

Take time to be a dad today.
www.fatherhood.gov
 Ad Council

Other editions: [Mobile](#) | [News Feeds](#) | [E-Newsletters](#) | [Subscribe Now](#) | [Archives](#) Find it: [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Apartments](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Contact Us](#)



All [Local News](#) [Directory](#) [Jobs](#) [More »](#)

SEARCH ALL [go](#)



HOME NEWS OBITUARIES OPINION NATION/WORLD SPORTS OUTDOORS LIVING ENTERTAINMENT VISIT ASHEVILLE WEEKLIES CUSTOMER SERVICE

Election 2008: complete coverage and results [Submit Letter to the Editor](#) [Wedding, Engagement & other announcement forms](#) [Weather](#) [Lottery](#)

Comment, blog & share photos
[Log in](#) | [Become a member](#)

POWERED BY YOU AND ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
VOICE OF THE MOUNTAINS • CITIZEN-TIMES.COM

Bless the beasts: Grace Church holds annual pet blessing

BY LOCKIE HUNTER • PUBLISHED APRIL 23, 2008 12:15 AM

[Post a Comment](#) [Recommend \(5\)](#) [Print this page](#) [E-mail this article](#)

Comments on Topix forums (click to comment): [Read all 5 comments »](#)



ASHEVILLE – A chorus of dogs, cats, parakeets and even chickens joined the choir Sunday as Grace Episcopal Church on Merrimon Avenue celebrated its annual blessing of the animals.

"It is one of the most joyful services we have all year," said Rector Gary Coffey. "You can look out and see the glee on people's faces."



[Zoom](#)

A dog relaxes in a pew during Grace Episcopal's annual Blessing of the Animals service Sunday. - Lockie Hunter/Special to the Citizen-Times

ADVERTISEMENT

The all-new 2009 Subaru Forester.[®]
Love. It's what makes a Subaru, a Subaru.
 Well-equipped at \$19,995. Rollover >

The Sunday event drew a large assortment of animals and their human friends. The animals remained in the church through the service, which included a special moment when each was brought to the altar to be blessed. Many also accompanied their owners to the altar for the service of Communion.

"As part of God's creation," Coffey said, "animals are important as we are important. Animals are dear to us, dear to our hearts."

"This service may help people be aware of the importance of God's creation for the rest of their lives," said parishioner Judy Rhodes, referring to growing environmental activism among Christians. "This service is a part of what may instill that awareness for future generations."

Grace holds the ceremony in April each year around Good Shepherd Sunday. The church welcomes all pets but cautions that some of the larger animals such as horses must be led into the church and not ridden.

On the Net: www.graceepiscopalchurch.us

ADVERTISEMENT

What's on eBay right now?
 Roll over and find out!

you deserve it

Shop Victoriously Find Yours

AdChoice

In your voice

READ REACTIONS TO THIS STORY

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

Submit