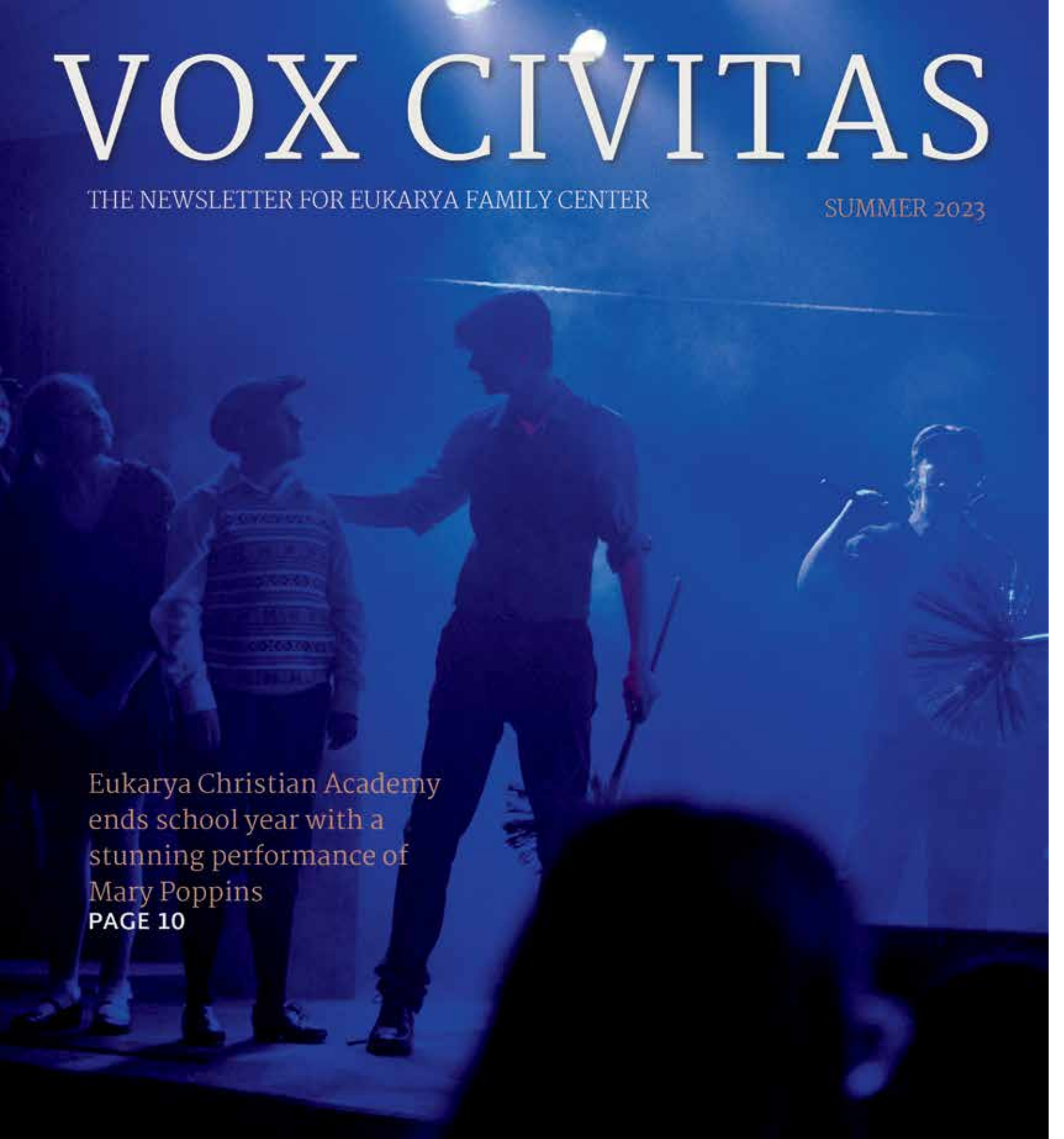


VOX CIVITAS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR EUKARYA FAMILY CENTER

SUMMER 2023



Eukarya Christian Academy
ends school year with a
stunning performance of
Mary Poppins
PAGE 10

Inside:

Letter from our Directors
Greetings from ECA's Principal

Plus:

Updates from ECA, King's
Cubs and more!

