

Eco-Stewards Internships, Summer 2010

Four Internship locations:

1. West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps (WVMAW) & Montgomery Presbyterian Church, Based in Montgomery, WV
2. Fayetteville Presbyterian & WV Stewardship of Creation Ministry Team Eco-Stewards Internship, Based in Fayetteville, WV and traveling throughout WV.
3. McGraws/Ravencliff Foodbank Garden, Based in McGraws, West Virginia
4. Bluestone Camp & Retreat and Hinton Presbyterian Church

Interns will receive a stipend of \$200 per week and housing will be provided by the host location.

All interns will be asked to serve alongside local people in the sense of Micah 6:8: "... What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?" Justice will be served in building a gap between the rich and poor in community outreach. Loving kindness in building relationships with those we serve as well as though who serve. Walking humbly with God in being flexible in our mission, aware that we do not know the outcome of any project when we give it fully to God.

Eco-Stewards Mission:

The Eco-Stewards are a Christian community responding to God's call through applied eco-stewardship.

The Eco-Stewards program seeks to train and inspire young adults ages 20-30 in the ways of eco-stewardship within the wider context of our Christian faith. In response to Jesus' call to love our neighbors we are committed to the following principles:

1. Eco-consciousness
2. Being in solidarity with the poor
3. Living as ecological and socially responsible consumers
4. Personal spiritual journeys that are nurtured and supported by the Way of Community
5. Having roots in Presbyterian Reformed tradition
6. Providing education and training that compels action

West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy & Workcamps statement of values

- We strive to serve people in ways that will be sustaining for the good of their communities as well as for the good of individuals and families.
- We encourage spiritual and faith development among those who serve as well as those who are served by our efforts.
- We seek to encourage and enable mission leadership that will strengthen churches and community members, bringing new life and vitality to West Virginia and beyond.
- We seek to treat all people with respect and dignity, regardless of their situation.
- We believe that volunteers are called by God to be partners in ministry.
- We seek to help people find safe, sanitary, and affordable housing.
- We are committed to careful stewardship of all resources entrusted to our care.
- We seek to witness to the goodness of God by providing quality workmanship on all jobs we undertake.
- We believe that God opens the doors that provide opportunities for ministries that can make a real difference in people's lives. We seek to find those opportunities for service, and to partner with other organizations involved in similar ministries

West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps (WVMAW) & Montgomery Presbyterian Church

Based in Montgomery, WV

Site description: The West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps (WVMAW) is a Christian ministry supported in part by the Presbyterian Church (USA) that offers the opportunity for discipleship by partnering with those in need whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters or by the disaster of poverty in areas of West Virginia. Please read more about this ministry and our statement of values here: <http://www.wvpresbytery.org/Ministries/WVMAW/tabid/68/Default.aspx>.

Internship description: This eco-stewards intern will serve both WVMAW and Montgomery Presbyterian and their related missions. For WVMAW, the intern be involved with many aspects of the workcamp ministry - from greeting volunteer groups, introducing them to the home owners, helping with construction and teaching, making sure the work site is cleaned daily, keeping materials onsite, and volunteers busy, etc. At Montgomery Presbyterian (where the workcamp groups stay), the intern will be the "responsible adult," making sure lights are out, water is not wasted, care is given for facility, work with adult leaders to keep youth in specified areas, lead debriefings as directed. The intern will have the opportunity to lead worship as desired, and participate in worship activities.

In addition, this intern will dedicate time to Montgomery Presbyterian's community ministry working with youth in the direction of life skills, alternatives to at risk behavior, stewardship of resources, responsible citizenship. The community ministry is a partnership with other Churches in the Montgomery area and the building a program to serve area youth is a passion of Pastor Joan Stewart and others in the area.

Special site requirements/notes: This site is specifically looking for a hard-working service oriented intern who will enjoy working on construction sites with missions groups as well as at-risk youth who may struggle with highly dysfunctional families, drugs, peer pressure, poverty, and crime. We are not looking for an activist or someone who comes with their own agenda - but rather someone willing to listen and serve in this unique setting.

Experience working with youth and/or construction skills are a plus.

Montgomery Presbyterian will provide a private room with a bed. Meals are generally taken with the groups that will include the intern in their meal plan as directed. Wednesdays are generally off days for the group. The intern may do activities with the group, or may be required to help supply the work site.

Fayetteville Presbyterian & WV Stewardship of Creation Ministry Team Eco-Stewards Internship

Based in Fayetteville, WV and traveling throughout WV.

Roving reporter to document how congregations in WV are stewarding the earth's resources and minister to outdoor community through community garden and farmer's market in New River Gorge region.

