



Presbyterians for
Earth Care

AN ECO-JUSTICE NETWORK

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PEC UPDATE

Steering Committee

MODERATOR, INTERIM EDITOR:

Jenny Holmes
(503) 281-8175
jehrestore@aol.com
Presbytery of Cascades,
Synod of Pacific

VICE MODERATOR:

Diane Waddell
(816) 262-4770
diane_waddell@sbcglobal.net
Heartland Presbytery,
Synod of Mid-America

TREASURER:

Sue Smith
(732) 291-3343
suzesmith@verizon.net
Presbytery of Monmouth,
Synod of Northeast

Regional Representatives

NORTHEAST:

John Preston
(315) 865-4623
parkbooker@aol.com
Presbytery of Utica,
Synod of the Northeast

PACIFIC:

David Siegenthaler
(510) 482-9311
dsynthlr@earthlink.net
Presbytery of San Francisco,
Synod of the Pacific

MIDWEST:

Jerry Rees
(913) 649-9144
reesveenstra@aol.com
Presbytery of Heartland,
Synod of Mid-America

NORTHWEST:

Richard E. Melin
(509) 714-7102
rmelin@synodnw.org
Presbytery of Inland Northwest,
Synod of Alaska - Northwest

AT-LARGE:

Jane Laping
(828) 277-7342
janelaping@sbcglobal.net
Presbytery of Western North Carolina,
Synod of the Mid Atlantic

COORDINATOR

Lizzie McGurk
(571) 337-8433
pecmcgurk@gmail.com
110 Maryland Ave. NE
Suite 108
Washington, DC 20002

www.presbyearthcare.org

MODERATOR'S REFLECTION

Searching for Truth (and Civility) for Creation's Sake

By Jenny Holmes

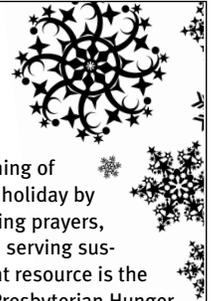
What is the role of people of faith in addressing the polarization that is so evident in the aftermath of the mid-term elections? Polarization is not just a matter of people holding different opinions. It is an "intense commitment to a candidate, culture, or ideology that sets one group apart from people in a rival group." Such intensity can provoke incivility when the rival group is viewed as clearly wrong. At the same time, misinformation may be portrayed as obvious truth if it serves to bolster a political argument. Rigorous investigative journalism is becoming a rarity, and so are attention spans long enough to appreciate it. Bipartisanship in the interest of the common good is sacrificed to the god of winning.

A recent Pew poll revealed that although 59% of Americans "believe that the earth is getting warmer," only 34%—as opposed to 50% in a similar 2006 poll—attribute that warming "mostly to human activity such as burning fossil fuels." The downward shift relates in part to the so-called Climategate controversy, which arose when climate-change skeptics alleged that emails stolen from the Climatic Research Unit of the University of East Anglia exposed misconduct within the climate science community and cast doubt on global warming science. After a six-month investigation, scientists at the center of the controversy were exonerated. But the damage had already been done to public understanding of the overarching moral issue of our time. Speaking the truth in love is vital to the future of God's creation.

It is tempting to ignore the ruckus around us and be silent. But as Christians, we can model ways of working with our fellow human beings based on appropriate humility and respect for the dignity of all God's children. In 2 Corinthians 5:18, we read that "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." Ignoring the polarization around us, or adding to it, do not seem like faithful options

Reclaiming Advent and Christmas

Shape your Christmas and Advent celebrations centering on the true meaning of Christmas. Prepare for the holiday by simplifying life, incorporating prayers, giving alternative gifts and serving sustainable foods. An excellent resource is the "Just Living" series of the Presbyterian Hunger Program's "Enough for Everyone" program. Download resources at www.pcusa.org/enough.



if we are called to an active ministry of reconciliation. Such a ministry is not easy. It requires a lot of prayer and trust in God, the ultimate reconciler. At the same time, being "as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16), we must question the rhetoric, and actions, of people and groups of all political and ideological persuasions and seek the truth. In our time, corporations hold strong influence over both right and left. Also, some people are simply not interested in respectfully listening to those who hold different views. Both creating the space for such listening in our daily interactions and in our churches, and the prophetic voice are needed.

