

Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty

Animal Protection Ministries:

A Guide for Churches



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES





“As the Christian tradition reawakens to the human responsibility for stewardship of God’s creation, it is crucial for churches to have practical ways to put these ideas into practice. The *Animal Protection Ministries* guide offers churches the tools and the inspiration they need to explore this growing area of ministry.”

—RICHARD J. MOUW, PRESIDENT AND PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY,
FULLER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, PASADENA, CALIF.

About This Guide

by Christine Gutleben, Director of Faith Outreach,
The Humane Society of the United States

ANIMAL PROTECTION MINISTRIES: A GUIDE FOR CHURCHES seeks to help congregations connect with the animals in their homes, in their backyards, and around the world in new and faithful ways. In this guide created by The Humane Society of the United States, you will find ideas for activities that church groups of all sizes can undertake to learn about God's good creatures and to make a real difference in the lives of people and animals. Pastors from churches involved in animal-related activities share their thoughts on why animals are appropriate for theological consideration and their experiences in implementing these exciting ministries.

The guide provides ideas for ministries involving pets, wildlife, and farm animals, but you can combine these to address important issues affecting a variety of animals. Ministries for all animals can engage church members on the issues they care about while also introducing them to less familiar topics and species. Here are some ideas:

- Add an "animal ministries corner" to your church newsletter, website, or bulletin board, where you can share articles on animal protection issues. You can also use this space to promote animal-related church activities, adoptable pets from animal shelters or rescue groups, and local shelter events.
- Develop an adult forum or youth studies course where participants reflect on statements from your tradition regarding humans' responsibilities toward animals. For official statements about animals from major denominations, visit humanesociety.org/ministryguide.
- In your congregational prayers, remember pets, wildlife, and farm animals affected by natural disasters or other crises.
- Subscribe to The HSUS's *All Animals* magazine, and keep it as a resource in your library.

This guide is just the beginning. Our website includes helpful tips, resources, and a host of ideas for more ministries. When you register your animal ministry with The HSUS, you can also join our online community and share ideas with other churches involved in making the world a more compassionate place for all God's creatures. Please join us at humanesociety.org/ministryguide.

“Regardless of one's faith tradition, denomination, or religious philosophy, two words that are universally shared by all are “compassion” and “stewardship.” ... The Humane Society of the United States is to be commended for ... providing churches and religious communities with concrete ideas on how to establish new ministries that combine the lives of humans and animals together in a unified whole that theologically reaffirms both good stewardship and compassionate care.”

— THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN BRYSON CHANE, D.D., EPISCOPAL BISHOP OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

Introduction

by Randy Craighead, Executive Pastor,
Church of the King, Mandeville, La.

THE BOND BETWEEN PEOPLE and animals is a unique one. Genesis tells us that we are all created by God and that God has given humans special charge over the animals. The connection is particularly strong in the case of people and their pets. At Church of the King in New Orleans, we see the importance of that bond during the monthly clinics we hold to provide medical and dental services to low-income people in the city and veterinary checkups to their four-legged companions.

For some of these people, their pets are all they have, and seeing the animals receive treatment means everything to them. And being of service to people in this way means a great deal to us as well; it gives us an opportunity to show that we're interested in what's important to them, including their pets. Indeed, when we care for animals, we care for people. When we dismiss or ignore animals, we miss a significant aspect of what it means to be human.

Developed by The HSUS, this guide gives churches ideas for cultivating people's concern for pets, wildlife, farm animals, and other creatures. The guide shares reflections on Scripture and traditions, as well as suggestions for activities to help animals and, in turn, the people who love them.

As we work to show God's love to all His creatures, we can rejoice in the extravagant bounty of God's goodness and say with the Psalmist, "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD" (Psalm 150:6).



CATHERINE YELLETT/ISTOCK

I. Ministries for Pets and the People Who Love Them

REFLECTION *by Craig Pederson, Pastor, Northeast Community Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn.*

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice with us and sing;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

O burning sun with golden beam
And silver moon with softer gleam:

Oh, praise God! Oh, praise God!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

— ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI (c. 1181–1226)

IN NORTHERN STATES like Minnesota, we appreciate summer for many reasons—the warm weather, the greening of the landscape, and the luxurious length of the days. Birds start singing earlier in the morning and sustain their songs later into the evening. People are out with their companion animals at the break of dawn until the final glimpses of the setting sun for a tranquil walk, a vigorous run, or a serene getaway on the patio with a favorite book.

