

WINTER 2024

EUKARYA

VOX CIVITATIS: THE MAGAZINE OF EUKARYA FAMILY CENTER



FLOURISHING TOGETHER

SPOTLIGHT

How ECA is teaching students to integrate belief with intellectual inquiry

DRAMA

New teachers bring fresh vision to ECA Drama Department

MARRIAGE INSTITUTE

How covenant love transforms marriages

Flourishing in Every Season

As we step into a new season, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for the ways the Eukarya Family Center continues to flourish.

Our Academy is blossoming! The Learning Center and Beacon Hill Christian Counseling are providing children and families in our community with vital academic and emotional support, as well as tools and training to help them thrive. The progress we've seen is inspiring. We are committed to nurturing the individual growth of each student in our care. At Eukarya we know that when our families thrive, our community thrives!

This month's cover story highlights our Worldview program, a key element of our Academy's approach to education. We believe that it is imperative to learn about various worldviews in order to understand God, the world around us, and our relationship to both. This knowledge and understanding is essential to navigating a complex and tumultuous world.

In an increasingly post-Christian culture, it is more important than ever that we provide young people with a solid framework of beliefs, ideas, convictions, and habits that foster critical thinking, empathy, and wisdom. Our aim is to graduate students who have wrestled with hard ideas, who know what they believe and why, and who can articulate that knowledge in a winsome way.

At the Eukarya Family Center, our mission is to cultivate an environment where children, families, and our broader community can truly flourish. Whether through academic support, emotional wellness, or the nurturing of a strong moral compass, we are dedicated to walking alongside you every step of the way.

Blessings to you,



Joanie Hughes
Eukarya Family Center Director

Help Eukarya FLOURISH!

Several Eukarya supporters requested that I share with you in each issue a few of our most urgent funding needs for your consideration. As we make our new building on Aylor Road our own, we are turning our attention outdoors. This issue, our focus is on **improvements to our grounds and athletic fields** with the following projects:

- Resurfacing our soccer pitch to make it safe for our athletes and visitors (\$14,000),
- Purchasing swings, a merry go round, and other equipment to build out our new playground (\$20,000), and
- Adding picnic tables, shades, and landscaping to encourage outdoor play and class time (\$9,500).

If you would like to contribute to any of these projects, or to our mission generally, simply use the enclosed envelope to send a tax-deductible donation!

Thank you for your support!

Vox Civitatis

WINTER 2024

Vol. 04

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.

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PHOTOS BY HILARY HYLAND



NEWS & NOTES

WINTER 2024

Empowering Every Child: How Occupational Therapy Enhances Learning at ECA

Occupational Therapy (OT) is often recommended for individuals recovering from injuries or managing chronic conditions to help them develop or regain essential daily skills. What many may not know is that OT is also an incredible asset in schools, supporting children in overcoming obstacles that can hinder their learning.

Here at Eukarya Christian Academy (ECA), we are fortunate to offer dedicated OT services through The Learning Center, helping students of all abilities flourish academically and personally.

We are grateful to have a talented OT team, led by full-time occupational therapist Jody Shippa and supported by part-time OT Erinn Throckmorton. Each day, these women work with students, providing direct instruction, personalized exercises, and tools that strengthen the foundation for effective learning.

One key area of focus is handwriting, where Mrs. Shippa leads weekly classes for our lower school classrooms. During these sessions, students learn proper pencil grasp, paper positioning, posture, and letter formation—all essential skills for effective writing. In addition to handwriting, we incorporate movement exercises and visual motor skill activities into classroom activities to support overall development.

For children who experience sensory processing challenges, our OTs offer a range of strategies tailored to their specific needs. Sensory processing involves integrating inputs from the five senses, along with body awareness and movement. Through activities, specific movement exercises, and tools like “fidgets” (hand-held objects that can improve focus), students are better able to stay attentive and engaged in their learning. Each child receives a “sensory diet,” or a set of sensory activities uniquely designed to support their comfort and focus in the classroom.

Another important area OT addresses is executive functioning skills. These are the brain-based skills required for planning, organization, following multi-step instructions, memory, processing speed, attention, and self-regulation. OT interventions in these areas may include direct teaching, demon-



ABOVE: Jody leads handwriting class by beginning with stretches and exercises.

strations, and engaging games to build these essential life skills.

Some students may also need support in visual motor, visual perceptual, and ocular motor skills—critical for reading and other classroom activities. When children struggle with reading, it isn’t always due to issues with phonics or English language rules; sometimes, it’s a matter of their eyes not working together properly to track words across the page. OT exercises can help strengthen these visual skills, making reading and other tasks more manageable and enjoyable.

If you would like to learn more about how The Learning Center and its Occupational Therapy program supports student success, please contact me at leverhart@eukaryaacademy.com or by calling the school at (540) 868-0081. Thank you for your continued support in empowering every student to achieve their potential!