Fayetteville Presbyterian Church and the town of Fayetteville are situated on the rim of the New River Gorge National River where tens of thousands of visitors and staff come each summer for whitewater rafting, rock climbing, bird watching, and other outdoor pursuits. Under the supervision of the outreach ministry team from Fayetteville Presbyterian, the Eco-Stewards intern will minister and outreach to the outdoor community through eco-stewardship and community building projects including extending a community garden onsite. In addition, the intern will sit with local youth each Saturday morning at the Farmer's Market as they sell produce and be responsible for organizing other community outreach events at the Church (possibilities include an earth stewardship Bible study, community dinners with produce from the garden, etc.).

The Fayetteville eco-stewards intern will also work with the Presbytery of West Virginia Stewardship of Creation Ministry Team as a "Roving Reporter" traveling to visit faith-based organizations throughout WV currently engaged in projects to preserve, protect, and restore the Earth's resources. This will include other intern projects and congregations in the Presbytery of WV. The reporter will interview people involved, take photographs, and gather data for newsletter articles and blog posts that will recognize the accomplishments of congregations and encourage other congregations to take action.

Internship skills:

- Writing and communication skills, experience with newspaper and/or blogging or desire to develop these skills, laptop and digital camera helpful
- Interpersonal relationship skills, out-going, comfortable interviewing
- Interest in further developing gardening skills or learning to garden.
- Strong faith and missions background
- Enjoys being outside
- Previous experience working with youth a plus (but not required)!

McGraws/Ravencliff Foodbank Garden

Based in McGraws, West Virginia

The McGraws/Ravencliff Food Bank Garden is a project of the Church of God Prophecy in Ravencliff, the Presbyterian Church Eco-Stewards, the Friends of Milam Creek, and the Rural Appalachian Improvement League, which seeks to provide fresh produce in season for the McGraws/Ravencliff Food Bank and engage community volunteers in helping their neighbors. The project will consist of a vegetable garden tentatively planned for the Milam Creek Park which will be cared for by volunteers and whose produce will be donated directly to the McGraws/Ravencliff Food Bank.

Job Description: The Eco-Steward will be responsible for organizing volunteers to put in a community garden which will provide fresh produce for the McGraws/Ravencliff food bank. The Eco-Steward should have excellent interpersonal skills and flexibility. Knowledge of gardening is a plus, but is not required. However, the Eco-Steward should be ready to work in the garden side by side with volunteers. The Eco-Steward will need recruit and organize the volunteers to plant, tend, and harvest the garden during the growing season.

Supervisor: The Church of God Prophecy and David Shumate will provide overall supervision and assistance in the day to day project responsibilities. Further, technical assistance, seed, and some equipment will be provided by Jack Seitz, project manager for the Farming for Health and Wealth program in Mullens. Dvon Duncan and Bridget Belko of the Friends of Milam Creek will provide assistance with community outreach and office space.

Housing: McGraws with "host family."

Bluestone Camp & Retreat and Hinton Presbyterian Church

Job Requirements: Candidate needs to be of high moral character and exhibit integrity through his/her actions. Good written and verbal communication skills, as well as skills in researching relevant information to the locale, are needed. Ability to adapt to the local culture and constraints is definitely a plus for someone who is unfamiliar with this area.

The internship will be comprised of two experiences. The first half will be spent on location at Bluestone Camp & Retreat, serving during the time Summer Camp is in session. As a part of the staff, the intern will work in three areas.

- (1) Food Service -- researching options for supplying Bluestone's food Service with foods grown and raised locally and report a cost/benefit analysis to management.
- (2) Program -- develop and implement an eco-education strategy that can be worked into the camp experience.
- (3) Facility Improvement -- work with maintenance staff and volunteers to help Bluestone progress toward becoming a more eco-friendly facility.

Bluestone Camp & Retreat will provide room, board, and the appropriate designated portion of the stipend.

At the conclusion of the Bluestone Summer Camp, the intern will spend four weeks at the First Presbyterian Church in Hinton, WV under the supervision of Pastor Barbara Romfo. The focus in Hinton will be addressing ways that the Presbyterian Church can implement plans to be more environmentally sensitive in their day-to-day operations.

Tasks will include researching "greener" options throughout the church (such as: cleaning and paper supplies, recycling options, and energy audit/upgrades). The intern would take responsibility for presenting his/her findings to the Session and the congregation. He/she will be available to meet with other interested churches in the area to share her/his findings and encourage good eco-stewardship.

The intern will be interfacing with the community program run by the 4-H/ Extension Service; he/she will help with area projects the Extension Service/ 4-H has in place.

In addition to their portion of the stipend, First Presbyterian is prepared to help cover certain designated expenses. We will be providing office space, computer, and internet access for use on internship-related tasks.