

Baptist Bulletin



Pastor Leah's Word

Until recently, my guilty-pleasure TV watching consisted almost entirely of ghost-hunting shows, including such gems of the genre as *Paranormal Caught on Camera*. (My 14-year-old son, Ephraim, particularly loves that show. We watch it together while offering running critical commentary.)

But I've pivoted from the ethereal realm of ghoulies, ghosties, long-legged beasties, and things that go bump in the night to the gritty turf of off-grid living—now it's *Homestead Rescue* that commands my viewing devotion. On this reality show, lifelong Alaskan homesteader Marty Raney and two of his adult children, Misty and Matt, travel North America and Hawaii, visiting homesteads in crisis and rescuing them from failure's brink. The ante-upping premise: The Raney family has just six to ten days to turn each location around and position it for success, or at least safety and survival. The homesteaders work right alongside the Raney family, learning as they go.

Once the Raney family arrives at a location and get the lay of the land, they develop an action plan to address the biggest problems pulling the property under. Often it's things like roving predators picking off the livestock, or the lack of a steady supply of fresh drinking water, or a dwelling that leaks or floods, or a garden that either doesn't exist or keeps failing for some reason. Top on the list is quite frequently the danger of forest fire, which of course requires that the Raney family fell trees by hand. Usually, it's a whole complex of the above factors, plus some quirky issue that makes this homesteading family's plight "viewer-worthy" in the first place. (Cynical, but true.)

Why do I like this show so much? After all, it's formulaic—the Raney family almost always achieve everything they set out to do, even if it's at the eleventh hour. And it's at least partly scripted; it's reality TV. Plus, I'm sure I wouldn't share the political perspectives of everyone who appears on the show.

But I do like it, a lot. My soul kind of sighs in relief when I watch it, and it's not just from the dopamine hit that binge-watching TV yields, or the romance of the great outdoors (outhouses and poisonous wells are not romantic). I tear up during probably 85 percent of the episodes because someone (usually the homesteader but sometimes one of the Raney family) is experiencing redemption, healing, or hope.

Put it this way: I started watching for the gardening tips and stayed for the resurrections.

Here are the values I appreciate on *Homestead Rescue*, values that have spiritual merit when I scratch the surface. Maybe you have a favorite show about which you could say something similar.

1. **Expertise:** I want to learn how to run a chainsaw like these people do. Also, expertly felling 100-foot trees and knowing how to put together a water-pump system are neat skills. And big equipment is always involved at some point, which is awe inspiring, but manual labor and hand tools play a starring role. Plus, they build stuff. Fast. So there's that. But the point here is that the Raney family use their expertise for others' benefit, and they do it with obvious relish.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
WEST ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
MAY 2022

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West Acton Baptist Church
592 Massachusetts Ave.
Acton, MA 01720
978-263-5902
wabadmin@verizon.net
www.westactonbaptistchurch.org

Rev. Leah Goodwin's
contact info:
Cell: 617-899-1599
Email: lggoodwin@gmail.com

Preaching Schedule

May 1: Easter 3; Acts 9:1-20, John 21:1-19
“Led Where We Don’t Want to Go”

May 8: Easter 4 and Communion; Acts 9:36-43
“Handiwork”

May 15: Easter 5; Acts 11:1-18, John 13:31-35
“Strange Picnic”

May 22: Easter 6; Acts 16:9-15, John 5:1-9
“Mistimed Miracles, Opened Hearts”

May 29: Ascension/Easter 7; Luke 24:44-53, Acts 16:16-34
“Open Doors”

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**Worship Link**

Time: 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting Link:

Call church for link

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Upcoming Events

Conversation & Prayer Link

Time: 7:00 PM Eastern Time, 7 PM

Join Zoom Meeting every Tuesday:

Call church for link

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The second annual **Safer Homes, Safer Communities Guns for Gift Cards Exchange**, aimed at preventing suicides, will be held rain or shine Saturday, May 21, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church, 435 Central Street, Acton, MA. No questions asked. No identification required.

