



**ECO-STEWARDS PROGRAM: WEST VIRGINIA 2010**  
**TENDING THE GARDEN: A FAITH RESPONSE TO PROTECTING & RESTORING**  
**MOUNTAINS, COMMUNITIES & RELATIONSHIPS**  
**MAY 16-23, 2010**

*With Additional Paid Summer Internships\**

**Description:** Are you a young adult (~20-30) searching for a way to connect your faith and environmental calling? Join us for the 2010 Eco-Stewards Program, as we delve into the complex environmental issues surrounding mountains, coal, land use, and sustainability in southern West Virginia. We will consider how these issues invite us to deepen our relationship with God and with each other -- to live more simply, to consume less, and to join in a dynamic Christian movement to care for the earth.

This weeklong program will examine the faith response to environmental degradation in the West Virginia context. We will explore some of the complexities surrounding [mountaintop removal coal mining](#). We'll listen to stories of the people and the land as we participate in a local restoration project; visit a mountaintop removal site with those who are dedicating their lives to protecting the mountains; join with local pastors in a blessing of the mountains; and converse with Yale Divinity School ethicist and professor [Willis Jenkins](#) about the theological underpinnings of land stewardship. We will also take time to breath deeply and recognize the beauty and wonder of God's Creation as we walk in the woods, float down the New River, and learn about West Virginia's traditions of living with and from the land.

Our week will conclude with a [Christian Community Gathering](#) at [Bluestone Camp & Retreat](#) on the banks of Bluestone Lake. Here we will synthesize and share what we have learned and be commissioned for future eco-stewardship service. This community gathering will allow us to gain strength from and give energy to the Christian earth care movement. Sustainable farmer Joel Salatin (featured in Michael Pollan's best-selling book *The Omnivore's Dilemma* & Robert Kenner's documentary *Food, Inc.*) will be the keynote speaker for this event. Salatin, a self-proclaimed Christian environmentalist, will share his principles and practices of land stewardship for his Polyface Inc. farm in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley.

The 2010 Eco-Stewards Program will provide an opportunity to meet people who are listening to the Spirit at work on this planet and within the landscape of West Virginia. You will also have a chance to share your own passions and sense of vocational call to environmental stewardship. Come, join us for the week or maybe, for the full summer as an intern with one of our partner organizations. Or perhaps, these hills will call you home for longer...

For more information or to apply, see [www.ecostewardsprogram.org](http://www.ecostewardsprogram.org)

✦**Who:** This program will be facilitated by eco-minded Rev. Rob Mark of [First Presbyterian Church](#) in Waltham, Massachusetts, by Boston-based environmental journalist [Becky Evans](#), and by Environment and Resources graduate student and local West Virginia river guide [Heather Lukacs](#). The Eco-Stewards Program is a joint mission of the Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC) and the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association (PCCCA).

✦**For Whom:** Undergraduate students, graduate students, and young adults in the ~20-30 age range who have an interest in connecting their faith and environmental passions.

✦**When:** May 16-23, 2010 for weeklong program. Begins 6 p.m. on 16<sup>th</sup> / ends a.m. of 23<sup>rd</sup>.

✦**Where:** Group will be lodging at Presbyterian churches in West Virginia in southern West Virginia for first 3 nights, then spend 2 days on the New River and May 20-23 group will stay at [Bluestone Camp & Retreat](#) center and take part in [Stewardship of the Land: A Christian Community Gathering](#).

✦**Cost:** \$250 + transportation to West Virginia (all-inclusive of meals, housing, transportation, honoraria). Participants are encouraged to fundraise on their own.

**\*Additional Paid Summer-long Internships:** For interested participants, there are 4-5 sites that are committed to house and supervise paid summer internships related to eco-stewardship in West Virginia. Internships begin May 24 and last for 8-10 weeks depending on site. Site locations are (1) Montgomery Presbyterian and West Virginia Missions Advocacy and Workcamps, (2) Bluestone Camp & Retreat and Hinton Presbyterian Church, (3) Rural Appalachian Improvement League and Pentecostal Church in McGraws, (4) West Virginia Stewardship of Creation Ministry Team (near Fayetteville, WV), (5) Christians for the Mountains (*site still pending*). There will be ongoing supervision and community building opportunities for these events. Each intern will receive between \$1000-2000 upon completion of their internship (specific amount will be clarified upon being accepted to internship). Housing will be provided. [Click here](#) for more information.