Growing Boldly as a Voice of the People

Welcome to our inaugural publication of Vox Civitas! In Ancient Rome, the civitas was the social body of citizens bound by a common law. As a Latin word it can mean community, citizenship, and city, depending on its intention in a sentence.

The community, citizens, and city, together, were quintessential to everyday livelihood in Rome, not because they were a collective mass, but because they were under one law that gave them inherent worth, dignity and identity. It was from this place of worth that citizens engaged with each other, their families, education, trades and politics.

Vox Civitas means “voice of the people” and it is our intention in this publication to highlight and support the voices in our community because we believe that we are all citizens under one perfect law and lawmaker, who gives us inherent worth and dignity. The Eukarya Family Center has been passionate about emboldening and strengthening families since 2010, and we are growing boldly to continue this support in new ways. We believe that families are the bedrock of the church and our culture and ultimately that their flourishing or lack of flourishing drastically impacts their environment.

Now more than ever, we see a need to come alongside churches and our community to offer support in areas where the church is limited or lacking resources. As you read the following pages, you will see that we provide educational opportunities for youth, discipleship of individuals, and marriage counseling to strengthen families. Each of these pillars provide opportunities for transformation in our communities to have a lasting impact in our world for Christ and His Kingdom. We hope you enjoy this issue on our growth!

Sincerely,

Dan Donnelly, Eukarya Family Center Founder
Joanie Hughes, Eukarya Christian Academy Principal
Crystal Means, Eukarya King's Cubs Director

Vox
Civitas

SUMMER 2023

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Beacon Hill boasts a new space for new growth with clients



Photo by Aiden Truman, 2023, Mary Poppins



EUKARYA
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Since its inception in 2010, Eukarya Christian Academy has known exponential growth. Starting as a small school of eight students, Eukarya now enrolls 227 students from grades K-12, with a projected enrollment of 260 in the 2023/24 school year.

As it has grown, the school has added a plethora of organizations to support its students and community. Our school prides itself on its unique approach to education and the diverse way we can support children from all backgrounds and learning styles. A unique blend, Eukarya takes the excellence of classical education, pairs it with a flexible curriculum, and expands it with personal discipleship to grow in Christ. Our aim and our prayer is that our children mature to become independent thinkers grounded in fundamental principles that guide them into the next generation. We are known for helping the child who has fallen through the cracks elsewhere and aiding those who have learning glitches. Keeping classroom sizes small and working closely with The Learning Center (see p. 6) has given our community the unique strength of supporting students while still challenging them to overcome deficits.

For the family who wants to homeschool but still have access to school resources and support, we come alongside them through Scholé (p. 7) to give structure while still maximizing flexibility. For students who wish to expand their experiences and skills outside of scholastic endeavors, we have incredible athletic, mission, and drama departments (pp. 8-10). Each of these departments is dedicated to pursuing excellence, maturing in faith, promoting camaraderie and, ultimately, having fun. Our Upper School and Lower School include grades K-12 (p. 12). Classically based, the Lower School is in the first stage of learning, called the Grammar Stage, where students learn primarily through memorization in all their subjects. The Upper School consists of stages two and three in learning, which are the Dialectic and Rhetoric Stages, designed to encourage analytical thinking and move towards abstract thinking, reasoning and wisdom, which is the highest stage of learning.

This year, we launched our very own Alumni Association (p. 11) and plan to expand our network, opportunities, and relationships in 2024 through more events.



Joanie Hughes



Eukarya Christian Academy

The Learning Center

Scholé

Athletics

Missions

Upper School

Lower School

Alumni

Eukarya King's Cubs

The Marriage Institute of Winchester

Beacon Hill Christian Counseling

Our Mission

Discipling Individuals.

Strengthening Families.

Transforming Communities.

Impacting the World for
Christ and His Kingdom.

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. We aim to achieve this through education and discipleship for children and students, strengthening marriages, training better parents, and offering programs that are outside the traditional role of the church. At Eukarya Family Center, we value right thinking and right living, building up people and community through loving relationships, and avoiding legalism, watering down, or becoming licentious in nature.