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Advocacy

A Point in Time PC(USA) Advocacy : 1954 – 1960

IN 1954 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STATED:

We call upon the Christian conscience to recognize that our stewardship of the earth and water involves both a land-use program that recognizes the interdependence of soil, water and man [sic] and the development of a responsible public policy which will resist the exploitation of land, water, and other natural resources, including forests, for selfish purposes and maintain intelligent conservation for the sustenance of all living creatures through future generations.

- * Rosa Parks refuses to sit at the back of the bus, breaking Montgomery, AL segregation law;
- * U.S. tests the first aerial hydrogen bomb over Namu Islet, Bikini Atoll;
- * Russia launches Sputnik, first earth-orbiting satellite;
- * The existence of the Van Allen Belt, a radiation belt surrounding the earth is confirmed by the Explorer satellite—the U.S.'s first satellite;
- * Texas Instruments develops the first integrated circuit.

From a timeline of PC(USA) environmental policies developed by Karen Turney, PEC Advocacy Team Member, of Atlanta Georgia for PEC.

PEC Advocacy Committee is looking for members and advisors as we develop a plan for advocacy priorities and strategies.

PEC seeks to be a faithful and effective in a witness that both lifts up the policies of the PC(USA) and provides a voice on emerging or urgent issues. Bee Morehead of Texas Impact, an interfaith statewide advocacy organization that works on issues of justice and sustainability, is serving as chair as we develop our plan in early 2011.

If you are interested in advising or serving on the committee, send an e-mail to Bee Morehead at bee@texasimpact.org.

States and Regions Become Loci for Greenhouse Gas Reductions

By John Preston, Northeast Representative, PEC

Failure in the U.S. Senate and at Copenhagen have dampened hopes for national and international policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Yet there is good news in from some states and regions. In ten states in the Northeast, a regional cap and trade program has been working over the last two years, and has shown signs of modest promise.

That promise takes two forms. First, recent research from the World Resources Institute has shown that a combination of state efforts and regulation from the EPA could keep the nation on track to meet our nation's Copenhagen pledge to reduce carbon emissions by 17% by 2020.

But the bigger promise is that state and regional programs become a beta test for what a national system could do. In the case of the Northeast's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), there have been no spikes in electricity rates, or other disasters predicted by political nay-sayers.

RGGI is modest in that it addresses only big power plants, about 23% of total northeast emissions. However, the auction of carbon permits is working. And, the revenues from these auctions has yielded \$729.2 million. Overall, about 80% of the auction proceeds have been used by the participating states for consumer benefits, to accelerate renewable energy technologies, and improve energy efficiencies.

The other hope is for the West Coast, led by California, which is set to launch its own cap and trade in 2012, and it will go beyond RGGI's scope in including manufacturing as well as power plants, and, in 2015, transportation. California is a leader in the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) that includes seven U.S. states and four Canadian provinces. Hopefully the other states and provinces will get back on board as the California launch shows success.

For more information: RGGI, www.rggi.org;
WCI, www.westernclimateinitiative.org

Welcome PEC Conference Organizer

To assist with creating an inspiring and stimulating 2011 conference PEC has hired The Rev. Ashley-Anne Masters to serve as conference organizer. Masters received her M. Div. from Columbia Theological Seminary and serves as an adjunct staff at Montreat Conference Center organizing summer youth conferences. Her pastoral experience includes serving as Interim Associate Pastor for Children & Family Ministries at Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis and serving as a Chaplain at Northside Hospital in Atlanta. We appreciate her **strong experience and skills in conference organizing, ability to inspire teamwork and interest in eco-justice. She will help keep us moving forward, support volunteer planners, and attend to many details.** To contact Ashley-Anne send an e-mail to aamasters@gmail.com

Welcome Ashley-Anne!



