

## Blessings abound for man and beast

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**Photo right: Pets wait, some more patiently than others, for Rev. Mark E. Waldo Jr. (white robe) to begin. □**

**Photo: Brian Hodge**

**By BRIAN HODGE**

The Blessing of the Animals service given at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church is typically regarded as a lovely, if not lively, event. Dozens of pet lovers gathered last Sunday afternoon to share stories about their pets.

The service is typically performed in Catholic churches as well as Anglican churches (such as St. Michael) on or about October 3. This date corresponds to the accepted birthdate of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. St. Michael moves the service to the 3rd weekend to correspond with their Angel Fest celebration.