

WINTER 2025

# EUKARYA

VOX CIVITATIS: THE MAGAZINE OF EUKARYA FAMILY CENTER



## LIVE LIKE LIONS

INSIDE: TO FORM A LION <sup>8</sup> VIRTUE IN LITERATURE <sup>10</sup> CULTIVATING SERVICE <sup>14</sup>

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

# Virtue in a Shifting Culture

“ **H**ow should we then live?” Francis Schaeffer asked in his landmark book. He observed that when a culture loses its grounding in truth, it drifts into confusion and despair. In a culture where living openly as Christians can invite opposition, this question feels especially urgent.

Schaeffer reminds us that “the Christian is called upon to be a demonstration, in our day, of the existence of God and His character.” This is our calling at Eukarya Family Center: to disciple individuals, strengthen families, transform communities, and impact the world for Christ and His Kingdom. It is why our school’s motto is *Live Like Lions*.

Each letter in “LIONS” represents a virtue flowing from God’s heart: Love, Integrity, Obedience, Nobility, and Service. These are more than ideals; they are our way of life. To *Live Like Lions* is to live with courage and clarity, not in fear of culture’s disapproval, but in faithfulness to Christ.

In this issue of *Vox Civitatis*, you’ll see how these virtues shape every aspect of our work. At **Eukarya Christian Academy**, our English literature dual-enrollment

class equips students to see God’s greater story woven into classic works. Across the Academy, teachers are forming students not only in knowledge but also in virtue. **King’s Cubs Christian Daycare** introduces even our youngest learners to lives of love and obedience. Through **Eukarya Connect**, love and service extend into our communities and the world. **Beacon Hill Christian Counseling** shows how integrity and love are vital in healing and relationships.

Schaeffer urged believers to return to Biblical truth, warning that without it, culture yields freedom and dignity to confusion and control. “True spirituality,” he writes, “means that the Lordship of Christ covers all of life and all of our lives.” This is the heartbeat of *Live Like Lions*.

As you read this edition, may you be encouraged to live differently—to bear witness to Christ through Love, Integrity, Obedience, Nobility, and Service, not as empty ideals, but as a natural response to His lavish love.



Joanie Hughes  
Executive Director,  
Eukarya Family Center

## HELP EUKARYA LIVE LIKE LIONS

In each issue of *Vox Civitatis*, I share a few of Eukarya’s most urgent funding needs for your consideration. As we continue to improve our home on Aylor Road, we have identified several major projects that will immediately and meaningfully strengthen students’ time at our school:

- **Playground Equipment** (\$41,000): The playground is a space where our youngest Lions move, take healthy risks, and support each other. Planned upgrades include more swings, a merry-go-round, new climbing structures, and classic seesaws.
- **Gym Floor & Wall Cushions** (\$35,000): Our gym is one of the first spaces visitors see, and where we gather for all-school activities. Replacing the remaining “Aylor” branding with Eukarya Lions logos and upgraded wall padding will make the gym safer, more welcoming, and fully our own.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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# Vox Civitatis

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**Vox Civitatis**, which means “Voice of the People,” shares stories and reports that reflect the voices of the community and ministries of Eukarya Family Center.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

**Sarah Hyland**

EDITORS

**Melanie Hildreth**  
**Joanie Hughes**

DESIGNER

**Sarah Hyland**

CONTRIBUTORS

**Emily Beck**  
**Amy Donnelly**  
**Melanie Hildreth**  
**Kim Hyland**  
**Sarah Hyland**  
**Paige Tighe**  
**Lorri VanDerLinden**

PHOTOGRAPHERS

**Benjamin Hughes**  
**Sarah Hyland**  
**Hilary Hyland**

BOARD MEMBERS

**Joanie Hughes**, Executive Director  
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**Arlene Smith**, Secretary  
**James Butcher**  
**Paul Hughes**  
**Jessica Oplak**  
**Billy Vanscoy**

CONTACT THE  
VOX CIVITATIS STAFF:

[communications@eukaryafamilycenter.com](mailto:communications@eukaryafamilycenter.com)

Vox Civitatis is an official publication of Eukarya Family Center and is produced by the Development and Marketing Office for the alumni, friends, and supporters of EFC.

# L I V E

## CONTENTS

### 2. Director's Letter

Living Like Lions: embracing the virtues of love, integrity, obedience, nobility, and service to faithfully impact a culture in need of Christ.

### 4. News & Notes

From events and sports to launching new programs and celebrating growth, this season showcased the liveliness of EFC.

### 8. To Form a Lion

Eukarya shapes students from the inside out, placing virtue at the heart of learning to form Lions, not just achievers.

### 10. Live Like Lions in Literature

Students explore classic literature through a Biblical worldview, discovering how stories shape character and virtue.

