

RUTHFRED HERALD

October 2020



Volume 30, No. 10



From the Pastor's Desk

I hope it doesn't surprise you to know that your pastor isn't perfect. Yes, Erin and I know the temptation to skip Sunday school and duck out of church early to get home sooner.

At one church Erin and I attended several years ago, we were in many ways the typical, 21st century, consumeristic American Christians. We evaluated the Sunday school program at the church, and decided that while the teachers did their best, they were pretty boring. The curriculum was dry and dull. The teaching techniques were outdated, and Sunday school didn't seem to be very exciting to Erin and me. Besides, it'd be nice to get home earlier and have more time to relax.

So, on the way to church one morning we announced to the kids, "I don't think we'll stay for Sunday school today." Immediately our children expressed their disappointment, saying, "Awww, why not? I like Sunday school! Why can't we go to Sunday school?"

Ouch. Would we really tell our kids they "can't go to Sunday school" because we want to get home and relax? Our kids' reaction totally surprised us. Unlike Erin and me, our kids hadn't developed such consumeristic, judgmental, and snobbish views of their Sunday school class and their teachers.

All our kids knew was that their teachers loved them, their friends were in those classes, and regardless of Erin and my harsh evaluation of their classes and teachers, THEY enjoyed them. They didn't want to miss Sunday school. Parents, sometimes our KIDS teach US very important things, don't they? Well, our kids certainly taught Erin and me an important lesson that day. We never missed another Sunday school at that church. In fact, Erin and I BECAME Sunday school teachers there.

Ruthfred parents, the Sunday school here at Ruthfred has EVERYTHING that little church had and MORE! Even by Erin and my former snobbish, judgmental, consumeristic standards, Ruthfred's Sunday school teachers, and their curriculum and techniques are solid. Even more

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Ruthfred Lutheran Church

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Bethel Park , PA 15102
Wwww.Ruthfred.org

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importantly than all of that, I can't tell you how much these teachers here genuinely love your kids! I've visited all the classes in the past few weeks. You should see these teachers, and hear the affection in their voices as they talk to your kids. I see them getting on their knees to get down to the kids' level to help them, singing to them, welcoming them, treating them with respect, kindness, gentility, and love. They're patient with them, and teach them things that are of eternal significance. Parents, YOU are the chief educators and disciplers of your children (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), and you have loving, caring, and effective partners in that critical ministry in the Sunday school team here at Ruthfred.

Want to know how wonderful Sunday school is at Ruthfred? Last Monday Erin noticed that our Joshua, age 5, came downstairs in the morning with his church clothes on again. Erin asked him why he'd put his church clothes on. He said, "I want to go back to Sunday school!" Our little Joshy actually thought that if he put his church clothes on again, he'd get to go back to Sunday school on Monday.

On Friday I visited Bob Thomas. He's a long-time member of Ruthfred, and loves this congregation. He's at home on hospice care. I'm not sure how much longer he'll live. I told him that story about Joshua, and it brought tears to his eyes. It made Bob feel so good to know that even as his time on earth is drawing to a close, faithful ministry is still going so strong at his beloved church.

Bring your kids to Sunday school. Both you and they will be blessed by the excellent ministry being done here. I know and understand the desire to keep schedules light on Sundays and relax. With 5 kids of our own, Erin and I understand the toll that busyness takes on us. So, we invite you to rest in the Word here at Ruthfred in Sunday school. Bless your kids with rest in the Word here. You won't regret it. The value of what you and your kids will find here is more than you can imagine.

Pastor McMinn

Sunday School is Cool



THANK YOU STEVEN ROTHERMEL!

Five years ago, we were in need of a new Herald editor as Bob Reith had retired after faithfully serving in that capacity for many years. Bob was leaving some big shoes to fill! It can be intimidating to come behind someone who has done so well for so long, but Steven volunteered for the position! Steven initiated a new masthead for the Herald and a few other changes as well. It was also during this time that we went from nine issues/year, to a monthly newsletter. Every month for five years, Steven and his hard working team of writers, proof readers and assemblers, put out the Herald! Now, having gotten married (Svetlana) this year and also with a new little one (Anastasia), Steven has resigned and the church council has appointed Tom Glasser (Welcome Tom!) as the new Herald editor. Thank you Steven for serving our congregational family in this ministry!