—LAINE EVERHART

Summer Sports Academy 2024

The Summer of 2024 was a fantastic season for Eukarya Christian Academy's Sports Academy at our new home on Aylor Road in Stephens City! Over nine weeks, students ages 6-18 from Winchester and the surrounding area participated in soccer, basketball, and volleyball camps designed to build skills, teamwork, and faith.

Our summer began with a three-week soccer camp from June 10 to June 30, where students practiced skills, participated in team-building activities, and grew spiritually through daily Bible study and prayer. The first two weeks focused on Kindergarten through 6th graders, with an average attendance of 12 campers. The third week welcomed our 7-12th graders, with attendance peaking at 24. July shifted to basketball, with five weeks of training for both younger students and middle

and high schoolers, culminating in an ECA team camp. Participants received instruction on dribbling, shooting, and strategy, along with daily spiritual lessons. Attendance steadily increased, reaching 26 players in the final week.

The final week of summer wrapped up with a girls' volleyball camp, which we hosted in partnership with Blue Ridge Volleyball Association (BRVA). Led by a BRVA coach with a strong Christian faith, the camp welcomed 34 girls ages 12-18, emphasizing sportsmanship, teamwork, and faith.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to expand our Sports Academy with more sports, coaches, and players! Registration will open in February 2025, and we hope your family will be part of a summer of skill-building, teamwork, and faith-filled fun!

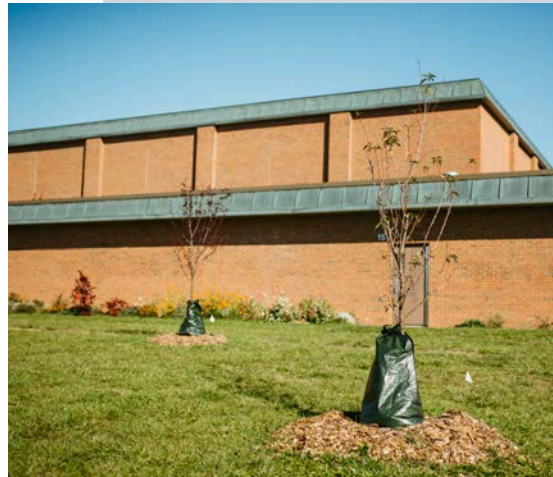
-LEE REAMS

Gardens & Arboretum Growth

Our garden class is thriving, with four sessions serving students from kindergarten through sixth grade. Using a blend of "Farming God's Way" gardening methods and Virginia Agriculture classroom curriculum, the students recently planted, harvested, and enjoyed a fresh salad of cold-weather vegetables. As temperatures drop, we'll shift to more indoor activities, including an exciting new project: building a worm composting bin right in the classroom! -TATIANA SKINNER

This fall, the campus saw beautiful growth, and the newly planted trees are adapting well across the grounds. Looking ahead, there are plans to expand the garden areas, particularly the wildflower and butterfly gardens, while continuing to enhance the campus with additional tree plantings. The improvements around the main entrance are also underway.

-AURÉLIE SCHMID





Growing the Future of Eukarya Athletics

Eukarya Athletics is “flourishing” with its largest Fall Season ever!

We processed over 100 registrations this season, with most student athletes participating in our five competitive teams: Middle School & Varsity Boys Soccer, and Middle School, Junior Varsity, and Varsity Girls Volleyball. In addition, we are offering two developmental programs this season. For grades 5-8, we will host Volleyball Intramurals, and for grades 4-6 we are now offering Running Club. We are excited to see these additional offerings build more skill levels and variety into our athletics program into the future.

Volleyball enjoyed its first season in the gym of our new Aylor Road building. Our Middle School Coach, Tammy Yoder, was especially excited for the first home game, which marked her first volleyball competition in that space since she participated in her own 8th grade championship as an Aylor Middle School student! What a blessing to have such a beautiful and well-equipped facility to use and share! In fact, we ended the season by hosting the Varsity Playoff Brackets and Semi-Finals for the seven volleyball teams in the Shenandoah Christian Conference.

With the graduation of a large class of student athletes in Spring 2024, we are working to rebuild this year with much younger rosters. But our underclassmen enjoyed a fruitful season of competition! The Middle School and Varsity Soccer teams ended their seasons with respect-

able results, and both Middle School and Varsity Volleyball teams were ranked #1 in the Shenandoah Christian Conference! In addition, Middle School Volleyball took first place in the Sacred Heart Tournament, and Varsity Volleyball went on to be Runners-Up in our conference championship tournament.

Athletic growth continues to flourish as we look forward to the Winter Basketball season and the addition of a new sport—Cheer Squad—for girls in 6-8 grades.

—LORRI VANDERLINDEN



ABOVE: Coaches Kelsey Ambrose and Jamie Reams led the Varsity Volleyball team to Shenandoah Christian Conference Season Champions and 2nd place in the SCC tournament.