### 14. Cultivating Service

Through hands-on agricultural education, Eukarya students cultivate faith, character, and a spirit of service while caring for God's creation.

### 16. By the Numbers

Amid rising pressures on families, Eukarya Family Center continues to grow, providing support, hope, and a sense of belonging for the whole family.

### 17. Courage, Dear Heart

True virtue is cultivated quietly through daily acts of courage, love, and integrity, even when no one is watching.

### 19. Driven by Integrity

Marlow Automotive Group has spent 75+ years growing with integrity and creativity, giving back to the community through acts of service and kindness.

# NEWS & NOTES



## Equipping the Next Generation

BY MELANIE HILDRETH

Nearly 400 parents, grandparents, educators, and students came together at Fellowship Bible Church on October 30, 2025, for EQUIP: Empowering the Next Generation, hosted by Eukarya Family Center and featuring Dr. Jeff Myers, President of Summit Ministries.

Dr. Myers shared practical wisdom and hope as he tackled the topic of why more than two-thirds of young adults walk away from the church after graduation. His remarks focused on what we can learn from the 30% who stay. He talked through research that shows that young

people thrive in their faith when they (1) build firm convictions through a biblical worldview that speaks to real-life challenges, (2) have mentors who show it's possible to live out that faith in everyday life, and (3) are surrounded by a caring community that shares their values.

The evening was a powerful reminder of why we do what we do at Eukarya: walk alongside families, nurture faith that lasts, and raise up a generation of young people who love God and live with courage and conviction.

**“At Eukarya, we believe this is a generation worth fighting for.”**

-JOANIE HUGHES



Discover the impact of Summit Ministries' curriculum at Eukarya Christian Academy—scan QR code to hear from students, teachers, and families.



# Biblical Worldview Immersion at Eukarya

BY KIM HYLAND

You don't have to be at Eukarya very long to know that biblical worldview formation is a pillar of our school. But did you know that this essential pillar extends beyond our worldview classes?

As the title of this column suggests, the goal of our program is not simply worldview education. It is to immerse our students in a way of thinking that teaches them to consider every aspect of their education and life through the lens of a biblical worldview.

We begin this process by teaching 20 biblical truths in our K-5 classes and continue to teach the truth claims of Christianity all the way through high school. But we don't stop there! The goal is that biblical worldview education will permeate every aspect of our students' experience at Eukarya, as teachers help them to view science, history, and all subjects through the truth of Scripture.

Even our hallways immerse our students. As they walkdown Amare (love), Integritas (integrity), Obsequium (obedience), Nobilis (nobility), or Servitium (service), they're reminded of the virtues that define our school culture through Scripture verses that embody those virtues.

We understand that the truth claims of our faith are the pillars that form our hearts and habits and that uphold Christian character. With this in mind, teachers at Eukarya are continually trained to help students make the necessary connections between these vital truths and the daily life choices that make a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. This process is a sacred duty and we are privileged to be part of it.

By immersing them in the biblical worldview, we are prayerfully equipping Eukarya graduates to continue to grow as disciples of Jesus and to influence others for the Kingdom of God.

## Growing Virtues, One Week at a Time

This summer and fall, Eukarya King's Cubs filled themed weeks with Scripture, hands-on activities, and plenty of playful learning. Children explored stories, crafts, and games designed to bring lessons to life, giving them real opportunities to practice virtues like kindness, courage, and integrity. Through fun and discovery, each week helped little hearts and minds grow, nurturing character alongside curiosity.



# Our Outreach in Action

BY SARAH HYLAND

This past summer, Eukarya Family Center officially launched Eukarya Connect, the outreach and missions branch of Eukarya Family Center.

Through acts of service, discipleship, worldview training, and long-term relationship-building, Eukarya Connect brings our Christ-centered mission to life beyond the classroom—giving students and families real-world opportunities to live out the virtues they are learning every day.

From student mission trips to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Uganda, and underserved areas across the U.S., to partnerships with ministries like Summit Ministries and Love Fount Christian Academy, and community outreach including food drives, nursing home visits, and Operation Christmas Child, Eukarya Connect embodies our heart for service.

As this branch grows, it will continue sharing the Eukarya model with families and communities near and far. Visit Eukarya Family Center's website to learn more and find ways to get involved.