God bless you!!

Pastor Carlson

90+ Birthday Club

Patricia Lindauer Oct. 5th 92

Timmie Langkamp Oct. 11th 92

Foster Walker Oct. 14th 90

Louise Hughes Oct. 24th 97

Happy Birthday !!

Member Profile: Dave Compel

by Mettelise Ziegler

The first time Dave visited Ruthfred with his future wife, Lauren, he found it unexpectedly friendly. He was not used to seeing people talking after church, shaking hands or speaking to the pastor. Now, more than fourteen years later, he is working in an official capacity as the Church's Digital Outreach Coordinator.

Dave grew up in the South Hills - first in Castle Shannon and then Canonsburg, graduating from Canon-MacMillan High School. He and Lauren have been married for fourteen years. They live in Upper St. Clair with their three children. Isaiah - twelve, Jonah - eight and Sienna - five.



For many years, Dave has owned a remodeling business specializing in the creation of living spaces carved out of residential basements. For two years, Dave hosted a home-improvement program on WORD-FM radio, providing tips and giving advice. While Lauren was serving as the leader of Vacation Bible School, a job she held for several years, she got Dave involved. Next to Christmas and Easter, Dave says he enjoyed VBS the most due to the children's enthusiasm, energy, skits and music.

Dave started making YouTube videos for his sons Jonah and Isaiah with a Go Pro camera. That led to recording videos of VBS in 2018 and 2019 to share with parents and members of the congregation. When Pastor Carlson sent an email that church would have to close due to Coronavirus, Dave volunteered to upload the sermons to YouTube for the congregation to watch from home. By using their cell phones, camcorder and computer, Dave and Andrew Vogel, (who takes care of our website and internet), were able to record services during the Lenten season. Then on Easter Sunday, April 12, they live-streamed the service at 9:00 am so viewers could participate in real time. Since then, the church has invested in technology upgrades. You can now see Dave and Andrew sitting at the back of the chapel on their computers controlling cameras cleverly hidden in the ceiling. The audio has improved greatly. The 8:30 am service is live-streamed every Sunday.

Dave is excited about the course of events. He knows there are former church members who tune in from all over the country as well as local members in their living rooms. Furthermore, there are people in faraway places who stumble across Ruthfred on YouTube. Dave feels like he is a "cog in a wheel." He works with new avenues of outreach including Facebook, Instagram and Tik Tok. Strange, that for Ruthfred, it began with Coronavirus and a couple of guys with cell phones in a traditional, liturgical church that is proving itself to be vibrant, relevant, and reaching the world with the Gospel message.

Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

The Church's One Foundation

Lyrics by Samuel John Stone

Music by Samuel Sebastian Wesley

In an article I wrote several years ago about the hymn "Built On a Rock the Church Doth Stand", I opined that it was virtually a mini-theology of the church. Well, if there is another hymn that reinforces that one and perhaps even fills in some missing nuances, it's got to be "The Church's One Foundation". The original lyrics by Samuel Stone include seven stanzas. Our SBH hymnal, however, reprints only four of those verses. Considering just those four, we can identify the following concepts about what the church is.

The Church is:



- [Stanza 1] founded on Jesus Christ, her Lord; Jesus' creation using sacraments of water and word; the bride of Christ who sought her and bought her with his own blood.
- [Stanza 2] made up of Christians from all over the world who are united by one Lord, one faith, one birth, one "holy food" (Communion), and one hope.
- [Stanza 3] a militant organization here on earth, doing battle with the forces of evil, but waiting expectantly for ultimate victory, rest, and God's "consummation of peace".
- [Stanza 4] a divine fellowship that has a mysterious union with the Triune God and also a "mystic sweet communion" with all of the saints who have gone before us.