Advocacy

What's New with Nuclear?

By Bob Stivers, Professor Emeritus of Religion, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington

Debates about nuclear energy are like the trolley cars of my youth and just about as old. We used to say, “Miss one now and there will be another along in fifteen minutes.” And sure enough, even as I write, a new debate is upon us! Global warming and claims about almost accident proof new reactors are drawing us inexorably into the new debate; a debate we cannot ignore because global warming is real and the claims appealing; no greenhouse gases and an ample supply of fuel for future economic growth. Most of us know the arguments pro and con. There is no need to rehash them; but once again we must affirm Presbyterian social policy which calls for a very careful assessment of nuclear fission as a major source of energy before any commitment.

Proponents of nuclear energy stress the benefits of a huge new commitment. Yes, those benefits are substantial, but buyer beware. We need the wisdom of the serpent to reveal what is understated or left out of their arguments and to address the nagging questions that continue to concern us. *Here are four areas for my concern.*

1. Cost—The monetary costs of a new commitment are staggering and will suck up large amounts of available capital. Alternatives will be foregone. Proponents do, of course, calculate the costs of building and maintaining nuclear plants in their proposals. However, costs of such large capital outlays are usually understated by their proponents. In addition the costs of decommissioning old plants, nuclear accidents and sabotage, and waste disposal are left out, presumably to be picked up by taxpayers. This is a big load for future generations. We should make sure we have a full accounting of costs before we get on this trolley.

2. The Technological Fix—proponents claim that we can “fix” our energy problems temporarily with a burst of nuclear energy. Yes, scientists and technologists have solved many problems with their creative ideas and investment in new plant and equipment. The technological process has nearly unlimited potential, and we need every bit of it to solve our energy problems. After the Gulf oil spill, however, we should be increasingly suspicious about claims for “fool proof” technologies. Proponents glibly concede there will be accidents and even attempted sabotage, but seldom tell us how BIG they can be. I don’t think we are ready for this “fix.”



The implications of a nuclear future are enormous, far more than a mere consideration of sufficient supply and maintaining economic growth. Are we ready?

3. Ends—The goal of proponents seems to be a sufficient supply of energy to see us through the interim to fully sustainable energy, essentially renewable. They assume economic growth and consumptive ways of living as we know them can continue because the “fix” will circumvent major problems. We can have both sufficient energy and high levels of consumption. Poverty can be eliminated. These arguments are attractive, because the appeal to economic justice is a foundation of Christian ethics. But think again about the implications. Can earth, even with technological “fixes,” sustain present levels of consumption and waste, not to mention increasing levels with population growth? Indeed, is this a “good” future with all its stress on material aspects of life? Don’t we in rich countries already have enough “stuff?” Is materialism an adequate philosophy of life for a sustainable society? I say we Christians must stress the spiritual dimensions of life and offer frugality and redistribution of income and wealth as alternatives.

4. Society and Culture—A commitment to a nuclear future doesn’t necessarily mean materialism and high levels of consumption. It does, however, involve huge investments of capital and the training of experts. Providers of capital and expertise will demand high profits and salaries likely meaning a continuation of corporate dominance in the economic realm with carryovers in society and culture. Big government would be required to regulate and counter power. A large security force would be needed to protect nuclear sites. Nuclear proliferation would be encouraged as nations throughout the world seek to augment their own energy supplies and find deterrents to U.S. weapons. Redistribution as a way to reduce poverty would be ignored, leaving many to remain impoverished. Values would remain materialistic and compatible with the interests of those who own and run the large organizations. Who wants to ride this trolley?

The implications of a nuclear future are enormous, far more than a mere consideration of sufficient supply and maintaining economic growth. Are we ready? Have we fully hashed out the particulars and asked the right questions? Will we sit back and let a nuclear future take us by surprise? I hope not, and my faith tells me we can make a difference.