SPORTS BANQUET CEREMONY

## Fall Sports Round Up from Eukarya Athletics

BY LORRI VANDERLINDEN

Our Fall Season consisted of six teams, eight coaches, 79 players, and 92 games (plus another 16 Lower School students enrolled in Running Club with Lower School teacher Jill Keister)! Here's the roundup on our teams:

**MS SOCCER:** Coach Stephen Marut (Assistant Coach Brandon Twele) highlighted the skill improvements exhibited in our Middle School Boys Soccer team. The coach of one opposing team even stated that he was "jealous" of the growth he saw in our team from the beginning of the season to the end! (MVP: Adam Oplak / Sportsmanship: Levi Fones)

**VARSITY SOCCER:** Coach Kenny Erdoes (Assistant Coach Chris Osmond) emphasized the growth they are seeing not only in individuals but also in the team as a whole. Our team is still young (with only one senior), but they improved their win/loss totals significantly this year. The coaches look forward to seeing an even stronger advancement next year. (MVP: Wyatt Phelps / Sportsmanship: Sam LaRock)

**MS-B VOLLEYBALL:** Coach Kimberly James led our developmental team for MS-B Volleyball. These girls each grew in their personal skill levels, and enjoyed a bit of competitive experience as a team.

**MS-A VOLLEYBALL:** Our MS-A team, with Coach Tammy Yoder, charged through a highly successful season! This motivated and energetic team was Season Champion in the Shenandoah

Christian Conference (SCC), and received a 1st Place trophy in the Conference Playoff Tournament. (MVP: Perry Hewitt / Sportsmanship: Kate Proffitt)

**JV / VARSITY VOLLEYBALL:** Coaches Kelsey Ambrose and Jamie Reams led both JV and Varsity Volleyball. Our JV players continued to mature as individuals and as a team on the court, with some players double-rostered with Varsity. (MVP: Diem Millin / Sportsmanship: Anna Lockhart)

The Varsity Volleyball team is another young team (with only one junior and NO seniors!), but it also celebrated a successful record as Season Champion in the SCC. The girls also received the Runner-Up trophy in the Conference Playoff Tournament. (MVP: Lilly Yoder / Sportsmanship: McKenzie Wagoner)

Coaches arranged for the JV and Varsity Volleyball teams to celebrate the end of their season by traveling to Lynchburg, Virginia, to watch Liberty University's Division 1 women's volleyball team compete, tour the Liberty campus, and enjoy some roadtrip camaraderie.

And we celebrated all the athletes who participated in fall sports in November at our 1st Annual Fall Sports Banquet. (The Spring Sports Banquet will be held in May 2026.) This allowed more time for coaches to spotlight the team accomplishments and standout players.

# Reflections

FROM  
THE

## ROUND TABLE

BY PAIGE TIGHE

The first quarter of this school year has been a fabulous time of contemplation and conversation as our Morning Round Table classes (homeroom for ECA Upper Schoolers) dove into various virtues as part of our *Live Like Lions* curriculum, created by ECA worldview director, Kim Hyland.

There are twenty lovely, young ladies in my Morning Round Table (MRT), a 15-minute chunk of time during which students gather, catch up with friends, finish homework, and ready themselves for the day. The young ladies in my class are older, high school age; and at the start of the school year there were only a few with whom I was already acquainted. They are polite and very quiet, and they do everything I ask. However, we had little interactive engagement.

It's difficult for a teacher to break into that sort of established structure. I think it's especially difficult to break into it with mini-lessons about virtue. I was faced, early on, with two options: I could throw my hands in the air and give up (not a real option), or I could consider my MRT students and work with what they generously give me—respect and obedience. Opting for the second, I chose to give them the same. I respect that they need a few minutes to get situated and rejoice that when I ask them to listen as I share for a few minutes, they do.

At first, I was met with more than a few blank stares, but I kept giving it the old college try. Everything in the classroom shifted during Week Four when our verse of the week was: *Speaking the truth in love* (Ephesians 4:15).

Suddenly, they heard me with more than their ears. As I asked a few pointed questions, the musculature around their eyes registered reflection, and a knowing. I knew better than to bombard. So, slowly and over the course of the week, I asked them to consider not just initiating loving words, but responding to harsh words, those designed to hurt, in love. The real deepening came when I asked about responding to someone speaking truth to them in love, but truth they don't want to hear. While no one answered audibly, I witnessed conviction.

Later, during Week Seven, I tossed out Scripture related to walking in integrity. *Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked* (1 John 2:6).

We explored what it looks like to what in the same way Jesus walked; pretty much this means walking

in integrity—faith, love, obedience, devotion, selflessness—putting on the true character of Christ as laid out in Galatians 5:22.



Initially, I believe the young ladies before me evaluated whether or not they did walk in the Master's steps and to what degree. Each seemed satisfied with where she landed; each has experienced the benefits of following in the most perfect footsteps, and graciously acknowledged that truth.

**"It is both our privilege and calling to speak the truth in love at all times, and to walk in the same way Jesus walked before these precious young people."**

Things got a little uncomfortable when we began to talk about the cost of walking in integrity, and how consistently being honorable in all things could have social repercussions. I laid out a few scenarios and saw the same reflection in their eyes. They understand teens' social demands far better than I do. We sat briefly, with a heaviness hanging in the air. While no one answered audibly, again, I witnessed convictions.