Samuel Stone was a talented lyricist who wrote a total of seven books of verse and also served on the committee that produced the Anglican hymnal "Hymns Ancient and Modern". I suspect that he did not consider these things his most important life's work. As an Anglican priest, he pastored two parishes in London. "He spent his time ministering to the poor and underprivileged population in London's East End where it was said 'he created a beautiful place of worship for the humble folk, and made it the center of light in the dark places.'" (www.hymnal.net)

Looking at the lyrics of "The Church's One Foundation", it is difficult to see anything controversial about them for any Christian. I was surprised, however, to learn that the hymn was born out of controversy. Stone lived his entire life in the 19th century. This was a time when the historical-critical method of interpreting Scripture was becoming more and more prevalent, and increasingly exploited by those whose presuppositions precluded any divine inspiration whatsoever. This concerned Stone greatly, and was crystallized for him by a bitter dispute between two South African Anglican bishops. "One Foundation" was one of twelve hymns that Stone wrote, based on the Apostle's Creed, to combat what he felt was an encroaching liberalism that would divide and destroy the church.

In 1888 this hymn was selected to represent the theme of the Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops. By that time, the words had been matched with a tune by Samuel Wesley, grandson of Charles Wesley. "Accounts indicate that it was sung with vigor at all of the major services of the Conference. Australian hymnologist Wesley Milgate records the effect of the hymn on those who sang it ... 'Sung by a large congregation, some people say this hymn was really more than they could bear. It made them feel weak at the knees, their legs trembled, and they really felt as though they were going to collapse.'" (www.umcdiscipleship.org)



503rd Anniversary

As we observe another anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, I'd like to share with you excerpts from an article by Jennifer Powell McNutt from Christianity Today. It sheds light on an angle of this momentous event that I know I at least had never heard about before.

An Unsung Inspiration for the Protestant Reformation: the Ethiopian Church

When the Reformers looked at the Bible, not only did they see the Word of God; they saw the global church. They saw the familial bond that stretches across time, space, and culture. Some Christians minimize the Protestant Reformation based on their perception that Reformers blazed their own trail without regard for the global church or church tradition. But primary sources offer a different story. The Reformers did not view their work in isolation from historical or even contemporary global Christianity. They saw the broader church as right at the heart of their efforts. In fact, one of the main inspirations for the Reformation movement came from somewhere far removed from Geneva and other centers of protestant thought: the Ethiopian church. ...

Protestants engaged with both the Eastern Orthodox tradition and Oriental Orthodox traditions in a few consistent ways. To Protestants, it mattered immensely that Eastern branches of the church did not follow the Catholic practices of preaching purgatory, selling indulgences, or observing petrine supremacy. Luther marveled at how the churches of Armenia, Ethiopia, and India had avoided the private masses that developed in the West since Gregory the Great's time. Luther also regarded it significant that, before there was a "pope", there were bishops of Ethiopia, Syria, Antioch, and Rome. The Orthodox branches were a link back to a purer, more apostolic era.

The church of Ethiopia, especially, was mentioned among early modern Christians. Some scholars have noted that Luther mentions Ethiopia at least 85 times in his

written works. (It was a common though mistaken belief to view Ethiopia as the first Christian kingdom. That belief was based on a particular reading of Acts 8.) Luther's esteem only grew after he was visited by Michael the Deacon, an Ethiopian cleric, in 1534. As Daniels explains:

For Luther, the Church of Ethiopia had more fidelity to the Christian tradition. ... Thus, the Church in Europe needed to be reformed in the direction of the Church of Ethiopia. Possibly for Luther the Church of Ethiopia was proof that his reform of the Church in Europe had both a biblical *and* a historical basis.

To Luther, "Ethiopia" symbolized the church, and one of the most valued legacies that the Reformers identified within the Ethiopian church was its insistence on maintaining the Bible in the common language. ...

When the Reformers looked at the Bible, they saw the global story of the church represented *through* languages. They rediscovered Greek and also came to learn Hebrew as the first step toward restoring the true gospel. By their own accounts, the Latin language had become a Tower of Babel that could only be overcome by translating the whole of Scripture into vernacular languages. The Reformation was a Pentecost moment in their minds, restoring what God had originally intended for a worldwide church. They wanted to uncover the foundation of Scripture for one main purpose: pastoral ministry.