Supporting Unique Needs

The Learning Center (TLC) at Eukarya Christian Academy is a tutoring, training, and therapy center for students with learning disabilities. They provide services to meet the individual needs of every child who comes through their doors with proven, research-based, and personalized learning support.

TLC's qualified staff aims to equip every student with the tools to learn and grow academically and socially. They are especially experienced in assisting students who come to them with math and reading challenges; dysgraphia and dyslexia; language processing deficits; and anxiety, emotional regulation, and social skills difficulties. Given the well-documented learning loss and social and behavioral challenges driven by COVID-19 school closures and curtailed extracurricular activities, families in the community need this help more today than ever before. Students benefiting from The Learning Center's services come from Eukarya Christian Academy, homeschool backgrounds, and local public schools.

In addition to their direct services to students, TLC offers training and seminars to parents and caregivers from across the Valley on topics including emotional regulation, health and nutrition for children and Biblical parenting.

A Warm Welcome



The Learning Center was overjoyed to welcome Laine Everhart to the team as director in 2022. Laine holds a B.S. in Child Development and an M.Ed in Elementary Education. During her 32 years in education she has taught Kindergarten and Pre-K in both public and private settings, as well as served as a Therapeutic Day Treatment counselor, summer camp director and licensed home day-care provider. She left the classroom environment in 2022 and transitioned to helping children and families in a new, exciting way with TLC. "Working in TLC has been a perfect fit for me," Laine says. "I love what I do each day to support students, teachers and families... and I no longer have 'homework'."

One of Laine's favorite aspects of TLC is the amazing team of professionals who work extremely well together. "We meet weekly to discuss any new referrals and ways TLC might help them. We share our successes and struggles with each other and provide support and new ideas."

Laine offers a breath of fresh air to the Eukarya family with her wisdom, work ethic, strong faith and attention to detail.

If you have questions for Laine or The Learning Center, you can reach her at leverhart@eukaryaacademy.com or the office at (540) 997-3029.

The Best of Home Learning

Eukarya's Scholé homeschool co-op, which began to support new homeschool families during the 2020 school shutdown, is now entering its fourth school year. In this short time, the student population has grown from eight to nearly 50.

Scholé teachers instruct students each Tuesday and Thursday, and assign work to be completed at home the other days of the week. While Pre-K through 6th grade students are encouraged to use Wednesdays as a day to enjoy family outings, music lessons, and/or child-directed learning, many of our middle school students attend the Academy on Wednesdays to participate in extracurricular activities. Scholé students are eligible to participate in testing, tutoring, athletics, dances, and other celebrations at ECA.



Photo by Hilary Hyland Photography, 2023, Scholé 2nd and 3rd Grade Class

Eukarya's Scholé program allows homeschool families access to private school resources and support, while maintaining the flexibility of customizing their students' education and schedule. Ultimately, the vision is to have Scholé on campus at Eukarya Christian Academy. At this time, the co-op meets off site at a local church in Winchester. When ECA acquires more space, Scholé can open up seats to waitlisted students and serve more families in the community as well as strengthen the relationship between the co-op and ECA.



"Scholé has been a wonderful addition to our first few years of homeschooling. We've been so pleased to see how our daughter has grown in her confidence in class presentations and interactions with her classmates and teachers."

-Hilary Hyland
Scholé Parent



News from the Bench



Athlete Spotlight

Nate Ellison is a junior at ECA who has been playing soccer and basketball since middle school. Being a part of ECA Athletics has pushed Nate to give 100%, learn to have good team work and to keep God above everything. "The team culture is really great and we hold each other accountable to work hard, but also love messing around with each other." He says the hardest part is putting pressure on himself when he feels like he hasn't given enough. "And the running," he adds with a laugh.

The best part about sports for Nate is going to the NACA tournament, being able to spend several days playing the game they all love and getting closer as a team in the process. "I'd really love to give Cody a shout out for being the best coach in the world. He holds me accountable for my actions and I feel like I can talk to him about my struggles. He always has great advice and has spent countless hours helping me and the team get better as players and individuals."