TOP: Eukarya’s Varsity Soccer team plays at home

Blueprints for Growth: The Tiny House Project

In the fall of 2022, we embarked on an exciting journey with the Tiny House Project. The first semester was dedicated to planning and design, securing the trailer bed, and preparing materials like milling lumber for framing. Space constraints led us to design a 19-foot home, and our goal is to have it completed and ready for sale by late spring 2025.

This project has been a hands-on learning experience for the students. They've gained valuable skills in carpentry, electrical work, plumbing, and roofing while learning to use various tools and understanding how materials are sourced and processed. Watching them engage with every stage of the design and build process has been incredibly rewarding.

For me, this has been a learning experience too. Collaborating with professionals like Jim Beeler, Jim Poole, Ryan Andrews, and Bruce Smallwood has been inspiring. Seeing students grow in confidence, tackling challenges, and saying things like, "I wish we could just do Trades every day," reminds me why projects like this matter.



-CHRIS EYRE



"They've gained valuable skills in carpentry, electrical work, plumbing, and roofing while learning to use various tools and understanding how materials are sourced and processed."



Falling into Fun at ECA's 11th Annual Chili Cook-Off



In October, Eukarya Christian Academy families and children of all ages gathered for our 11th Annual Chili Cook-Off, the first ever on our new property!

We enjoyed fellowship and activities for the kids like pumpkin bowling and face painting, broke in the Academy's new playground, and dug into chili and other food

generously provided by parent and student chefs. After the judges tasted this year's two entries, they awarded the 2024 Golden Spoon to Jenny Simancas, with Levi Hughes and Greg Wojcik taking second and third place, respectively.

Our fall festivities also included raffles for prizes including two highly sought-after premium spots in the Academy's car



line and hand-painted pumpkins from the high school art class each one inspired by a famous artist. In all, the raffles brought in nearly \$2,000 to benefit Eukarya and the school's concentrations and departments.

-MELANIE HILDRETH

DRAMA



Drama with a Purpose

New teachers bring fresh vision to ECA Drama Department **BY SARAH HYLAND**

The Eukarya Christian Academy drama department is brimming with new energy, thanks to the arrival of two talented teachers, Allie-Grace McNutt and Erin Edwards. Both come with extensive experience and fresh perspectives, poised to lead students into an exciting year of performances and growth in the performing arts.

Allie-Grace, who joined Eukarya in June, brings a professional background in acting, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a minor in Dance from Liberty University. As the Middle School Drama Teacher and Assistant High School Drama Teacher, she has

“I hope to encourage students to mature as performers... in the spirit of pursuing excellence for the glory of God.”

jumped in with both enthusiasm and expertise.

“I bring versatility in the art and an appreciation for all aspects of theater,” Allie-Grace said.

She’s particularly passionate about expanding Eukarya’s performances, envisioning full-length productions and even introducing improv shows for middle school students next semester.

But no job is too small: Her first task was organizing the theater inventory, ensuring that students and teachers have easy access to costumes, props, and other resources.

Meanwhile, Erin Edwards brings her own unique blend of skills as the new Middle and High School Choir Director and High School Drama Director. A seasoned musician and choir director, Erin has a background that spans English, Latin, and music, having studied at both the University of Mary Washington and George Mason University. Her varied career includes work in ministry and teaching, but it was a lifelong passion for music and

DRAMA

that ultimately drew her to Eukarya.

“I hope to encourage students to mature as performers, taking their preparation seriously and working to make the ensemble strong in the spirit of pursuing excellence for the glory of God,” Erin said.

This year, she’s introducing a new fall play to offer more performance options and to encourage students who may not feel inclined toward musicals. The collaboration between Allie-Grace Erin is already yielding exciting ideas. For instance, they’re already working together on the spring musical, Roger and Hammerstein’s Cinderella, with Allie-Grace focusing on props and costume design while Erin directs, blending their talents to create an unforgettable experience for the students and audiences alike.

Both teachers share a vis-

“We want students to feel free to explore their interests in acting or singing without intimidation.”

ion of nurturing each student’s confidence and talent in an environment that values creativity and faith.

“We want students to feel free to explore their interests in acting or singing without intimidation,” Erin said.

With such passionate leaders at the helm, Eukarya’s drama department is poised for a memorable year of growth, artistry, and performances that celebrate the talents of each student involved.



ABOVE: Erin (L) and Allie-Grace (R) hold their motto for drama, “Humility comes before Honor.”