Then winter comes—sunlight grows scarce, temperatures decrease, and we spend more time in our homes with our companion animals, playing and sleeping and cuddling to keep warm. A few brave souls retain their outdoor exercise routines regardless of the barriers presented by dropping temperatures or fading sunlight.

The experiences we share with our companion animals cross not only the bounds of the seasons, but also the bounds of social class, ethnicity, geography, and even time. St. Francis of Assisi wrote the soaring hymn “All Creatures of Our God and King” 800 years ago. He became the patron saint of ecology because he recognized the interdependence of all creatures.

Our companion animals rely on us, yet we rely on them as well. We are part of an interconnected web of relationships that the Creator has given us all as a gift. From “burning sun with golden beam” to “silver moon with softer gleam,” let us give thanks for our companion animals and give praise to the Creator who gives us all life!



HELLEN HAPPY/FOTOLIA

CELEBRATING THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND

THE ANIMALS WHO SHARE OUR HOMES become part of our families. We rejoice in their happiness and grieve their passing. For those of us who live alone, pets can be our closest companions. They also provide vital public and therapeutic services. A ministry for companion animals serves the needs of people and animals.

- Host an animal blessing service. Such services are traditionally held on St. Francis Day (Oct. 4) but can take place at any time. This is a good time to reflect on our bond with pets and remember those animals not fortunate enough to live in loving homes. The HSUS’s St. Francis Day in a Box multimedia toolkit can help you get started; to order, e-mail faith@humanesociety.org.
- Start a pet food bank to help low-income pet owners keep their animals rather than surrender them to shelters because they can’t afford their care.

FEATURED CHURCH

Northeast Community Lutheran Church

LOCATION Minneapolis, Minn.

ANIMAL MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

- Food bank for people and animals
- Annual pet blessing service
- Low-cost vaccination clinics for pets
- Referrals to low-cost spay/neuter and other veterinary services
- Coming soon: pet-friendly worship services

WHEN A NEIGHBOR'S DOG died of parvo disease, Northeast Community Lutheran Church member Cathie Witzel wanted to help other pet owners avoid similar tragedies. Parvo is difficult and costly to treat but can easily be prevented with an inexpensive vaccine. With encouragement from her pastor, Witzel recruited volunteer veterinarians to administer vaccines and give basic checkups at twice-yearly clinics. Church members volunteer their time to run the clinics, which are paid for with small donations for the vaccines. While the first clinic

was being organized, the church also expanded its food ministry to include pet food, allowing it to reach more people.

Honoring and caring for God's creation is one of the church's guiding principles. "The clinics and blessings and the food shelf help define what we stand for," Witzel says. "The benefit to the church from these activities is that we are living out who we say we want to be. The love of a dog is a reflection of the love of God, and we need to be good stewards of that love. Being caretakers of animals is part of our calling as Christians."



JENNIFER BAILEY



STEPHEN COBURNE/DEARSTIME

ing homes, rehabilitation facilities, and schools to brighten spirits, encourage communication, and provide a much-needed distraction from pain and anxiety. Dogs are the most common type of therapy animal, but other companion animals can participate if they have the appropriate temperament and training.

HELPING HOMELESS PETS

MORE THAN 3 MILLION DOGS AND CATS are euthanized each year in shelters. Most of these animals are healthy and adoptable; there simply aren't enough adoptive homes. Meanwhile, across the country, factory-style breeding operations known as puppy mills churn out millions of dogs every

- Organize a group of volunteers to care for pets of congregation members who are ill, injured, or experiencing other life crises. In the same way members of your religious community might help those in need by providing meals or transportation to medical appointments, they can also offer to walk a dog or take a cat to the vet.

- Encourage congregation members with pets to enroll in pet therapy certification classes. Participants visit settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, and schools to brighten spirits, encourage communication, and provide a much-needed distraction from pain and anxiety.

year in conditions of squalor and neglect. We can combat these tragedies by encouraging shelter adoptions, promoting pet sterilization, and raising awareness of puppy mills.