I am so grateful to Kim Hyland for her yielded spirit in laying out these (clearly) God-designed lessons. I know the seeds I planted, and the ones planted in other MRT classrooms, are watered and tended throughout all of Eukarya. It is both our privilege and calling to speak the truth in love at all times, and to walk in the same way Jesus walked before these precious young people sitting in our classrooms.

**Paige Tighe** teaches middle schoolers at Eukarya Christian Academy. She is a wife, mother, grandmother, and a lifelong storyteller who loves God, her family, and her country—in that order.



# To Form a Lion

Why Virtue Belongs at the Center of Learning

BY SARAH HYLAND

**R**“Rules don’t work for humans.”

With that simple line, English teacher Rachel Himelright names something quietly profound—an intuition that has shaped Eukarya Christian Academy long before the words themselves were ever spoken. Rules can expose what is broken, she explains, but they cannot change the heart that broke it. Formation does that. Slow, intentional, Christ-centered formation that shapes not just the mind, but the whole person.

At Eukarya, this conviction has taken form in *Live Like Lions*, the virtue initiative that has gradually moved from a small, prayerful beginning into a defining force within the school’s culture. Once a set of guiding ideas humming beneath the surface, the *Live Like Lions* framework is now woven into classrooms, conversations, curriculum design, and the daily fabric of student life.

## TO FORM A LION

*Live Like Lions* rests on a strikingly simple premise: education is not merely about achievement. It is about becoming. Virtue—not rule-keeping, not compliance, not performance—stands at the center.

The five core virtues the students, staff, and faculty at Eukarya seek to live out—Love, Obedience, Integrity, Nobility, and Service (LIONS)—did not begin as our motto. They began in a quiet time with the Lord, who impressed on Head of School Joanie Hughes the need to shape not only what students learn, but who they are becoming. In a culture that often prizes results over roots, Eukarya has committed to a different path: transformation from the inside out.

Such transformation is never abstract. It lives in the relationships that shape students day after day. The Academy's Christian worldview curriculum lays a strong intellectual foundation, but the real work unfolds in the ordinary moments between teachers and students—the conversations, the modeling, the steady presence of adults who pray together before they teach and who allow their faith to flow naturally into their instruction. Formation, at Eukarya, is not delegated to a program or a set of lessons. It is lived, witnessed, and absorbed.

This relational approach has been at the core of Eukarya since its beginning. As our focus on virtues increases, they are folded into the recipe of what makes Eukarya such an

**"In a culture that often prizes results over roots, Eukarya has committed to a different path: transformation from the inside out."**

incredible place. What started as cultural virtues are evolving into a virtue-rooted curriculum. Instructors, including English teacher Rachel Himelright, Upper School Assistant Principal Carole Hofmann, and Head of School Joanie Hughes,



**ABOVE:** Our five virtue-based Upper School Houses gathered outside for See You at the Pole, praying together for our staff, students, nation, and leaders.

have been developing a unified scope and sequence, which will begin with the English Department. Early experiments began in elementary and middle grades, eventually expanding into the Upper School, where each English class centers its literary exploration around a designated virtue. Within the next several years, every subject will be intentionally shaped by a virtue-anchored vision of learning.

This approach fits seamlessly within classical education, which asserts that truth is unified and that all knowledge ultimately coheres in Christ. Classical learning sees no division between the moral and the intellectual. Mathematics becomes a discipline of order and integrity. Science awakens wonder and fidelity to truth. Literature draws students into the beauty, tragedy, and dignity of the human condition. Even practical subjects—agriculture, trades, fine arts—grow habits of stewardship, patience, attentiveness, and excellence. Virtue is not an accessory to learning; it becomes the interpretive lens that gives each subject its deeper meaning.

The result is not a school that merely teaches well but a school that forms deeply. *Live Like Lions* has become a way of seeing students not as test scores or future résumés, but as eternal beings capable of wisdom, courage, and sacrificial love. It is a vision that resists the pressures of modern education and instead returns to something older, steadier, and more rooted in Truth. The pages ahead offer a glimpse of this work taking shape—one grade, one virtue, one classroom at a time.

Because the goal is not to raise rule-followers or build efficient cogs in the machine.

It is to form Lions.



Scan QR code to read more stories highlighting *Live Like Lions* in the classroom.