Health, Sacred Earth, and Non-Toxic Living: Part 2

By Diane Waddell, Vice Moderator of PEC

It may be true (finally) that we in the United States are beginning to realize that we carry huge toxic burdens in our body. Certainly the bad news is that there is truth that we carry those toxins. The good news is that we are waking up to this misfortune.

There is MUCH we can do and even more reason to act. Toxins in the environment can cause neurological problems, cancer, anxiety, depression, hormone imbalance, physical deformities and more. One way that these toxins enter our bodies is through skin care products and other topical items—deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, and cosmetics. The skin is our largest organ, and it is very permeable. Many pharmaceuticals are made to penetrate the skin. Some stay very locally (such as a localized lidocaine pain patch) and others are made to target a larger field within the body (such as estrogen patches and blood pressure patches.)

The European Union has banned over 1,000 chemicals in cosmetics. In the U.S., only about 10 are restricted.

The time is NOW to take action to avoid products which have harmful ingredients and start IMMEDIATELY to use those which are safe. This is most important for those who are pregnant or nursing, and for infants. On-line resources which are helpful include the Environmental Working Group (www.EWG) which produces a cosmetic safety database called Skin Deep. (It also advocates for national policy change). In “Skin Deep”, a person can determine the safety rating of a specific cosmetic. Also, looking up lipstick, for example, products would be listed in a safety rating from 1 to 10. Check the website and consider signing up for regular updates, check their Enviroblog, and download their pocket size “Shopper’s Guide to Safe Cosmetics”.

The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics website has an excellent video called “The Story of Cosmetics”. This is an Annie Leonard cartoon which gives an overview of this problem (similar to The Story of Stuff).

Another excellent resource is the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program website on health and cosmetics (www.nccecojustice.org/health.) Documents are available for download including a fun and helpful guide called “Healthy Spa”. This includes some wonderful

home-made skin products such as toners, scrubs, and moisturizers. The idea with the ‘spa’ includes how to host a gathering to create awareness of the unsafe products then show others how to make the safe ones. It shares Biblical references to noting the importance of taking care of oneself both



Diane Waddell

spiritually and physically. This would be an especially good idea with children and teens. Even young girls love to put on “make-up” and the types that are available for them in their “Make up kits” are dubious as to safety. This would be a wonderful gift (which would affect them for their whole lives) by helping them realize the importance of safe products in caring not only for themselves but also for Earth. (Make it a holiday party for the planet!).

My personal favorite products include locally made soaps made with essential oil fragrance, goat milk lotion from a local organic farmer, tooth ‘paste’ using baking soda and salt, and ‘crystal’ deodorant. There are several reputable companies which sell products which are safe as well. Check with “Skin Deep” since products from even reputable companies vary in safety due to dyes and other ingredients.

There are 12,500 ingredients in cosmetics and fewer than 20% have been tested for safety. The European Union has banned over 1,000 chemicals in cosmetics. In the U.S., only about 10 are restricted. In general, avoid fragrance other than good quality essential oils. Avoid products containing parabens, lead, mercury, alpha and beta hydroxyl acids, and triclosan, just to name a few. Please carefully research before buying infant care products, especially. Note that petroleum based products are ones that infants—and all of us—also need to avoid.

Begin your own personal campaign for yourself, your family, friends, congregation, and community to help improve your health and the health of the planet. Caring for oneself, others and Earth is an act of lovingkindness which enhances our physical, emotional and spiritual lives. Taking a stand—personally and politically—against harmful chemicals helps not only us as an individuals, but helps all inhabitants of the planet, as it decreases the toxic burden for all God’s Earth. And all Creation will shout for joy!!!!

Diane Waddell, PEC Vice Moderator, of St. Joseph, MO is a Nurse Practitioner specializing in Integrative Medicine and a founder and leader of the Earthkeepers of Heartland Presbytery.