Videos for Group Screenings

Puppy Mills: Through undercover footage, this video shows how puppy mills operate and circumvent laws. (2 minutes)

Pets Need Your Love: A good choice for viewing with a youth group, this animated video examines the responsibilities of caring for a pet and illustrates the need for shelter adoptions. (4 minutes)

The Shelter Pet Project PSAs: These 30-second public service announcements developed by the Ad Council are designed to dispel the stereotypes that might discourage people from adopting shelter pets.

Videos and other resources are available at [humanesociety.org/ministryguide](https://www.humanesociety.org/ministryguide).

- Ask a local animal shelter or rescue group to bring pets to coffee hour for an adoption event. If bringing the animals inside is a problem, hold the event outside when temperatures are comfortable. At the event, share information about puppy mills and the importance of spay/neuter.

- Feature adoptable pets from local shelters and rescues in your congregational newsletter and on your church bulletin board and website.

- Organize a collection drive for your local shelter. Check with shelter staff for items they might need, such as food, towels, toys, office supplies, and shredded newspaper.

- Bring in guest speakers to teach classes on pet care. For help locating a speaker, contact The HSUS at faith@humanesociety.org.



MARK RAYCROFT/MINDEN

II. Ministries for Celebrating and Protecting Wildlife

REFLECTION *by Dorothy Taylor Blackwelder, Associate Pastor,
Dorchester Presbyterian Church, Summerville, S.C.*

God blessed [Adam and Eve], and God said to them
“Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion
over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over
every living thing that moves upon the earth.”... God saw everything that
God made, and indeed, it was very good.

— GENESIS 1:28, 31

The earth is the LORD’s and all that is in it, the world and those
who live in it. ... You have given us dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under our feet, all sheep and oxen and
also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

— PSALM 24:1, 8:6–8

IT IS CLEAR IN SCRIPTURE that God meant for all of the earth’s creatures to be connected to each other. Humans have a special calling and responsibility to care for the earth and all of its inhabitants—to be stewards of God’s magnificent creation. The *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* puts it this way: “God calls the Church in the power of the Holy Spirit to participate in God’s work of creation and preservation. God has given humankind awesome power and perilous responsibility to rule and tame the earth, to sustain and reshape it, to replenish and renew it” (W-7.5001).

When we consider that the earth belongs to God and that we are merely stewards, we have to think differently about how we use and care for our environment and our fellow creatures. We should take our role seriously and do whatever we can to appreciate, support, and protect the diverse and beautiful wild animals in our midst, knowing that God has created each one for a purpose and declared them good.



ONEBONVISTOCK

God rejoices in all of creation, and all of creation reflects God’s character. The birds nesting in our backyards, the lion roaring for food halfway around the world, and all the creatures of the sea have something to tell us of God. And “as stewards of God’s creation who hold the earth in trust, the people of God are called to ... use and shape earth’s goods to create beauty, order, health, and peace in ways that reflect God’s love for all creatures” (*Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, W-7.5003e).

APPRECIATING BACKYARD WILDLIFE

THE BEAUTY OF TIGERS, elephants, polar bears, and many other wild creatures fills us with awe. Some of us may be less impressed by the wild animals closer to home—the squirrels who dig up our bulbs, the deer who graze in our gardens, or the raccoons who den in our chimneys—but these familiar animals also deserve our care and respect. Whether your church is in an urban or rural setting, you can take steps to create a hospitable environment for local wildlife, helping people and animals enjoy the bounty of creation. You can also help people live in harmony with the wild animals in their neighborhoods.

- Create a wildlife sanctuary on your church grounds. You don’t need acres of land or a lot of money; wildlife-friendly plants, birdhouses, nesting boxes, and simple landscaping changes will go a long way to benefiting the animals. The HSUS’s Urban Wildlife Sanctuary Program provides a wealth of materials on habitat creation and restoration, as well as tips for enhancing wildlife-watching experiences.

- Plan a community event featuring a guest speaker who can talk about humane responses to common human-wildlife conflicts; tips for creating a wildlife-friendly backyard; or wildlife rehabilitation. For help locating a speaker, contact The HSUS at faith@humanesociety.org.

- Organize walks in local gardens, nature preserves, or wooded areas. Bring binoculars and a guidebook, and take time to look for different plant and animal species. You may want to ask an expert on local flora and fauna to lead the walk. Consider including a walk as part of a church retreat—it can provide an excellent opportunity for reflection.