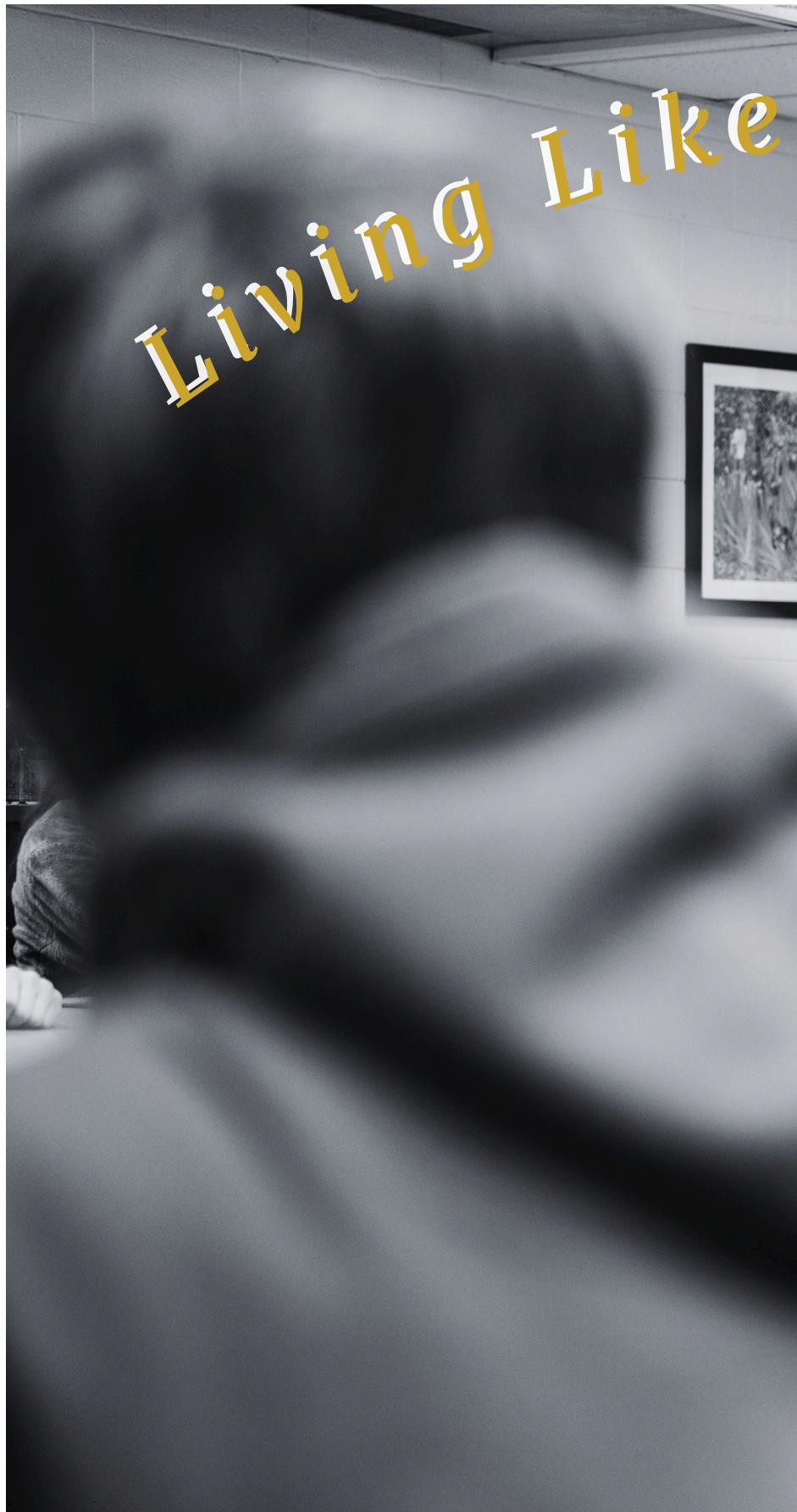


Exploring human nature and moral choice through literature

BY AMY DONNELLY

As I enter my 32nd year of teaching, I am struck by how much the landscape of education has changed—and yet, how much students remain the same. Deep down, they long to connect what they learn with real-life purpose, to see knowledge as meaningful, and to be in genuine relationship with one another and their community. I remember feeling that same hunger as a student: wanting to understand not just what I was learning, but how it would shape me as a person.

This summer, I had the privilege of attending a Summit Ministries conference in Atlanta on teaching with a biblical worldview. Nerd alert: I love the classics. I can talk endlessly about the lives and foibles of Shakespeare, Austen, Shelley, and others. These works are not static. They are alive when we bring them into conversation with our own lives, exploring what they teach about human nature, moral choices, and virtue. Growing up the child of an English teacher and a librarian, I was raised to dig deeply into the human condition, to seek the common threads that bind us across time and culture.