**Talking about Inclusion and Hospitality:** We’ll be talking in the coming months—both one-on-one and in groups—about what it means to welcome and affirm, and truly include, all of God’s children. Your views and questions matter! Please join us. More info to come. Questions? Call or email Pastor Leah.

2. **Joy:** See the relish with which they use their tools and skills, above. And more to the point, both the Raneyns and (eventually) their clients seem to focus most of their energy on the present moment, even as they’re strategizing for the coming winter or dry season. These people work hard for high stakes, and they appreciate the pleasures they have.
3. **Fearlessness + Respect + Humility:** The Raneyns know what they’re capable of and what they’re not. They also know that the equipment they use, and nature itself, are extremely dangerous. Tornadoes or mountain lions, rushing rivers or frost lines—the Raneyns know you can fight nature or work with it, but only one solution works in the long run. You wanna survive? Honor the creation God gave us.
4. **Honesty:** When someone makes a boo-boo, like cutting a water line or felling a tree in the wrong direction, they admit their error. When they’re running behind, they say so. When something isn’t working, they come out and say it.
5. **Kindness:** At the start of the show, everyone tours the property. It’s inevitably cringe-worthy somehow. And while the Raneyns frankly diagnose the problems at hand, they are invariably kind. Often homesteaders, especially the heads of household, grieve over perceived failures or past losses. The Raneyns offer a way forward with new skills and solutions. They reassure them that homesteading is incredibly hard, and that no one’s manhood or womanhood is bound up in their success thus far.
6. **Mutual Aid:** Homesteaders want independence of all sorts: from the utility grid, from needing others to survive, sometimes from the chains of social norms. A homesteader may want to be “self-sufficient” when it comes to food, water, and other aspects of daily life, but even established homesteaders sometimes need a helping hand. The Raneyns often call on the homesteader’s neighbors (whom the homesteaders have usually never met) and local businesses to help with projects. The homesteaders are shocked when they see the lengths others will go to help a neighbor. These families then change their minds about receiving and giving aid in the future. That creates a legacy of sustainability, generosity, and sacred trust that dwells at the heart of Christ’s gospel message.
7. **Ingenuity:** The Raneyns figure things out on the fly. Their flexible minds keep the despair of defeat at bay, since they’re constantly thinking of new solutions to problems old and emergent.
8. **Empathy:** When homesteaders freak out about a solution the Raneyns propose, the Raneyns are patient, even when frustrated. That’s because they understand how emotionally invested folks are in their homesteads.
9. **Boundaries** come into play when the Raneyns put their collective foot down on certain issues relating to health and safety. At the heart of all of it is their deep communion with the people they’ve come to help.

Sure, *Homestead Rescue* is just another highly produced TV show. And yet it’s made a mark on me. It gives me hope, even as consumer prices rise and the world’s sorrows seem to outweigh the possibilities. As a weary, frightened, even hopeless family works alongside the Raneyns, emotional, spiritual, and economic rebirth happens. People come back from the graves of self-doubt and tragedy. It’s a lot to put on a little reality TV show, maybe, but I’ll take it. Thanks be to God.

*Pastor Leah*

# Discipleship Team

**Child Care** – We are offering childcare in the lower-level nursery. Any child over the age of 2 should be masked. We will sanitize the nursery before & after each use and try to maintain a safe environment.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** for ages 4 through 10 takes place during the worship service in the DEN. All children are welcome! Children will attend the start of service and be dismissed after children’s time. For COVID-19 safety, all children must wear a mask.

All are welcome to attend the **Grotonwood Open House** on May 15 from 1-4pm. Please pre-register to be included in these free activities. Any child who signs up for camp that day will receive a discount on the cost. WABC also has camperships available for children from our congregation to attend Grotonwood or Oceanwood.



## Church Chatter

**Thank you** to Dick & Linda O’Neil for fixing & replacing the broken window in fellowship hall. It took many hours to reconfigure the old pulley system and install the fixed window that had broken glass.