- If a park, woodland, or other public natural space in your area needs attention, organize a group to perform cleanup and plant trees or flowers. Choose plants that will attract birds and butterflies and provide food and shelter for wildlife.



YANICKVALLEESHUTTERSTOCK



PAUL BURNS



- Plan an outing to a local wildlife sanctuary or rehabilitation facility. Write an article about the experience for your church newsletter or website.

PROTECTING WILDLIFE FROM ABUSE

ANIMALS AROUND THE WORLD suffer from habitat loss, destructive tourism practices, and illegal trade. They are also killed for their pelts and body parts. Here are some ways your church can make a difference.

- Collect fur coats and fur-trimmed garments to donate to The HSUS's Coats for Cubs program, which distributes them to wildlife rehabilitation centers to be used as bedding for orphaned animals.
- If your church organizes overseas trips for service or pilgrimage, learn about the wildlife issues of your target destination. Educate your group about how they can avoid contributing to illegal wildlife trade, harming local wildlife populations, or patronizing attractions that feature captive wild animals as entertainment.
- Educate your congregation about the abuses inherent in marine mammal parks, circuses, and other forms of entertainment that use captive wild animals. Encourage people to patronize alternative forms of recreation, such as the world-famous Cirque du Soleil.

Videos for Group Screenings

The Birds Depend on You: This video gives tips for feeding birds in ways that will keep them safe and healthy. (1.5 minutes)

Marine Mammals: This video addresses the ethical issues involved in keeping whales, dolphins, and other marine mammals in captivity. (3.5 minutes)

Behind the Big Top: Take a behind-the-scenes look at the inhumane aspects of using animals in circuses. (5 minutes)

Cruelty by Design: This video examines the grim reality of how animals, including dogs and cats in Asia, suffer and die for fur fashions. (4.5 minutes)

Coats for Cubs: Learn how you can turn the tragedy of wildlife abuse into an opportunity for healing. (2.5 minutes)



Videos and other resources are available at [humanesociety.org/ministryguide](https://www.humanesociety.org/ministryguide).

FEATURED CHURCH

Dorchester Presbyterian Church

LOCATION Summerville, S.C.

ANIMAL MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

- 42-acre wildlife sanctuary
- Outdoor worship space and labyrinth
- Dedicated sanctuary section in monthly newsletter
- Support for local animal shelter through youth volunteers

IN 1990, a nearby business offered to sell Dorchester Presbyterian Church 42 acres of land for a very low price with the understanding that the property would remain undeveloped. The church accepted the offer, seeing an opportunity to preserve a piece of God's creation for future generations and to secure a beautiful space for worship, prayer, educational programs, and recreation.

