note from Executive Director, Lisa Zimmers

A Fresh Season

March brought us Spring and the return of Cincinnati Reds baseball. These two seasons mean a lot to many people. At my house, the arrival of daylight savings time is a much-anticipated date, and it is celebrated. Moods lift and goals get set. The school year starts to wind down and we're thinking about upcoming vacations.

The Reds get a clean slate with each new season. We recently hosted legendary radio announcer Marty Brennaman at Twin Lakes. He took time to sign memorabilia, pose for photos and chat about the upcoming season. My son, Shayne, is an avid Cincinnati Reds fan. I've heard all the injury reports, suspensions and expected stars from him this preseason. Thanks to Shayne, I knew plenty to hold my own during my brief conversation with Marty.

Unfortunately, the Reds have had a couple of star players sustain significant injuries in the preseason and one highly anticipated rookie has been suspended for performance enhancing drug use. As Marty and I concluded our conversation, he said, "tell your son to keep the faith." Keeping the faith is sometimes difficult. It's easy to have faith when things are certain, but certainty isn't what faith is built on. Faith is confidently believing in something even when things aren't going well. We often associate faith with religion. Ultimately, we're left to rely on our personal beliefs. Faith is more than hope. It's a fundamental piece of our core. It's important to have both faith and hope.

While I was out last month visiting my daughter and granddaughter who recently moved out of state, a dear friend who lives in the area had a major medical event. We went from meeting for dinner to getting updates from his spouse in a matter of minutes. It all changed in an instant. Our minds were racing about what could be happening. He had spontaneously started having convulsions. This was not something he had ever experienced in the past and it was major. After several days of treatment with IV antibiotics, MRIs, labs, EEG, EKG, and other diagnostic tests, the convulsions had stopped, and he was discharged home. Alarming and peculiar for a 51-year-old fit and healthy man. Praise God the things that were going through my mind were ruled out. I'm continuing to pray that this was an isolated event without a larger underlying problem.

We have the chance to have a clean slate each and every day. It doesn't have to be a change in the calendar, temperature, season or even a medical emergency. Having a clean slate doesn't mean all of our misjudgments are gone or we don't have to reap what we've sown in the days before. Each day is a gift. Each trip to the grocery store, each step on our path, each phone call or email, we have the opportunity to begin fresh. We're at an advantage if we learned from our missteps of yesterday. We're blessed to live in a community where grace is given for our mistakes.

Blessings to each of you,

Lisa