Fall Showcase: Music, Drama, and Heart

The Upper School Choir and Drama Fall Showcase was a truly wonderful experience to share with our community! The first half of the evening began with the combined High School and Middle School Choirs performing a medley of traditional Hebrew songs a capella. These were followed by two deeply meaningful pieces: “One Day” by Jewish reggae artist Matisyahu and “My Deliverer” by the late Christian musician Rich Mullins. I chose these songs to reflect the longing for peace and restoration in troubled parts of the world, while pointing to the ultimate hope found in the reconciling work of Jesus Christ.

Our Middle School Drama students brought laughter and energy to the stage with the farcical “How to Survive Being in a Shakespeare Play” by Don Zolidis, setting the perfect tone.

The second half featured the High School Drama students’ one-act adaptation of Reginald Rose’s 12 Angry Jurors. Editing the script was a challenge, but the students embraced the material with such intensity that the audience was captivated. I’m incredibly proud of their performances and grateful for the talented team behind the scenes—costumes, lighting, set design, and more. It was a night to celebrate creativity and teamwork!

—ERIN EDWARDS





WORLDVIEW

The Path to Flourishing

How ECA is teaching students to integrate belief with intellectual inquiry

BY KIM HYLAND

Throughout history, families have passed on faith to their children through intentional, focused education. Not until after the Enlightenment did people begin to think of faith and religion as opposed to reason. In our postmodern age, this “enlightened” way of thinking has resulted in the estrangement of faith and reason, which increasingly has led to failure in passing on our most important and dearly held beliefs.

The consequences of this failure are sobering. In a study entitled *The Open Generation*, the Barna Group looked at Generation Z’s views on Jesus, Scripture, and Christianity’s impact on culture. The authors write, “Teens have respect for the Bible and are curious about its content, but they don’t seem sure of how scripture can inform and influence the world around them.”

Disconnects like this too often result in a loss of faith, as other worldviews and their destructive ideologies seep into the vacuum left by the artificial divide between faith and reason. But as history demonstrates, focused biblical instruction that addresses our lives, world, and relationship to God is a powerful means of overcoming this problem and equipping the next generation with a robust and thoughtful Christian faith.





ABOVE: A bulletin board in the worldview classroom exhibits the varied themes of human experience. Students came up with words to describe the illustrations, and classes discuss how the Christian worldview addresses life as we know it.

Contrary to what many assume, a biblical Christian worldview does not reject reason or our minds. Rather, Jesus himself admonishes us to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30). In other words, we are to love God with everything that we have as creations of an intelligent, rational being who has made us in his very image (Gen. 1:27). We’ve been given the inestimable gift of our minds to help us better understand who God is and who he made us to be. At Eukarya, our worldview program is motivated by these truths.

Studies show that strong and lasting faith is most often the product of a faith that is intentionally and consistently nurtured at home and reinforced by the community of believers at church. As a school, we recognize the tremendous opportunity to add a “third leg” to this collaboration through worldview instruction. To this end, we have partnered with Summit Ministries using their outstanding curriculum in all of our worldview classes.

“Christianity truly is the best explanation for the world as we know it.”

From kindergarten through 12th grade, students are instructed in the life-giving truths of the Christian worldview. Starting in kindergarten and continuing through fifth grade, we lay the foundation for our youngest students as they study twenty Biblical truths and learn about their relationship with God, themselves, others, and creation.

In 6th–8th grade, students are introduced to the “big questions” about God, the universe, human beings, truth, and morality; competing worldviews; and living as a Christian in a post-Christian world.

Our upper school program is designed to be conversational, and students are encouraged to discuss and wrestle with the challenging questions and issues of our day. Students study theology and apologetics and take a deep dive into six major worldviews. As they compare these to the Christian worldview, they learn to better understand the world and people around them. Students are able to see how Christianity is the best explanation for the world as we know it. Finally, students consider the

WORLDVIEW

most pressing cultural issues of our time and learn how to respond with intelligence and grace.

Each summer, Eukarya's 11th-12th grade students and alumni have the opportunity to attend a ten-day worldview conference at Summit Ministries in Manitou Springs, Colorado. Here they learn from top Christian thinkers, theologians, and apologists. They also enjoy outdoor adventures and nurture friendships with like-minded students. Over the past two years, the majority of Eukarya students have been awarded Summit's Student Leadership scholarship!

Worldview instruction isn't isolated to our Biblical instruction. Eukarya's entire teaching staff is encouraged and equipped to teach all subjects from a biblical worldview. Whether teaching the order of math, the complexity and design of science, the sovereignty of God in history, human expression in art, or theology and apologetics, we endeavor to consider everything we learn through the worldview of Christianity.

Because we understand that families are the primary influence in students' lives, we seek to encourage and support Eukarya parents in furthering their children's biblical worldview. One way we do that is through our Worldview Parent Seminars, we introduce our worldview program in detail as well as offer topic-based discuss-

ions on current issues such as anxiety, identity, media, and more.