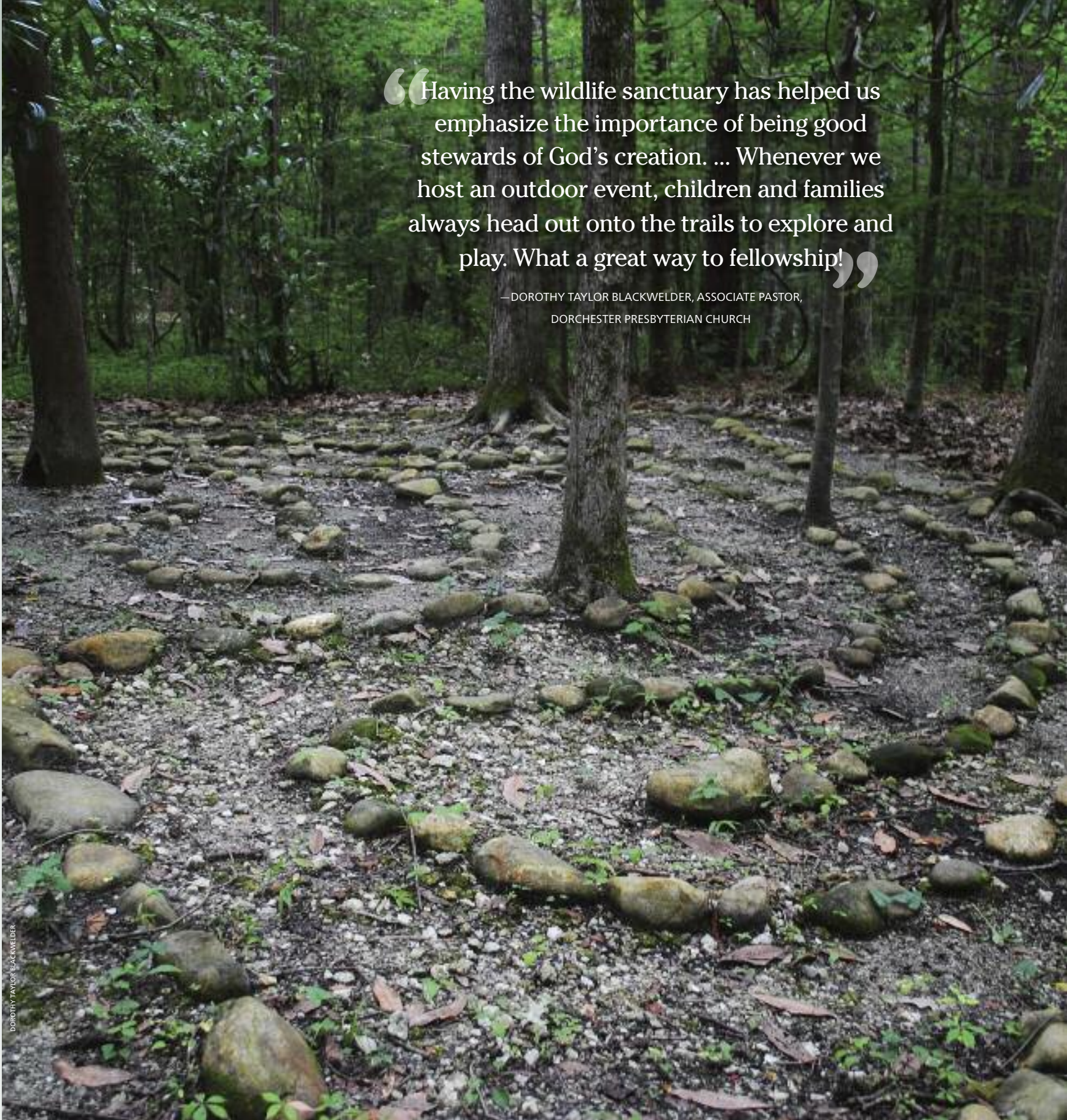
The congregation has embraced the natural area, which is designated an official HSUS Urban Wildlife Sanctuary. The land adjoins a state park and is visited by deer, raccoons, opossums, rabbits, foxes, and an occasional bobcat. The church holds evening services complete with campfires and s'mores in an outdoor worship space planned and constructed by a young church member as his Eagle Scout project. An outdoor labyrinth allows people "to be reminded of God's awesome power and creativity in creation as all senses are engaged in prayer and meditation," says associate pastor Dorothy Taylor Blackwelder.

"Having the wildlife sanctuary has helped us emphasize the importance of being good stewards of God's creation," Blackwelder says. "... Whenever we host an outdoor event, children and families always head out onto the trails to explore and play. What a great way to fellowship!"

The sanctuary has also allowed the church to provide a unique service to the community: "It is important to make preserving God's creation a priority," Blackwelder says. "We are located in an area with a lot of growth; wildlife is being displaced with each new neighborhood or commercial development. We are certainly privileged to have this land and feel that we are called to preserve it for generations to come."

“Having the wildlife sanctuary has helped us emphasize the importance of being good stewards of God's creation. ... Whenever we host an outdoor event, children and families always head out onto the trails to explore and play. What a great way to fellowship!”

—DOROTHY TAYLOR BLACKWELDER, ASSOCIATE PASTOR,
DORCHESTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DOROTHY TAYLOR BLACKWELDER



III. Ministries for Aligning Food Choices and Faith

REFLECTION

by Rev. Laura Thomas Howell, Obl.S.B., Rector,
Trinity Episcopal Church, Bethlehem, Pa.

The righteous one regards the life of his animal
but the heart of the wicked is without mercy.

— PROVERBS 12:10

Pain is pain, whether it is inflicted on man or on beast. ... We may
pretend to what religion we please, but cruelty is atheism.
We may boast of Christianity; but cruelty is infidelity. We may trust
our orthodoxy; but cruelty is the worst of heresies.