ATHLETICS

Eukarya Athletics is an after-school opportunity for students at Eukarya Christian Academy and Scholé homeschool co-op who want to grow as student athletes through a healthy, Christian coaching environment. As Coach Cody Robertson puts it, "We challenge our student athletes to pursue Christ and develop their leadership skills using their God given talents."



Boys Basketball Team, 2023

Coach Cody said that in his five years with Eukarya, he has seen steady growth in team sizes and more overall student body excitement for athletic programs. This excitement is generating new opportunities for students. Last year, Eukarya Athletics added a middle school girls basketball team, as well as co-ed intramural basketball for grades 1-12. In the coming school year, the department plans to add a middle school girls soccer team and a second middle school girls volleyball team. The goal is to develop skills and confidence in younger girls and those without experience in a given sport.

New Eukarya Athletics programs under consideration for future years include running, golf, Frisbee golf, and cheerleading clubs.

MISSIONS

Called to the Nations



"Eukarya
Christian
Academy
Missions exists
to allow
students to
experience the
heart of God
for those
around the
world."

-Joanie Hughes,
ECA Principal

As a Kingdom-minded school, ECA is intentional about teaching their students about other cultures and people groups. Some ways that they do this currently are through international pen pal programs, teaching a middle school level geography class with a missions focus, and taking teens on outreach trips.

Since the birth of ECA Missions in 2017, they have taken students to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Uganda, as well as domestic trips to inner city Pittsburgh and rural West Virginia. Principal Joanie Hughes says, "God's passion is for people to know Him. Our desire is to empower local teens to accept his invitation to break out of their comfort zone as we provide opportunities to spend time serving those around the world. In plugging into this purpose, lives are forever changed."

ECA has found that teens today need purpose more than ever before. Short term missions are a wonderful way for students to see the world and understand their place in it, while they learn that God can use them for eternal purposes.

If you'd like to learn more about how you can get involved in the missional purpose of ECA, please reach out to missions@eukaryaacademy.com. It's a big world and everyone can make a difference!



Behind the Curtain

Eukarya has a reputation for excellence in drama. The school's May performance of Mary Poppins before a packed house at Spirit and Word Fellowship in Winchester was only the latest from a program that encourages students to try something new and express themselves while learning valuable lessons like responsibility, time management, and public speaking.



SCAN ME TO READ MORE ABOUT ELLA HENSLEY'S JOURNEY BECOMING MARY POPPINS

Although spots in the Spring Musical are only open to students in 9th through 12th grades, younger students participate in fall and spring showcases and open houses. And Director Katelyn Hazelwood's growth goals for the coming school year are to encourage more involvement in drama productions from lower grade levels and other departments, bringing even more of the student body into the productions.

"I have seen students break out of their shell and surprise themselves onstage," she says. "Students who are shy or think they can't do something end up doing amazing when they get on the stage. I think that really boosts the confidence of students."



Photos by Aiden Truman, 2023, Mary Poppins

"I cannot explain how much confidence being Mary Poppins gave me and how incredibly fun the entire show was." -Ella Hensley

ALUMNI

Lions for Life

On May 13, 2023, over smoked meats and games of indoor corn hole, ECA officially launched the Eukarya Alumni Association. Since 2014, ECA has graduated a total of 81 alumni with each graduating class growing substantially. Biology teacher Carole Hofmann said the event was a milestone moment for ECA. "It was so wonderful to see many alumni and reconnect. I think it's good for them to understand that we love them, remember them and are cheering them on when they may think we've forgotten."

The Alumni Association plans to grow through more events and network connections for alumni in the 2023/24 school year.

"I think it's good for them to understand that we love them, remember them and are cheering them on when they may think we've forgotten."

-Carole Hofmann
ECA Teacher



Photos by Crystal Means @ Grace Photography, 2023

Memorize & Repeat 100x

Students at the Lower School, also known as the Grammar Stage, are presented with a large amount of factual material.

Memorization is easy for the student in this stage of development so they recite in Language Arts, chant and sing in Latin, and play games and use flashcards in Mathematics. In this way, students learn the concrete facts of mathematics, grammar terms, phonics, historical dates, science terms, and Bible knowledge.