As a classical, Christian school, Eukarya understands that learning begins with knowledge that grows into deeper understanding and ultimately leads to wisdom in life and decisions. Through biblical worldview instruction, students gain knowledge of the Bible and teachings of Christianity, they increase in their understanding of the Christian worldview, and they mature in

“Worldview instruction is not a defensive stance but a proactive response to the very challenging issues of our time.”

in wisdom, as they consider how to walk with Christ in the challenges of this time and place in our world.

Our worldview program is a powerful means toward accomplishing Eukarya's four-fold mission to disciple students, strengthen families, transform communities, and impact the world for Christ. The end goal of

the program is that students would have a deep understanding of the Christian faith and thereby know and love God and their neighbor (Matt. 22:37-40).

Worldview instruction is not a defensive stance, but a proactive response to the very challenging issues of our time. It is a means to not only resist the downward flow of culture but also equip Eukarya students to flourish in their faith, homes, school, and communities, all for the glory of God.



Kim Hyland is the Worldview Director at Eukarya Christian Academy where she has taught since 2020.

Prior to teaching at ECA, Kim homeschooled her now adult six children for over 20 years. She is a published author and is currently completing her masters degree in cultural apologetics.

When not teaching or studying, Kim enjoys reading and spending time with her family and fifteen grandchildren.



Capturing Creativity

Alumnus shares on art, faith, and his ECA roots

BY SARAH HYLAND

Since graduating from Eukarya Christian Academy (ECA) in 2022, Rexton Schulman has followed a path that reflects both his artistic drive and his faith. Though he attended ECA for only two years, joining as a junior, Rexton credits the experience with strengthening his character and giving him confidence—a foundation that he now leans on daily.

“Eukarya helped me see what I was capable of,” he reflected. “The projects and assignments built a lot of character in me and gave me the courage to pursue my dreams.”

After high school, Rexton began working with a social marketing company, where he discovered a passion for photography. The role helped him sharpen his skills, and he invested in his own equipment, eventually branching off to start his own business. Today, he partners with several local businesses each week, providing photography and social media content that helps them showcase their products and services.

“Working there sparked my interest in photography,” he said. “It’s been exciting to learn how I can use my skills to support other people’s dreams.”

While photography has become a significant part of his career, Rexton’s deepest passion remains music. He writes and records his own songs, finding inspiration in



PHOTO BY REXTON SCHULMAN

life experiences and his faith.

“Songwriting has truly become a therapeutic outlet for me, and I am so grateful that the Lord has shown me this path,” he shared. For Rexton, creating music isn’t just about self-expression; it’s also about reaching others. “I try to write songs that resonate with people, especially those going through challenging times.”

Looking back on his time at ECA, Rexton recalls an environment that felt like family.

“Being surrounded by believers and creative individuals truly shaped me into the person I am today,” he said. He found that the supportive atmosphere allowed him to explore his creative side freely, an experience he hopes current students appreciate.

His advice to today’s ECA

seniors is a reminder of one of the most important lessons he learned: “Remember where your true identity comes from. It doesn’t come from the temporary things this world has to offer, but from the eternal, loving, sovereign, Holy God of this universe.”

Rexton’s journey is just beginning, but he credits his time at ECA with preparing him well for what’s ahead. As he continues building his photography business and sharing his music, he carries forward the faith, confidence, and creative spirit that ECA helped him to cultivate—a lasting legacy of his time there.

Check out Rexton’s photography @shotbyrextion on Instagram and his music on Spotify via Rexton Schulman