# Lions in Literature



## LIVING LIKE LIONS IN LITERATURE

At Eukarya Christian Academy, our students are exposed to a world that often encourages fear, discord, and self-interest—even when their homes are grounded in faith. One of my goals is to help students see that God offers peace and guidance in the midst of chaos. Through literature, we can examine the frailties and strengths of human character, discern the consequences of actions, and reflect on how to live virtuously.

In our Upper School dual-enrollment British Literature class, for example, my students recently tackled *Romeo and Juliet*. Many initially idealized Romeo's "tragic love," unaware that, mere hours before meeting Juliet, he pined for Rosaline. We explored what it means to invest our hearts wisely and rewrote the famous balcony scene with a modern lens, discussing it through a Biblical worldview. Watching young minds wrestle with Shakespeare—finding relevance in the choices and mistakes of characters centuries old—is endlessly rewarding.

In *Lord of the Flies*, students analyzed how fear and disconnection from morality can lead humans to act like animals. One student insightfully noted, "Biblical concepts are found throughout literature, especially if you have discussions" (Ethan Skinner '27). Another shared, "We talk and listen about not only the plot of the book, but also how that can relate to our lives and how it compares to our biblical worldview" (Cole Proffitt '27). Others reflected on how the class has helped them "think more deeply" and "articulate ideas more clearly while listening to others" (Addison Hammons '27; Ella Placzek '27).

Our studies continue with *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Frankenstein*, and *Brave New World*, examining inner sin, moral responsibility, and the ethical dilemmas inherent in human human creativity and choice. Students create projects, quizzes, and discussions that challenge them to think independently, analyze thoughtfully, and apply their growing Biblical worldview to both literature and life.



**"Classical literature meets practical virtue in a classroom where young minds learn not just to read, but to think and act with discernment."**



**“We talk and listen about not only the plot, but how it relates to our lives and our biblical worldview.”**

**-COLE PROFFITT '27**



Teaching here allows me to integrate discipleship into every lesson. Eukarya fosters an environment where Love, Integrity, Obedience, Nobility, and Service—the virtues we call LIONS—*are not just words on a wall, but lived experiences within our*

*classrooms. It is a joy to watch students grapple with literature, explore human nature, and consider how they might follow Christ in their own decisions and relationships.*

*I am so grateful to teach courses that are alive with possibility:*

where classical literature meets practical virtue, where discussion is vibrant, and where young minds learn not just to read, but to think, reflect, and act with discernment. At Eukarya, we are equipping the next generation to live courageously, wisely, and faithfully—to truly *Live Like Lions*.



# Cultivating Service

Building ownership, responsibility, and faith through agricultural education

BY STEPHANIE STEVENS

Eukarya's Agricultural Program helps students connect with God's creation through mission-based, hands-on experiences inspired by the principles of *Farming God's Way* (FGW)—a curriculum that emphasizes sustainable stewardship, faithful care for creation, and proven growing practices rooted in biblical principles.

In Upper School, our Agriculture Concentration, now in its third year, continues its growth into a program centered on ownership, stewardship, and leadership. Students gain a deep sense of purpose and pride as they learn to grow food sustainably, feed their peers, and experience the blessings of meaningful work. Through the Eukarya Christian Academy Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, Pop-Up Farm Markets, and the school's annual Farm-to-Table fundraiser, students share their harvest with the community—learning the value of generosity, service, and working together to bless others.

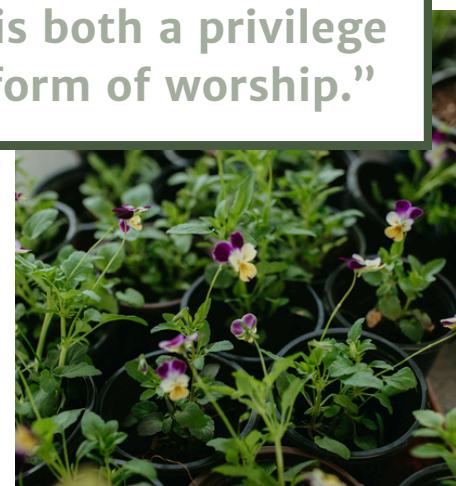
Building on this foundation, this year ECA is expanding agricultural learning to our **Lower School**. The goal of this program is to allow little ones to engage via multi-sensory experiences that support both academic and spiritual growth. Students feel the texture of soil, smell fresh herbs, listen to water and rustling plants, and observe God's creativity through each stage of growth. These activities nurture curiosity and wonder while strengthening focus, coordination, and emotional regulation—skills that will carry over into the classroom.

Upper School Ag Concentration students will play a key role in mentoring Lower School students as they start plants, helping them with their garden layouts and putting best practices into action. This learning bridge will reinforce Upper School students' own understanding while modeling leadership, discipleship, and service for the Lower School students.