Ideas and Success Stories

The Lord's Prayer and Creation Care: A Litany of Confession

PEC members, Bruce and Carolyn Gillette, of Limestone Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, DE, have created a litany of confession using the Lord's Prayer and creation care themes. The church used this litany in a service celebrating the second anniversary of the installation of 180 solar panels on its sanctuary roof. The litany is a reminder that their work caring for God's creation was not completed with the installation of the solar panels.

LEADER: Loving God, we remember that Jesus taught us to pray saying, "Our Father..."

PEOPLE: You created us, you made this world, and you called your creation very good. Yet often we forget that you are our loving Parent who continues to bless your world.

LEADER: Jesus told us that you are "...in heaven..."

PEOPLE: Yet we fail to live in awe of you. We take you for granted, and we don't see the awesome beauty of the world you have made.

LEADER: We pray, "Hallowed be your name..."

PEOPLE: We confess that our reverence for you does not always lead us to care reverently for your earth, sky and sea.

LEADER: We pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven..."

PEOPLE: We confess that we often put our own interests first-exploiting your creation, and living for our own convenience and self-interest.

LEADER: We pray, "Give us today our daily bread."

PEOPLE: We confess that we consume more than our share of the world's resources, while billions go hungry every day and your whole creation suffers.

LEADER: We pray, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."

PEOPLE: We confess that we see these words only in spiritual terms, while the Bible is filled with teachings about economic justice and creation care.

LEADER: We pray, "Save us from the time of trial."

PEOPLE: Help us to resist the temptations of spending more, using more, acquiring more, and wasting more.

LEADER: We pray, "Deliver us from evil..."

PEOPLE: Free us from greed and self-centeredness that separate us from you and others.

LEADER: We pray, "For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever."

PEOPLE: Help us to know that in caring for your wonderful world, we are working for your kingdom, being good stewards of your creative power, and giving you glory.

LEADER: We pray, "Amen."

PEOPLE: We end our prayers with "Amen," a word that means "let it be so." We know we can be faithful disciples by your grace. Amen!



Solar Panels on Nunemaker Lodge donated by PEC member Al Pugsley.

Heartland Presbyterian Center Recognized for Environmental Excellence

PEC congratulates Heartland Presbyterian Center for its 2010 Environmental Excellence award from Bridging the Gap, a Kansas City, MO environmental organization. The non-profit honorable mention award calls out the following earth stewardship actions of Heartland:

- ❖ Following through on a commitment to reduce its carbon footprint through a multi-year, multi-faceted plan.
- ❖ Installing 14 solar electric panels on the roof of Nunemaker Lodge, replacing 70 percent of the 2,000 light bulbs on the campus reducing its average monthly electric expenses by 20 percent, shifting from paper to electronic newspapers and brochures, and encouraging its guests to bring their own reusable containers for beverages.
- ❖ Preservation of more than 50 percent of its 320-acre property as a natural wilderness area.

PEC held its annual face-to-face steering committee meeting at Heartland at the end of October and stayed in Nunemaker Lodge just as its solar power was getting linked to the utility grid. Some other things we saw and heard about included a 30% reduction in acreage mowed, saving on gasoline and carbon emissions while creating more wildlife habitat; purchase of fair trade coffee from Café Justo, a farmer-owned cooperative in Chiapas, Mexico; incorporation of creation care in summer camp curriculum; and reusing wood from a nearby barn to build a pavilion. Most of these measures also save the camp money which is very important in challenging financial times. **Find out more about Heartland at www.heartlandcenter.org.**

Permission is given to use the litany with credit to its authors. For a copy of this litany formatted for a bulletin insert, email: bcgillette@comcast.net. More information about the church's solar project and other creation care information can be found at: www.limestonepresbyterian.org/solar/index.htm.