**Congratulations** to Ira & Barbara Smith on celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Household Goods! Many of us have donated, volunteered or been gracious recipients of the wonderful service Household Goods has provided the community.

## Mothers of the Bible

Z J Y D J X Q M G G B C B Q G E R V T U S E Y T  
 I L P K F I B C G Y I S Z B Z V A S Q Y M A R Y  
 B E S T H E R L Z H A G A R O X C V V R H U W R  
 I E C M T T X A G F E J S P Y X H Y R B U U M D  
 A A E E J F L U X L L W K L T H E T H T M D C D  
 H E N Y U U S D R T Y L S H J A L J W F J R N D  
 D A F M T W W I X V S E T C F N L I L X F F R G  
 E D Z R N G D A D C W L I S R N O R K E C N R L  
 F F X B B E R N I C E M Y V G A D U F W W Y T N  
 U U P A F C G J A Y S W R E T H K E K L O C O V  
 Y A N T A N E M T O E C T P I F F N N F A P G U  
 E B N H R Y X M I R A B I G A I L H X Q C S P R  
 U Y A S C K V N K O S L J H Z M Y H B N F L V R  
 N D O H X D F B Y D S A N T U Z Y A M R B A Q U  
 I M M E D Y A Z E R U I A H K T L F T E Y V P T  
 C V I B I X O S C H V D O X L C W Z A B F Q W H  
 E D Y A N U S R G F W J C L L I J P M E W E Q J  
 Z J Q A A J M Z F B I X M H E S O U A K I K Z V  
 V D L Z H X N I E I U M K W E E X K R A M A G E  
 E L I S A B E T H J W M Y Y I Q O C A H B P P O  
 Q Z U Q M Z D N D D G O M E R B O F I A A B A T  
 J D O R C A S M A R T H A N W L B K U A M M V S  
 L O I S E I D L E A H I A N N A Y K J D T Z W F  
 Y W J O E M S S A R A H Z E A K P B F S D S R G

- ABIGAIL
- ANNA
- BATHSHEBA
- BERNICE
- CLAUDIA
- DINAH
- DORCUS
- ESTHER
- ELISABETH
- EUNICE
- GOMER
- HAGAR
- HANNAH
- LEAH
- LOIS
- MARTHA
- MARY
- NAOMI
- RACHEL
- REBEKAH
- RUTH
- SARAH
- TAMAR
- ZERUIAH
- ZIBIAH

# Missions Team

The Team members send May greetings to all and encourage you to continue to reach out if you need any information or help in researching social or spiritual outreach. Val Nolen continues to call folks and check on wellbeing and keeps abreast of happenings.