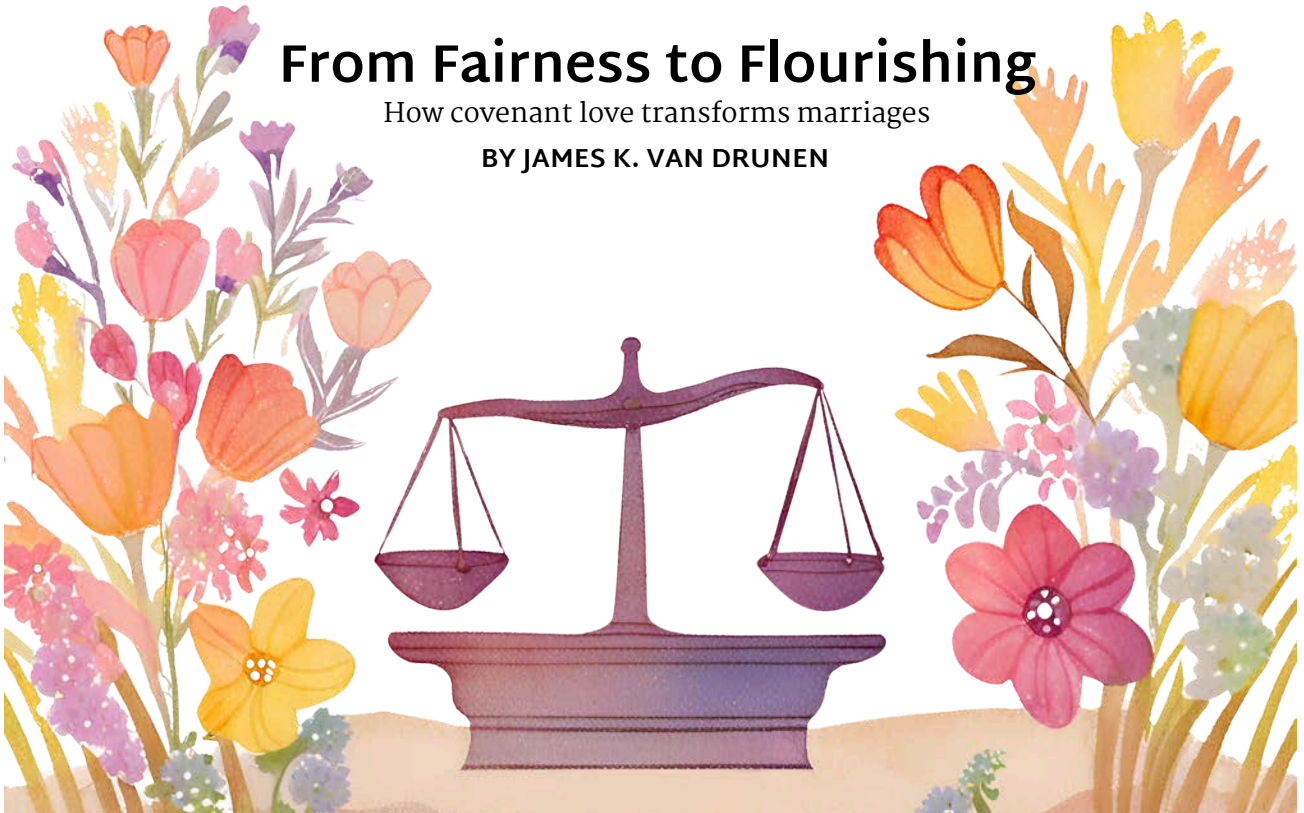


“Remember where your true identity comes from. It doesn’t come from the temporary things this world has to offer, but from the eternal, loving, sovereign, Holy God of this universe.”

From Fairness to Flourishing

How covenant love transforms marriages

BY JAMES K. VAN DRUNEN



Marriage is one of the most profound and beautiful gifts we can experience, but how it flourishes depends greatly on the foundation we lay. Many legitimate relationships and arrangements have a contractual/transactional basis, where each party enters the relationship with the justified expectation of providing something of value and receiving something of value in return. We characterize these relationships as *quid pro quo*, or something for something. While this type of relationship can succeed in business and commercial settings, it fails in the context of a Biblically based marriage.

When it comes to marriage, I invite you to consider a different reality, a reality that provides the basis for a marriage that flourishes. Here we offer for consideration the idea that marriage is NOT a contractual/transactional relationship based on equity, but rather a covenantal relationship based on sacrifice—one that reflects the sacrificial love of Christ and goes beyond exchanges of fairness and equity.

In a contractual/transactional relationship, the focus is always on equity. In this way of thinking, records are maintained and there is a tally of who did or provided what to ensure the relationship offers and provides an acceptable level of equity. However, in a covenantal relationship, the pursuit of equity is replaced by sacrifice—a selfless giving that mirrors Christ’s love for us.

This love isn’t concerned with who gave last or who owes whom; it’s covenantal marriage is its freedom from the “tit-for-tat” mentality. In a contractual and transactional relationship, every action is measured, and there’s an expectation of an equitable return. However, a covenantal marriage predicated on a different principle—one of unconditional giving. This again echoes Christ’s love, which He gives freely without expecting anything in return. When we stop keeping track of who did what and instead focus on how we can serve each other out of love, the relationship deepens, and love flows more naturally.

Forgiveness is another key distinction between these two types of relationships. In a covenantal marriage, forgiveness is a way of life. Just as Christ forgives us without reservation, we are called to forgive our spouses, letting go of past hurts and choosing to move forward in love. This commitment to forgiveness creates a marriage where both partners can be vulnerable, knowing that their relationship is based not on perfection, but on grace and compassion. This points again to the significant distinction between a contractual/transaction relationship which maintains records and a covenantal relationship which does not. Covenantal relationships are also distinguished by their focus on promises rather than guarantees. In a contractual/transactional the emphasis is placed on guarantees and warranties to insure that all parties receive their equitable due.

THE MARRIAGE INSTITUTE OF WINCHESTER

But in a covenantal relationship, the bond, surety, and focus is on the inalienable promises made to each other—promises before God and His people to love, to cherish, and to remain committed, no matter the circumstances. This promise, like the one Christ made to us, gives the marriage a foundation of trust and security, allowing it to withstand the inevitable challenges of life. Furthermore, fellowship is at the heart of a covenantal marriage, rather than performance. The relationship itself is considered sacred, far more valuable than any external success or accomplishment. It's about being fully present with each other, sharing in the joys and challenges of life, and building a home filled with love, connection, and mutual respect.