At its heart, Eukarya's Agriculture Program cultivates more than crops—it grows character, compassion, and faith. Students learn that caring for creation and feeding others is both a privilege and a form of worship. Whether through applying math and science in the garden or helping others through food distribution, they gain practical skills and a deeper understanding of how to live out their faith in both word and deed.

We are excited to show Eukarya students of all ages God's provision firsthand and to help them discover how meaningful work can build community, strengthen stewardship, and nurture hearts devoted to service.

**“...the Ag Program  
cultivates more than  
crops—it grows character,  
compassion, and faith.  
Students learn that caring  
for creation and feeding  
others is both a privilege  
and a form of worship.”**



# By the Numbers

## When the World Strains

### *EFC Provides Community*

As families across America face economic, social, and emotional pressures, Eukarya Family Center is growing—offering real support, hope, and belonging for whole families.

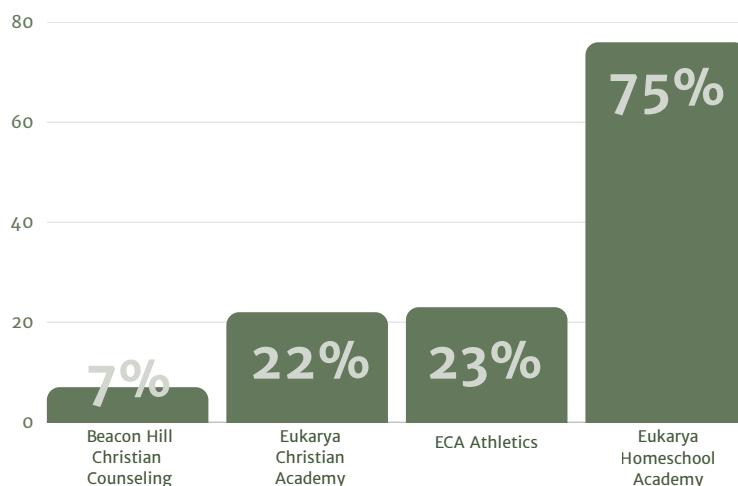


## A Difficult Cultural Context

**71%** of Americans now name economic stress as the most important issue affecting families nationwide—a dramatic rise over the past decade. Parents and caregivers face overwhelming emotional and financial strain: in recent years, many report feeling “completely overwhelmed” on most days. Mental-health risks, social isolation, concern for children’s future, and uncertainty about stability are frequent.

**Bottom line:** Financial anxiety, caregiving burdens, and mental load are stretching family stability to the limit. Many families feel they cannot do it alone.

## Eukarya Family Center Growth: 2024-25



## What This Means:

- **Real growth = real need:** The rise in Eukarya Family Center programs, students, clients, and participants suggests families are actively seeking stability, education, community, and support.
- **A whole-family approach matters:** Eukarya’s mix—from schooling, tutoring, and enrichment (Eukarya Christian Academy / Eukarya Homeschool Academy / The Learning Center / ECA Athletics) to care and counseling (Beacon Hill Christian Counseling)—models a “village” that supports the whole family, not just individual needs.
- **Hope for the future:** Amid rising national stress, Eukarya stands as a practical response; not just a shelter but a place to grow, belong, learn, and heal in Christ and community.

If your family is feeling the weight, join us. We believe no family should walk alone.



## Courage Dear Heart: On the Unglamorous Work of Virtue

BY SARAH HYLAND

Aristotle famously believed that virtue was not an accident of personality, but something cultivated—habituated—through repetition. One does not simply feel courageous; one practices courage. One does not magically become patient; one trains the heart like a gardener, coaxing the soil to yield fruit. Virtues, to the ancient Greeks, were the marks of a life aimed at flourishing (*eudaimonia*), but they were never easy. They were demanding, requiring us to temper what comes naturally. “We are what we repeatedly do,” Aristotle teaches us. “Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”

In the Christian tradition, virtue retains this strenuous quality, but the vision deepens and warms. Instead of merely acting rightly to shape character, Christians seek to become more like Christ, who is goodness itself embodied.

Thomas Aquinas took Aristotle’s four cardinal virtues—prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance—and bonded them with faith, hope, and love. Love, the queen of them all, reorients virtue; it is not about personal grandeur or refined self-mastery, but about

being poured out for the good of others. Its opposite lies not only in vice but in what early writers called *acedia*, a spiritual laziness, despair, or cold disengagement from the world. We don’t only fail by greed or wrath; we also fail when we shrug, withdraw, and stop choosing good altogether.

This is what I keep returning to: virtue is not glamorous. It does not care for applause or aesthetics. It will not trend on social media. It asks something harder than ideology or outrage; it asks us to govern ourselves. To choose right when no one is applauding; to be holy in our habits, not just in our opinions.

