

0 Comments

- [Print](#)
- [Reprint or License](#)
- [Share](#)

# A prayer for all animals

**Pets, and pet owners, gather at Trinity Presbyterian for blessings.**

Like

Be the first of your friends to like this.

By Jessica Milicevic

jessicamilicevic@

Posted: Sunday, Oct. 10, 2010

[charlotteobserver.com](http://charlotteobserver.com)

One could hear barking and laughing last week from the crowded front lawn at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Providence Road.

About 50 dogs and one cat were there to be blessed during the "Thanksgiving of All God's Creatures" service.

The service was a part of World Animal Day, which was Oct. 4.

Suzanne Hair, chairwoman of the events committee for the church, said the day is similar to the Catholic church's Blessing of the Animals ceremony, celebrated on Oct. 4 in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

"It's a way to give thanks for our pets and to recognize our relationship with them," Hair said.

Along with their two-legged companions, the pets gathered in a circle as the Rev. D.C. Horne led the group in prayer.

"Protect and keep these animals in your heavenly benediction, that they and we live our lives faithful to your infinite design and purpose," she prayed.

With heads bowed and hands placed on their animals, pet owners closed their eyes and prayed. After the prayer, each animal's name was called to be included in the blessing and then awarded a certificate.

Hair brought her two dogs, a Chihuahua named Bonita and a beagle-mix named Cookie. Hair believes having pets is a good way to teach children to have compassion for animals, and the church service helped achieve that.

"The event was tailored to children to help them gather empathy for animals at a young age," Hair said. "It helps them grow and mature."

Also present at the church service was the Humane Society of York County. Representatives came to have their shelter dogs blessed and, hopefully, to find homes for them.