Jennifer Powell McNutt is the Franklin S. Dyrness Associate Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies at Wheaton College, parish associate at First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, and co-president of McNuttshell Ministries Inc.

This article first appeared in the August 2020 issue of Christianity Today. Used by permission of Christianity Today, Carol Stream, IL 60188. To view entire article :

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/2020/august/unsung-inspiration-for-protestant-reformation-ethiopian-chu.html>





2020 RUTHFRED
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Fall



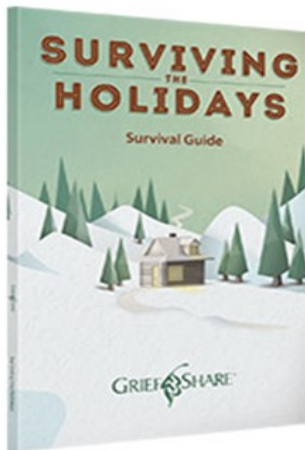
Festival



OCTOBER 24 2020 1-7PM AT THE COX FARM

ADDRESS: 1007 ROUTE 481, MONONGAHELA, PA 15063

TEXT/EMAIL BRANDON (715)781-6063 BY OCT 17 TO RSVP



Help and hope as you navigate the Christmas season

Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are you dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated?

Our Surviving the Holidays video seminar is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. You'll learn:

- How to deal with the many emotions you'll face during the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
 - How to discover hope for your future
 - Receive a personal copy of the GriefShare Holiday Survival Guide.

Monday, October 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

At Ruthfred Lutheran Church – group size will be limited and social distancing practiced

Register by Oct. 25: By e-mail: pastormcminn@ruthfred.org

Or by phone: 412-835-7140 Ext. 226

Questions?? Contact Jill or Roger Kurtz

XYZ Persons!

We have another great opportunity to meet, break bread together, and learn about something new. On October 30th, 2020, Janet Denison will be here to share a lot of information with us about the Seniors Blue Book and Twilight Wish, an organization that helps seniors.

You can sign up now on the bulletin board outside Pat's office or give her a call at 412-835-7140 ext. 225.

As always, a fabulous lunch will be served. Come and share in the fellowship!

Lutherans for Life

If you missed the “From Invisible to Indispensable” conference, you can still go online and watch the speakers through our Ruthfred church page or the **lutheransforlife.org/conference** page.

Sunday Nursery

Our nursery has now resumed and is being staffed during both the 8:30 am and 11:00 am worship services, and also during the Sunday school hour.

New Members

If you or someone you know is interested in membership in our church, please call the church office and let Pat Lutz know as we will be having a New Membership class in October.

New! Contemporary Liturgical Worship Service

For a number of years we have been having a monthly “Praise & Prayer” service which has been led by our worship team. The church council has been talking this year about changing this service to be a full worship service which would include a sermon from the pastor as well. Additionally, it was noted that we wanted to have some of the ancient liturgy of the church included in this as well. There has also been discussion on what would be the best time and day for it. The desire is to reach out to and engage members who are desiring a more contemporary service and even more so, to reach and engage those who are not involved in a church service at this time.

The decision has been made to begin having a “Contemporary Liturgical Worship Service” this month. It will be:

“Contemporary” because the music will be led by our worship team and will utilize contemporary hymns and songs.

“Liturgical” because it will also include some of our traditional liturgy which carries with it the rich heritage of the church.

“Worship Service” because it will be a full worship service, including one of the pastors bringing a sermon from God’s Word (the same message as will be preached at the Sunday morning service.)

Date: October 17th (Saturday)
Time: 5:00pm – 6:00pm
Place: Ruthfred Lutheran Church Sanctuary

Council Meeting Minutes September 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Roman at 7:30 p.m. Don Roose gave the opening prayer and Bible study.