The Pursuit of Wisdom

In the Upper School, students are taught to think analytically about the facts learned during the Grammar Stage. Since students are developmentally ready for abstract concepts, Eukarya teaches formal logic for a full year during this stage. Using the tools learned in logic, teachers can assign cross-curricular projects, ask students to formulate opinions and theories, create opportunities for research, and encourage students to investigate, debate and communicate their thoughts orally and in writing. Students demonstrate their abstract thoughts with wisdom and reason. The knowledge learned during the Grammar Stage and the understanding of how those facts relate in the Dialectic Stage is then further applied while exploring deeper into classic literature, mathematics, history, Christian apologetics, and laboratory sciences. Students are armed with the ability to write persuasive essays, research papers, and complete cross-curricular projects.



Building Kingdom Learners

The Eukarya King's Cubs ministry focuses on multiple areas of growth for early learners. The team of caregivers and early educators demonstrate Christ's love in their daily interactions with each child, while also planting seeds for future growth through Bible stories, crafts, music, prayer, and conversation. In addition to providing a Christian foundation for the children served daily, King's Cubs encourages academic, behavioral, and social development with theme-based activities, implemented curriculum, and intentional interactions throughout every moment of the day. They offer consistency and quality to a field that can easily struggle to do so and prepare children to transition into kindergarten and the world ahead of them successfully.

Far from where they started, King's Cubs currently serves around 85 children daily, many being siblings within King's Cubs as well as the Academy. They all love to welcome new faces to the EKC family and hope to eventually transition into multiple locations to further serve the community with open arms!



Upcoming Eukarya Family Center Events



Wednesday, October 4, 2023: Grandparents Day at Eukarya Christian Academy. Join us for chapel and an opportunity to visit classrooms and meet our faculty and staff.

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024: Gala to Benefit Eukarya Christian Academy. A farm-to-table dinner with auctions and entertainment. Tickets will go on sale in winter 2023.

A Passion for Strengthening Marriages

The Marriage Institute serves as a parachurch to the Winchester community, coming alongside churches and supporting them in areas where they might not have resources. This looks like providing marriage intensives, mentoring pastors and leaders and providing practical resources for the community. In the past, the Marriage Institute has hosted community-based seminars for the Smalley Institute, an organization founded by pastor Michael Smalley dedicated to strengthening marriages through skill-building and knowledge. As an entity, they are committed to helping couples build strong, healthy and fulfilling marriages that last a lifetime. Moving forward, the Institute intends to expand its reach in the community and is currently looking for couples who would be interested in making this vision come to fruition. Reach out to inquiries@beaconhillchristiancounseling.com for questions.

Come As You Are

Three years ago Beacon Hill was providing counseling for the community only after school hours and with one counselor, Dan Donnelly. Today, it offers five additional part-time counselors and boasts a fresh new office space for clients. Services include marriage, grief, trauma, parenting, anxiety, addiction, pre-marital, family, and postpartum counseling, to name a few. Support groups and training opportunities are also available to the public, specifically helping grow and bolster those in leadership positions in the Winchester area.

Currently, Beacon Hill has a partnership with Crossroads Community Church to help make counseling more readily accessible for clients and is interested in partnering with more. Beacon Hill blends psychological theories with a Biblical worldview to provide a rich, relationship-oriented and holistic approach for those seeking support in any stage or season of life.



If you and your spouse are passionate about helping marriages thrive in the community and are interested in partnering with the Marriage Institute of Winchester, contact them via email or phone at 540-773-1612.



Do you have a background in counseling and want to join a fun, meaningful team? Beacon Hill is looking for counselors in the area who would like to join their mission to provide more support for those in the greater Winchester area. If you're interested, contact Dan Donnelly at the email or phone provided above.



BEACON HILL
CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

BEACON HILL CHRISTIAN COUNSELING



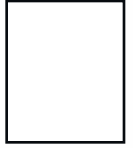
New space for new growth





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YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

In April, the Eukarya Christian Academy parent group EPIC sponsored a "Day of Fun" fundraiser, and our community stepped up! We raised more than \$10,000 to meet ECA transportation needs. The school is applying these funds to rehab a new bus to support field trips, athletics, and other educational and extracurricular opportunities. Thank you for helping make it happen!