This kind of fellowship nurtures the bond between spouses, creating a sense of intimacy and belonging that helps the marriage not just survive but truly flourish.

“...embracing sacrifice, practicing forgiveness, keeping promises, prioritizing fellowship, and committing for life —will allow your relationship to flourish in ways you might never have imagined.”

Finally, a covenantal marriage is designed to be permanent, reflecting the eternal nature of Christ's love for us; contractual and transactional relationships are, by the nature of the case, are temporal in nature and, in time, are terminated. A covenantal marriage is an enduring commitment.

It's a promise that, just as Christ's love for us is unchanging, so too is the commitment we make to our spouse. This perspective allows couples to face life's storms together, knowing that their bond is built on a foundation meant to last forever.

To all married couples, take heart and be encouraged. Building your marriage on the principles of a covenantal relationship will allow your relationship to flourish in ways you might never have imagined.

By following Christ's example of love, you can create a marriage that grows stronger, deeper, and more beautiful with each passing day. Let this love guide you, and you will find that your marriage becomes a true reflection of the grace and love that Christ has for each of us.



James “Jim” K. Van Drunen will celebrate his 80th birthday in July 2025, reflecting on a lifetime of commitment to family, faith, and business.

Born and raised in South Holland, IL, with three siblings, he started working at his family's lumber company at just 11 years old. His education began in Christian schools and continued at Trinity Christian College, where he studied philosophy and theology before transferring to Michigan State University to complete his studies in marketing and economics. He later became a graduate assistant, teaching economics while pursuing graduate

studies. During the Vietnam War, James served 20 months in the U.S. Army at Ft. Bragg, where he was Assistant to the Comptroller, and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for creating a system to track civilian leave. His wife, Pat, served as a Captain and Head Nurse in the Army Nurse Corps at the same time and place.

Upon returning, James led his family's lumber business for 25 years, later founding and managing 14 companies and developing 38 residential subdivisions. His community service includes 40 years on the Bible League International board, serving as chairman for 13 of those years, along with roles as a Christian school board member and church elder. Married to Pat for 55 years, they have three sons and nine grandchildren. Today, James remains active in business, consulting, and managing farms across Indiana and Illinois.

Training Students & Strengthening Families

A new chapter of growth and connection at Eukarya Family Center

BY CHERYL BEASLEY

Guided by Eukarya Family Center’s mission to “strengthen families” and in response to remarkable growth, Beacon Hill Christian Counseling was delighted to expand its presence at Eukarya Christian Academy this fall, allowing us to connect with students, parents, and staff more consistently. Moving all student counseling services under the umbrella of Beacon Hill reflects our commitment to being more available to offer vital emotional and mental health support to full-time and homeschool students in the Academy, as well as our daycare families at Eukarya King’s Cubs.

Beacon Hill continues to provide individual and group counseling sessions at a reduced rate to all Eukarya families and staff, who can access services both at the Academy and at our Gerrard Street location in downtown Winchester. Our hope is that this accessibility fosters an environment of wellbeing, ensuring our community has the support it needs.

This fall, we introduced new classroom presentations for students, featuring quarterly topics aimed at facilitating their growth and resilience. The first session, entitled “With God, We Always Bounce Back!”, was a hit among lower school students. Through engaging activities, Beacon Hill counselors helped students

understand resilience by bouncing, singing, and practicing “bounce-back” skills. Full-time and homeschool lower school classrooms participated, diving into an interactive lesson on facing challenges with the right attitude. Each student received a neon green rubber ball and learned a catchy song to reinforce the concept of resilience. They also enjoyed a reading of Perfect Square by Michael Hall and a creative craft activity that encouraged them to “think outside the box” in responding to life’s difficulties.

The theme verse for this presentation, Romans 8:28—“God works all things together for good”—served as an anchor point for discussions. We talked with students about how trusting in God’s plan helps us embrace change with an attitude of gratitude. Teachers noted the enthusiasm in the classrooms as students discussed how faith and resilience can help them overcome challenges with joy.