Jonathan Stutzman from Boy Scout Troop #215 asked that his scouts be permitted to meet in the fellowship hall on 5 separate dates. They had previously been meeting in a church that is now unavailable and had resorted to meeting in a shelter in South Park. The colder weather has necessitated finding a new meeting place. Approval was given by Council for Boy Scout Troop #215 to meet in the fellowship hall on the five dates requested.

Pastor Carlson shared that it is great to see our Sunday School classes, confirmation classes, JTTW, Kid's Time, choir and Preschool back in full swing. He, also, expressed his hope that the Lutherans for Life conference be an uplifting, successful and well attended event.

Patricia Lutz reported that she and the Women's Ministry will make an effort to keep the growing number of widows and widowers involved with the church activities. She continues to contact all church members throughout this pandemic.

Brandon Fouks advised that the youth have a number of upcoming fall activities and shared hopes that the entire church attends the Family Fall Festival at the Cox's Farm on October 24, 2020, from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. Great food and great fun for the whole family.

Roger Kurtz has contracted with Larry Labovitz to repair roof tiles and snow guards on the sanctuary roof. This work should be completed this fall.

Chuck Morrison reported that we are in good financial standing. He made a motion that the new Digital Media and the Praise in the Park event become part of the future budget. The motion passed unanimously.

He, also, made a motion to put any estate gift given to the church over \$5,000. into a Reserve Fund for unforeseen future needs. The motion passed unanimously.

Will Charlton is heading the Lutherans for Life event being hosted by Ruthfred on Saturday, September 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Many churches have been invited and he is, also, hoping for a large turnout from our members. The registration can be done online or at the event at 8:30. By using the code: RUTHFRED our members receive a 50% discount on the registration costs from \$50, to \$25. A box lunch will be provided. Please wear a mask when entering the church and during the meal.

After a number of years as Editor of the Herald, Steve Rothermel has stepped down. We thank Steve for his tireless work on the Herald and are sure the spare time will come in handy with his young family. Tom Glasser has agreed to pick up the mantle and become the Editor of the Herald. We wish him every success in his new role.

Starting in October, we will be holding a new contemporary service. This will be a Saturday evening blended worship service in the sanctuary that will be held once a month. There is a possibility that the first service could be held at the Family Fall Festival at the Cox's Farm on October 24th. Details are being finalized and will be forthcoming.

Pastor Carlson gave the closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Evans

October 2020

Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
4 <i>World Communion Sunday</i> Communion 8:30 am Sunday Sch. 9:45 am Communion 11:00 am	5 <i>JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:30 am</i> <i>Craft & Sew 9:30 am</i> <i>Elders' Mtg 7:00 pm</i>	6 <i>Sr. Conf. Class 4:00 pm</i> <i>Worship Team 7:00 pm</i>	7 <i>JTTW 9:45 am</i> <i>Ch. Choir 5:45 pm</i> <i>Bell Choir 6:30 pm</i> <i>JTTW/Kids 6:45 pm</i> <i>Conf. Classes 6:45 pm</i> <i>Senior Choir 7:30 pm</i>	8 <i>Knit Wits 10:00 am</i>	9	10 <i>Mary Bible Study 9:30 am</i> <i>Movie Night 7:00 pm</i>
11 <i>Worship 8:30 am</i> <i>Sunday Sch. 9:45 am</i> <i>Worship 11:00 am</i>	12 <i>JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:30 am</i> <i>Elders' Prayer Time 7:00 pm</i> <i>Council Mtg 7:30 pm</i>	13 <i>Sr. Conf. Class 4:00 pm</i> <i>Worship Team 7:00 pm</i>	14 <i>JTTW 9:45 am</i> <i>Ch. Choir 5:45 pm</i> <i>Bell Choir 6:30 pm</i> <i>JTTW/Kids 6:45 pm</i> <i>Conf. Classes 6:45 pm</i> <i>Senior Choir 7:30 pm</i>	15 <i>Ruth 2:00 pm</i> <i>Men's Night 7:00 pm</i>	16	17 <i>Contemporary Liturgical Worship 5:00 pm</i>
18 <i>Worship 8:30 am</i> <i>Sunday Sch. 9:45 am</i> <i>Worship 11:00 am</i>	19 <i>JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:30 am</i> <i>Craft & Sew 9:30 am</i>	20 <i>Sr. Conf. Class 4:00 pm</i> <i>Worship Team 7:00 pm</i>	21 <i>JTTW 9:45 am</i> <i>Ch. Choir 5:45 pm</i> <i>Bell Choir 6:30 pm</i> <i>JTTW/Kids 6:45 pm</i> <i>Conf. Classes 6:45 pm</i> <i>Senior Choir 7:30 pm</i>	22 <i>Knit Wits 10:00 am</i> <i>Benelolence Mtg 7:15 pm</i>	23	24 <i>Family Fall Festival Cox Farm 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm</i>
25 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> <i>Worship 8:30 am</i> <i>Sunday Sch. 9:45 am</i> <i>Worship 11:00 am</i>	26 <i>JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:30 am</i> <i>GriefShare - Surviving the Holidays 7:00 pm</i>	27 <i>Sr. Conf. Class 4:00 pm</i> <i>Worship Team 7:00 pm</i>	28 <i>JTTW 9:45 am</i> <i>Ch. Choir 5:45 pm</i> <i>Bell Choir 6:30 pm</i> <i>JTTW/Kids 6:45 pm</i> <i>Conf. Classes 6:45 pm</i>	29	30 <i>XYZ 12:00 noon</i>	31 

