LAMORINDA WEEKLY

All Creatures, Great and Small

By Cathy Dausman



Dolly and her new friends

ats, dogs and even a chicken named Beatrix took advantage of a Blessing of the Animals offered October 2 following St. Giles Sunday service at St. Mary's College.

The chapel plaza held dogs large and small, friendly and not so friendly, and a pair of cats safely confined in their carriers. Reverend Teri Gilmore presided over the brief prayer service. Each animal was sprinkled with water when blessed; more than a few dogs tried to drink from Gilmore's bowl. A basket of stuffed animals was also presented for blessing; the church runs a "comfort ministry" and distributes stuffed pets to children involved with the Contra Costa court system.

The service was just winding down when one participant noticed a late arrival. Her name was Dolly, and she made a grand entrance galloping up the long green chapel lawn. "Am I too late?" rider/owner Kate Sullivan asked breathlessly. Sullivan wanted to include her Belgian mare in the service. Gilmore was happy to oblige. And as Dolly cast a wistful look back at the delicious green grass she'd just trod, the other participants gathered 'round for a meet and greet.

please...



...thanks



Dolly outside St. Mary's chapel. Don't worry -- she didn't go in!...



One cat ready for a blessing



Blessing of the animals, St. Giles Episcopal congregation



Nellita Antezana, of Lafayette, with her chicken Beatrix



Bless this Labrador...

Photos Cathy Dausman

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