Invasive Species: How Can Stewards of the Earth Respond

By Gary M. Beil

Nearly every day we hear about a new invasion by a harmful plant, animal, insect or microbial species. Minnesotans recently discovered that zebra mussels had been found in Lake Minnetonka and that the emerald ash borer has been discovered in the region. Classic invaders like, Eurasian milfoil, Northern snakeheads, Asian carp, Burmese pythons, purple loosestrife, mute swans, saltcedar etc., have become common stories in our environmental news.

Scientists tell us that more than 140 species of plants, insects, mollusks, fish, birds, mammals, and pathogens are targets of programs to control their invasion into our ecosystems. These species have two things in common. They have been introduced into an alien ecosystem by humans, and their introduction has resulted in more harm than benefit.

Not all new species introductions are considered invasive, and it is not always immediately clear whether such introductions will result in harm or benefit. However, there are many examples of species being introduced with a belief that a benefit would be gained from that introduction, only to learn later that tremendous harm was done to the ecosystem. For example, saltcedar (tamarisk) was introduced to help control erosion in the Rio Grande Valley and Asian carp were introduced to clean fish breeding ponds in the South. Unfortunately, these introductions alone have resulted in severe environmental and economic damage. Current estimates place the annual economic impact of Invasive Species on the US economy at greater than \$120 billion.

How can each of us exercise our stewardship in the invasive species arena as we try to care for the earth? Here are some suggestions:

- Learn what invasive species are in your area, and what is being done about them.
- Report new invasive species to the proper agencies.
- Clean your hiking boots, waders, boats, etc. to stop hitchhiking invasive species.
- Use only certified “weed-free” forage, firewood, hay, mulch and soil.
- Remove invasive plants from your land and only plant non-invasive plants in your garden.
- Volunteer for organized efforts to remove invasive species from natural areas.
- Share your knowledge of invasive species with friends and neighbors.
- Support invasive species removal efforts.
- Support organizations that work to remove invasive species.

Invasive species cause serious harm to the environment, to our health and well being, and to our economy. The problem will not go away, but it can be managed, controlled and the harmful impact greatly reduced. We as humans have played a significant role in causing the problem. As responsible stewards of the earth, we can also play a significant role in reducing the magnitude of the harm caused by invasive species.

For more information about invasive species initiatives and resource in your state, go to the National Invasive Species Information Center at www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov

PEC Member Gary M. Beil leads the Eco-Justice Team at Westminster Presbyterian in Minneapolis, MN. He served on the Invasive Species Advisory Council which advises the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). NISC which provides coordination of federal invasive species actions and works with other federal and non-federal groups to address invasive species issues at the national level. For more information go to www.doi.gov/NISC

Events Calendar

❖ National Preach in on Global Warming.

Interfaith Power and Light is inviting clergy to preach a sermon on global warming the weekend of **February 11-13, 2011**. For more information or to register visit <http://interfaithpowerandlight.org/2010/10/national-preach-in-on-global-warming-2011>.

❖ Ecumenical Advocacy Days, “Development, Security and Economic Justice: What’s Gender Got to Do with It?”

March 25-28, 2011 in Washington, D.C.

Be inspired and equipped to speak boldly on behalf of people-centered sustainable development and economic justice, physical safety, security and peacemaking, with a particular focus on those most impacted — women, girls and families. An Eco-Justice Track will be offered. <http://advocacydays.org>.

❖ Eco-Stewards Training

Crow Reservation in eastern Montana, **June 2-9, 2011**. See more information on page 7 and at: <http://ecostewardsprogram.wordpress.com/2011-program>.

❖ This Planet as Paradise: Beauty & Ecological Restoration (Late June 2011)

The fourth in a 10 year series on Earth Honoring Faith at Ghost Ranch. For more information go to www.ghostranch.org.

❖ 2011 PEC National Conference: An Eco-Justice Conversation on Faith, Science and Culture.

August 31 – September 3, 2011 at Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center near Estes Park, Colorado.