For more information or to apply, see [www.ecostewardsprogram.org](http://www.ecostewardsprogram.org)

### **Preliminary Itinerary**

Sun. 5/16	Arrive on your own in Charleston or Montgomery, WV by 6pm / Orientation & overview of week / Community building / Communications intro / Closing vespers service
Mon. 5/17	Morning: Land restoration project (tree planting or soil double digging) with local Church / Afternoon: Eco-Faith Journey and writing session / Evening: Dinner at Local Church; Eco-Faith Journey sharing
Tues. 5/18	Morning: Eco-ethics seminar with Prof. Willis Jenkins / Afternoon: Visit to Mountain Top Removal site, Blessing of the Mountains / Dinner with MTR Christian activists - Robin Blakeman (OVEC), Rebekah, Sage, Allen Johnson (Christians for the Mountains) / Eco-Faith Journey sharing
Wed. 5/19	Morning: Meditative walk in the woods with contemplative morning prayer / Eco-theology in WV context / Afternoon: Tree planting on a valley fill or other land restoration project / Evening: WV traditions of living with and from the land -- dinner with local hosts / How to share the message
Thurs. 5/20	New River float, campfire at Bluestone, camp at Bluestone / Communications session
Fri. 5/21	Morning: Prepare Presentation and Photos for Community Gathering / Afternoon: Visit Bethlehem Farms (Catholic Community) and other local farm / Evening: Meet and greet and help set up booths for Community Gathering / Presentation work
Sat. 5/22	Stewardship of the Land Community Gathering: Morning: Keynote speaker, workshops. Afternoon: Workshops, Evening: Commissioning Service
Sun. 5/23	Closing & travel home / Travel to internship placements for interns

## Eco-Stewards Program May 16-23, 2010 West Virginia

### Application

**Rolling Applications w/ Early Deadline: March 25, 2010. Final decisions made within two weeks of application after early deadline (internship decisions will require additional time).**

We are seeking interested young adults to participate in this weeklong program focused on how people of faith are responding to the protection and restoration of mountains, communities and relationships in the specific context of southern West Virginia. Participants will engage in this community based learning experience through a variety of ways including lectures, community gatherings, field excursions, hands-on project work, creative worship, and sharing of personal passions & expertise. All participants will be required to participate fully in the program. A willingness to fundraise for part of the cost of this trip is encouraged of participants as needed (we are happy to provide input on fundraising). The total cost per student is \$250 + travel costs to/from West Virginia. This cost is all-inclusive of meals, housing, transportation, speaker honoraria. Selection will include emphasis on geographic, racial, and gender diversity (and no participant will be discriminated based on gender, race, or national origin).

**How to Apply:** Please submit all the below information to Rev. Rob Mark at [robfirstpres@gmail.com](mailto:robfirstpres@gmail.com) (617-680-7013) as both an attached Word document *and* in the body of an email by the above deadline:

- Full Name:
- Date of Birth:
- Address (include street, city, state, zip):
- Cell Phone:
- Other Phone:
- Email address:
- Any personal websites you'd like us to see related to your life, studies, research, etc.:
- If relevant, currently student at (include school, program, anticipated year of graduation):
- Church affiliation (if any):
- Emergency Contact Name & phone number:
- Health Insurance Company & phone number:
- This weeklong program requires good physical fitness (with some hiking, basic work such as gardening, and river trip), mental wellness and health. Please explain any concerns that may limit your ability to participate fully in this trip:
- Please list 2 references who can speak to your interests & abilities to participate in this seminar. Include their name, relationship to you, position/title, and contact information (email & phone only):
- Please answer the following questions in ***no more than 100 words each***.
  - 1) Why do you want to come on this program and what do you hope to get out of it?
  - 2) What gifts/ knowledge/ skills do you bring to this experience?
  - 3) Do you have any background or passions related to eco-stewardship? If so, please describe.
  - 4) Briefly describe how your faith and interests in environmental work connect.

-----  
**SUMMER INTERNSHIP:** If also applying for summer internships, please answer the following ***in addition*** to questions above (*note:* participation in weeklong program is prerequisite for all internships, please read internship descriptions at [www.ecostewardsprogram.org/internships](http://www.ecostewardsprogram.org/internships) for more information):

- 5) Why are you willing to commit your summer to the Eco-Stewards internship program? What do you bring to such an internship?
  - 6) Please describe a project that you have taken the initiative to complete independently or as the leader of a group.
  - 7) Please describe a meaningful experience working or volunteering for a service-oriented organization.
- Optional question:* If you have a preferred site placement, please tell us why. Would you be willing to be located at another site if your preferred site internship has already been filled?