October 2020

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
4 SWAP 6-7:30 pm @ Church	5	6 TNT @ Church 7-9 pm	7	8	9	10
11 SWAP 6-7:30 pm @ Church	12	13 TNT @ Church 7-9 pm	14	15	16 <u>2020 SWAP</u>	17 <u>Retreat @</u>
18 <u>Seneca Hills</u> No SWAP	19	20 TNT @ Church 7-9 pm	21	22	23	24 Fall Fest 1-7 pm @ Cox Farm
25 SWAP 6-7:30 pm @ Church	26	27 TNT @ Church 7-9 pm	28	29	30 <u>Fall TNT</u> <u>Camping</u>	31 <u>@ Mingo Creek</u>

Ruthfred Youth Ministry Calendar



Reading Through the Bible 2020

Over 100 of us are reading through the Bible together this year. But, it is easy to get behind! On Oct. 1st we will start reading the New Testament. Let me encourage you – if you have gotten hopelessly behind, or never started – Oct. 1st is a great opportunity to start with the New Testament!!!! The reading schedule is printed each week in the bulletin, on our Ruthfred.org page, and in the monthly Herald. If you want to join the Bible App reading group (with the extra devotional features which are awesome!), please send an email to Don Roose and he will connect you. donroose@yahoo.com



Schedule for October

1st	Matthew 1-4	16th	Mark 6-7
2nd	Matthew 5-6	17th	Mark 8-9
3rd	Matthew 7-8	18th	Mark 10-11
4th	Matthew 9-10	19th	Mark 12-13
5th	Matthew 11-12	20th	Mark 14
6th	Matthew 13	21st	Mark 15-16
7th	Matthew 14-16	22nd	Luke 1
8th	Matthew 17-19	23rd	Luke 2-3
9th	Matthew 20-21	24th	Luke 4-5
10th	Matthew 22-23	25th	Luke 6-7
11th	Matthew 24-25	26th	Luke 8-9
12th	Matthew 26	27th	Luke 10-11
13th	Matthew 27-28	28th	Luke 12-13
14th	Mark 1-3	29th	Luke 14-16
15th	Mark 4-5	30th	Luke 17-18
		31st	Luke 19-20

A joyful heart is good medicine.

Proverbs 17:22a

Bulletin Bloopers fortunately not seen here at RLC!

Please join us for an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner,
followed by a sermon on gluttony by Pastor Bill.

Today's marital workshop, "Make Time for Your Marriage",
has been canceled due to a scheduling conflict.

Do you love to sin? The church choir is looking for new
members. We meet every Thursday evening and have a
wonderful time!

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It is a
good chance to get rid of those things not
worth keeping around the house. Bring your
husbands.

**I found
this
humerus**