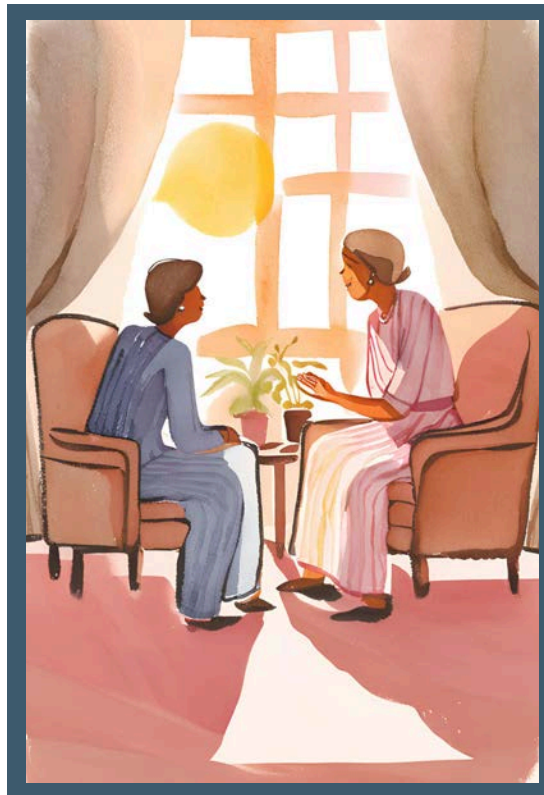
In the coming quarters, Beacon Hill will lead additional sessions on friendship, respect, and kindness. Each presentation is designed to encourage personal growth and foster a supportive, respectful community within the school.

And lower school students were not the only ones to benefit from this outreach: We also visited upper school classrooms during Morning Round Table to introduce Beacon Hill’s services and ensure older students know they have support when needed.

As we continue expanding our offerings, Beacon Hill is encouraged by our growing reach among Eukarya families and the surrounding community as more and more people learn about our Christian counseling services. Our newly launched website, is one more platform to help us connect with the community and

share our mission of bringing hope and healing. With gratitude and excitement, we look forward to this new chapter at Eukarya Family Center. We are confident that God is, indeed, “working all things together for good,” and we remain committed to walking alongside families as they navigate life’s challenges.

Visit Beacon Hill’s new website at:
www.beaconhillchristiancounseling.com





Eukarya Christian Academy

The Learning Center

Eukarya Homeschool Academy

Athletics

Missions

Upper School

Lower School

Alumni

Eukarya King's Cubs

The Marriage Institute
of Winchester

Beacon Hill Christian
Counseling

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.

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Flourishing Through Faith, Family, and Community

Solenberger's Hardware grows by helping generations flourish **BY JAIME SOLENBERGER**

Solenberger's Hardware originally began as a farm implement business in 1888, known as Solenberger and Stouffer, primarily serving the agricultural community in and around Winchester, Virginia. At that time, Winchester and its surrounding areas were largely rural, and farmers needed reliable access to equipment, tools, and supplies to maintain and improve their farms.

At Solenberger's, the word "flourish" means more than just growth—it signifies thriving in a way rooted in faith, family, community, and a deep commitment to doing right by others. Since our beginning in 1888, we've seen generations of families pass through our doors, and our story closely mirrors the growth and resilience of the community we proudly serve.

For us, flourishing has never been about rapid expansion or flashy changes; it's about staying true to the values that have sustained us for 136 years. Solenberger's was founded on the belief that honesty, hard work, and a helping hand make all the difference. We're more than just a hardware store—we're a place where neighbors connect, where advice is free, and where customers are treated like family, whether they're working on a home project, searching for the right tool, or picking up home goods and supplies for everyday needs.

Our relationships with the people we serve has been key to our success. Many of our customers have been generational, some since childhood. They bring their children, and now even their grandchildren, knowing they'll find familiar faces and the same level of care. Watching families grow and thrive over the years has been one of the greatest joys of our business.

When our community flourishes, so do we. That's why we're committed to being actively involved in the community. Whether it's through supporting local events or partnering with organizations like the Eukarya Family Center, we believe that helping our neighbors succeed is part of what has made Solenberger's successful and flourish.

Over the years, we've adapted to the changing needs of our community by expanding our product



ABOVE: Solenberger's family and staff

lines, offering expert advice, and offering valuable services. However, at our core, we're still the same business JNO Solenberger envisioned—a place where people come not just for products, but trust, support, and service.

Our history is important to us, and proud of how our community has grown and flourished. For us, community isn't just about buildings or geography... it's about people who share a common belief in the importance of faith, family, morals and integrity. The future of Solenberger's will continue to be built on these strong roots, and we look forward to continuing to serve and grow with the families and individuals who walk through our doors.

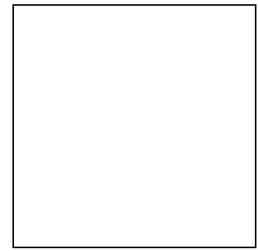
“For us, flourishing has never been about rapid expansion or flashy changes; it's about staying true to the values that have sustained us for 136 years.”

Solenberger's is more than just about selling products; we believe in faith, family, community, country, and, as one of our commercials humorously said... bacon.

Thank you for allowing us to share our story. We look forward to many more years of flourishing with the wonderful people of our beautiful community.



Eukarya Family Center
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United States



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