ECO-STEWARDS PROGRAM

❖ The Eco-Stewards Program is actively seeking passionate, dedicated young adults (20–30) to join us the first week in June, 2011 for our annual Eco-Stewards Program weeklong training event in eastern Montana. This program will bring together a unique group of fellow young adults committed to faith and the environment, along with inspired citizens, doctors, pastors, camp directors, Crow tribal members, and environmental professionals. We will work, learn and listen together at Greenwood Farm on the Crow Reservation in eastern Montana. Join Christians who are answering God's call to protect and restore local communities, watersheds, and human relationships. Learn about sustainability on a family run organic farm. Experience God in creation and through scripture as we float the Big Horn River, walk silently in the woods, or pour over Biblical verses that remind us that "the Earth is the Lord's and everything in it" and to "love your neighbor as yourself." Opportunities for summer internships following the training event are also available. To apply, email Rev. Rob Mark at robfirstpres@gmail.com.

❖ Request a Summer Intern for 2011

Are you interested in having a young adult intern who is passionate about their faith and how it connects to caring for God's creation, serve at your camp this summer? The Eco-Stewards Program is offering PC (USA) congregations and PCCCA camps the unique opportunity to host one of our trained Eco-Stewards (aged ~20-30) at your site for 6-10 weeks during the summer of 2011. Internships can be tailored to meet your specific interests and needs and can range from topics such as environmental education and curriculum development, to facility greening, and hands-on projects. Each site will be responsible for providing interns with a \$200.00 per week stipend. For more info, visit <http://ecosteward-program.wordpress.com/summer-2010-internships/>The deadline to request an intern is February 1, 2011.

Do you have a story to share?

We are always looking for stories and typically take articles of 400 words or less. The next submission date is February 1, 2011. Send your ideas to Lizzie McGurk at pecmcgurk@gmail.com

Review Corner

BOOK REVIEW



TENDING TO EDEN: Environmental Stewardship for God's People

By Scott Sabin

(Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2010)

*A Review by David M. Brookman,
PEC Member and Former Update Editor*

For those who seek a primer to deepen their understanding of the relationship between Christian faith and environmental practice or for those who wish to introduce members of their congregation to the dynamics of this relationship, *Tending to Eden* deserves consideration. Author Scott Sabin is the director of Plant with Purpose the mission statement of which declares that this Christian non-profit organization "reverses deforestation and poverty in the world, by transforming the lives of the rural poor. We plant, we teach, we create enterprise, and we share the gospel."

Sabin acknowledges that at the outset environmentalism seemed incoherent with the traditional humanitarian emphasis of Christian outreach. But he persisted in his quest for understanding until he was able to align both aspects into a seamless whole as the following question, found on page 43, suggests: "Once we understand God's heart for justice and the vicious cycle of deforestation and poverty that traps the poor, how do we respond?" What follows in *Tending to Eden* is a skein of experiences and reflections that provide provisional answers.

Tending to Eden may be read as an introduction to an alternative vision of how the mechanics of trade could function if the developmental needs of the poor received the attention commonly bestowed upon corporations and the profits that reward investors. If, for example, one gives away food (maximum subsidy), then hungry people will be fed so long as the giving continues. Or one might help to start a bakery by paying for the flour and firewood (intermediate subsidy). But it will probably go out of business when the donations stop. On the other hand if people are taught to start their own bakery, then the business survives indefinitely.

Sabin has included several "Step Aside" statements of one to two pages scattered through the ten chapters for the sake of enrichment. Written by various authors these statements augment the ability of readers to reflect upon the significance of the main text, albeit in distinctive words and images. A study guide at the back of the book is intended to assist disciples to learn to be good stewards of creation. Even as members of "mainline" denominations grapple with uncertainty as they attempt to frame the gospel for twenty-first century civilization, this resource should help to illumine a relatively unexplored path that will eventually lead humanity toward a common future.



Presbyterians for Earth Care

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Apply now to host an Eco-Steward at your church or camp this summer!

The Eco-Stewards program matches camps and congregations with qualified interns for the summer. The deadline to request an intern is February 1, 2011.

For more info visit

www.ecostewardsprogram.wordpress.com

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