

All Creatures Great and Small



More than one hundred creatures—two-legged and four-legged—gathered at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Oct. 4 for the first-ever Pet Blessing in honor of the Feast of St. Francis. While dogs certainly outnumbered the four-legged creatures present, other species were represented as well: rabbits, cats, horses, guinea pigs, birds, frogs, and even a couple of stuffed animals. The Rev. Judith Doran blessed each animal by name, as well as blessing the prayer cards completed by attendees for the pets who could not be present. It was a lovely autumn afternoon and many participants agreed that the event itself was a blessing indeed. This was truly a community event as we had visitors and their pets from beyond St. Paul's, and two non-profit organizations on-hand to provide information about their services: the Humane Society of Greater Dayton and Bridge (horse) Riding for the Disabled. Numerous members of St. Paul's are actively involved with both of these organizations and volunteer with them regularly. The Humane Society brought three dogs available for adoption—and blessing, of course—but now only two are available (be sure to congratulate the Hackert family of Centerville on their newest family member!)