- We got an invitation from North Central **Habitat for Humanity**, who is having a groundbreaking on May 20 at 10 a.m. on Carlisle Road and the Consultant is Curt Logee. Reminder: The Habitat House in South Acton when Rev. Cindy Maybeck was our interim pastor—we supported and provided a lunch for the volunteers on one day who were painting and under the coordination of Tess Tessier. Please let us know if you are interested in coordinating an effort to help in this new home for a family to reside in Acton.
- The **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering will be received in May and our goal is \$700.00. We also plan on having available sign-up sheets for donations of blankets or kits for Mother's Day remembrance or honor a special mother figure in your life with a gift helping those who are challenged with man-made or natural disasters in the U.S. and throughout the world. To dated we have sent earmarked for Ukraine for \$333.00 plus \$46.60 to be applied to shipping costs thanks to gifts given and interest income from the Lee Memorial Fund for world relief. More information will appear in the Sunday bulletins on making checks payable to OGHS offering in the memo section of a check or if you would like to donate a school kit or hygiene kit fill out the forms and return it with you check or use our on-line payment service.
- A special thank you to all who donated to **America for Christ** as we reached our goal and sent \$710.00 to be processed through TABCOM for this mission support.
- We also are hosting the **Community Supper** on June 22 and will need help serving meals. Talk to Ruth Thatcher is you can assist. Continue to help out when you can with staples or canned items for the **Acton Food Pantry**.
- The Mission Team voted \$100 from the **ABF Interest Income** available funds in Donated Missions to AB Cares in response for a request for help to provide money for refreshments the day of the following event. "Acton-Boxborough Students for Equity and Justice (ABSEJ), a local student-led coalition based out of Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. ABSEJ's mission is to value, protect, and uplift the voices of minority groups within our community. We are committed to fostering an environment that addresses and actively works to rectify all forms of oppression in the Acton-Boxborough area. are hosting a community-wide event on Sunday, May 15 from 5 to 8 pm at NARA Park in Acton. This event, open to all, aims to uplift the voices of historically underrepresented individuals and celebrate the diversity of our Acton-Boxborough community, and will feature performances from ABRHS' student affinity groups including the Black Student Union, Latinx Student Group, and Muslim Student Association. Further, we hope to unite our community and rebuild connections that have suffered during the Covid-19 pandemic, honoring our community's tenacity and all we have accomplished in these past few years." Pray for the day has good weather and there is a supportive and good community wide turnout for the students.
- Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil's book **Beacon of Hope** is available on Amazon and a very timely and spirit-filled journey of women who dedicated themselves to serving others and who tended lighthouses under unusual events happening in their lives in the 1800s and nameless strong women of the Bible who impacted their faith communities. Rev. Sandra was a staff minister at TABCOM prior to her assignment to ABC Valley Forge where she is serving in Short Term International Ministries. This book offers interaction with the reader with thoughtful questions for the reader to ponder. Joan Richards recommends buying this book.
- We are collecting donations for **Mother's Day**, the form is at the end of this newsletter.
- If you are interested in serving as a Mission Team member and/or Mission Team Advocate for TABCOM please talk with Joan Richards.

Val Nolen, Linda O'Neil, Joan Richards and Ruth Thatcher

# WABC Women

- There are ongoing webinars through AB Women's Ministries, information on their website: <https://abwomensministries.org/>.
- **Meeting** – Our next meeting on Zoom is on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 11am on Zoom. Link: Join Zoom Meeting  
Call church for link
- Thank you to the few who donated generously for our **Virtual Pink Tea** fundraiser for the WABC Women's missions. Donations still greatly appreciated.



## Fundraising

**Coffee** –We place an order for coffee every month. Go to our fundraising page on our [website](#) & fill out the form. Dean's Bean's has raised their prices a bit. The cost is now \$11.50/lb. for Regular –Whole/Ground/Medium/Dark & \$12.50/lb. for Decaf Whole/Ground/Medium/Dark. The coffee is Fair Trade & Organic and is roasted & shipped within 24 hours. Our church gets \$3/lb. for every pound we sell. NEXT order is going in at 9am, **Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**.



**Amazon** - Please link your purchases with AmazonSmile for us to earn a %. Here is the ink: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-6067819>

**RADA Cutlery** - We have a continuous internet Fundraiser through RADA Cutlery. Please use this link to purchase items directly from RADA. Share the link with your friends, family & Facebook!! We earn 40% of your purchase!! Rada Cutlery is 100% American Made – raw materials and construction and has made & sold over 150,000,000 knives since 1948, earning the reputation for remarkable cutlery, service, and value.



## Mother's Day Blanket & Kit Donation

A gift to the CWS BLANKET & KIT program makes a great alternative gift for your special someone for Mother's Day or any other occasion! Your gift of love helps families in the aftermath of disaster or those struggling against poverty.

**I would like to make a donation for Mother's Day!**

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

# of blankets \_\_\_\_\_ X \$ 10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to WABC, memo: CWS Blankets

We have donations/cards available for all occasions if you would like to honor someone for their birthday, anniversary or just Thinking of You. Please contact the church office for other cards, **Mother's Day cards are available to acknowledge your donation in the church office.**