How do I speak to my spouse when I am tired, irritated, or overwhelmed?

Am I gentle with the small mistakes of my children?

When no one is watching, do I soothe my exhaustion with gossip? Or self-loathing disguised as humility?

Do I disappear into busyness because being present asks too much of me?

Do I hide behind virtue-signaling because it is easier to sound good than be good?

If Aristotle teaches the discipline of striving, Christianity teaches the humility of failing and trying again. Virtue is not perfection, it is direction. Not the polished sheen of a moral résumé, but what we do on the days we are ashamed of ourselves. When we feel like Peter sinking in the waves, or like Edmund who betrayed and was forgiven anyway. “By what we do and what we refrain from doing,” C.S. Lewis writes, “we are either becoming heavenly creatures or hellish ones.”

To live virtuously is to refuse the easy way—anger, blame, noise, numbness. It is to choose love when it costs you. Integrity when no one knows. Presence when distraction promises relief. It is the hidden bravery of ordinary goodness.

So, take heart. Virtue is not for the flawless, but for the willing. Habit is made one breath at a time, one word at a time, one quiet act of unseen courage at a time. Choose what is good today.

And then choose it again tomorrow.

*Courage, dear heart.*



Eukarya Christian Academy  
The Learning Center  
Eukarya Homeschool Academy  
Athletics  
Worldview  
Concentrations  
Alumni  
  
Eukarya King's Cubs  
  
Eukarya Connect  
Missions & Outreach  
  
Beacon Hill Christian  
Counseling  
Marriage Institute of  
Winchester

Eukarya Family Center is a passionately Christ-centered para-church organization dedicated to strengthening families and building loving relationships within communities. Our vision is rooted in the belief that families are God's chosen building blocks for His church, His Kingdom, and all of society.

## Thank you to our 2025-2026 Platinum Level **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**



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## Driven by Integrity

From a 1947 Vision to 75 Years of Community, Service, and “Outside the Box” Thinking

BY EMILY BECK

ORIGINAL MARLOW BUILDING

### IT STARTED BACK IN 1947

As automobile history buffs know, car manufacturing slowed down to a near halt in the mid-1940s, as factories were converted to make ammunition for the war effort. When automobile production resumed at the war's end, the demand for consumer automobiles far exceeded supply. Customers looking to buy cars were assigned a number and waited to take delivery of the vehicles as they rolled off the assembly line and into the dealerships. In those days, folks would do just about anything to take home a car. Bribery and other shenanigans were commonplace as people tried to “bump” their way up in the line.

### BUT, HERE'S WHERE OUR STORY TAKES A TURN

Tired of the wait and unwilling to “grease the skids” to move up in line, in 1947 Christian entrepreneur and founder Guy Marlow determined that if he opened a car dealership, he could not only get a car for his family but also help other families get cars, too. So, he opened Marlow Motor Company—at that time a Kaiser-Frazer dealership—and the Marlow Auto Group was born.

### AND, WE THINK OUR HISTORY IS IMPORTANT

Our history serves as a constant reminder that commitment to integrity, “outside the box” thinking and community support are a part of our corporate DNA. After all, if we did things the way everyone else did, our company would never even have been born.

### THESE PRINCIPLES DIRECTED OUR GROWTH

The Marlow Auto Group has grown over the years, and now consists of Marlow Motor Company (Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram) in Front Royal, Tri-State Nissan in Winchester, and Marlow Ford in Luray, Virginia.

**TOP:** Volunteers assembling baby care packages  
**BOTTOM:** Staff dropping off food and book donations

### AND, OUR COMMITMENT TO INTEGRITY, “OUTSIDE THE BOX” THINKING, AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT CONTINUES.

In 2022, Marlow celebrated its 75th Anniversary by performing 75 Acts of Kindness in 25 days. Employees served others with acts such as: landscaping for the Winchester Rescue Mission and NW Works; harvesting vegetables for CCAP; collecting and donating over 2,753 books to the Literacy Volunteers of America; donating a truckload of food to the Winchester Rescue Mission and supplies to a Front Royal men's shelter; blessing strangers with coffee and ice cream at the park; sending care packages to health workers and maternity home residents; organizing trash pick-ups; painting a recovery home; delivering flowers to nursing home residents; hosting a cookout at a men's shelter; donating food to an animal shelter; and much more.

Now entering our 79th year of business, we continue to value our connection to the community. After all, we live here too, and we want everyone to feel good about the community we are building together.

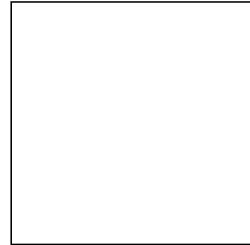


Scan to  
see  
Marlow's  
75 Acts  
of  
Kindness





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