— REV. HUMPHRY PRIMATT, *A DISSERTATION ON THE DUTY OF MERCY
AND SIN OF CRUELTY TO BRUTE ANIMALS* (1776)

WE LIKE TO THINK OF OUR FOOD CHOICES as a quintessentially personal decision. Our diets are often deeply embedded in our heritage, culture, and family histories. Perhaps it is precisely because our food choices say so much about us that Scripture has so much to say about food. Food is at the center of the story of the Fall; the heavenly feast is part of our thinking about the world to come; food is closely connected with the Hebrews' struggles to trust God in the desert; food was involved in much of the dissension in the early church; and a meal is at the heart of our central act of Christian celebration, the Eucharist. Scripture suggests to us that, yes, what and how we eat is personal, but it is also a statement of faith. So as part of our faith journey, we are called to examine what we eat and why and to see whether we are honoring God in this aspect of our lives.

In today's world, with most of us far removed from food production, an examination of our food choices first means learning about where our food comes from. Food production, particularly when it comes to animal husbandry, has changed dramatically since World War II. Family farms raising a variety of animals to feed local communities are nearly a thing of the past. Instead, industrial agribusiness operations, or factory farms, now produce most of the meat consumed in the U.S. Meanwhile, meat consumption has skyrocketed in recent decades; the average American ate more than 220 pounds per year in 2007, nearly 80 pounds more than in 1960.

Factory farming helps produce these vast quantities of meat at what at first appears to be a low cost to the consumer. As is so often the case, however, low cost for some really means a high cost paid by somebody else. Factory farming has negative impacts on the environment and public health, and it contributes to world hunger and animal suffering. In factory farms, God's creatures are treated not as sentient beings but as production units to be managed as cheaply as possible, packed by the thousands into small spaces where many of them don't even have room to turn around. Most of us know nothing of these inhumane conditions and, indeed, most of us don't want to know. But Christians are not called to hide from the truth. Instead, we are called to see the world as it is and to ask about our role in transforming it.

As Christians, we owe it to ourselves, and to the God who has provided us with food in abundance, to become educated about these issues and to make food decisions that are consistent with the faith we live out in the rest of our lives. We can choose alternatives that reduce, refine, or replace our participation in factory farming. Some of us become vegetarians or even vegans. Others buy products from animals raised under higher welfare standards. Still others cut back on their meat consumption, opting for plant-based meals several times a week. No one single choice is right for everyone. What is important is that we make ethical choices that reflect our faith.

LEARNING ABOUT FOOD ISSUES

THE FIRST STEP to developing a faithful position regarding the treatment of farm animals is to consider the issues and alternatives from a faith perspective. The following resources can help faith communities get started, whether in small group discussions or congregation-wide settings.

- Several books examine factory farming and other food issues from an ethical standpoint. Even where they are not specifically Christian, they provide a good starting point for considering these topics from a religious perspective. These include: *Eating Animals* by Jonathan Safran Foer (Little, Brown, 2009); *Dominion: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy* by Matthew Scully (St. Martin's Griffin, 2002); and *Animal Factory* by David Kirby (St. Martin's Press, 2010).

- Explore the connections between factory farming and problems such as global warming, antibiotic overuse, food safety, and the development of diseases that can spread to people. Read the Pew Commission's report *Putting Meat on the Table: Industrial Farm Animal Production in America*, and read reports from The HSUS at humansociety.org/ministryguide.



- To learn about the impacts of factory farming on animal well-being, check out the HSUS report *The Welfare of Animals in the Meat, Egg, and Dairy Industries*.

- Plan a group outing to a farm animal sanctuary. Learn about the situations that brought the rescued animals to the sanctuary, and see how their true natures blossom when they're cared for in a natural setting.



EATING MERCIFULLY

BOTH CHURCHES and individual congregants can reduce their support of factory farming, help members think about menus in new ways, and welcome those with a range of dietary preferences.

- Encourage congregants to reduce, refine, and replace their meat consumption. *Reducing* can be as simple as leaving animals off the menu for one meal a day or one day each week. *Refining* dietary choices involves choosing more humanely raised animal products, such as cage-free eggs. And, of course, it is always possible (and easier and more delicious than many people realize) to *replace* meat, eggs, and dairy with plant-based alternatives.

- Welcome those who choose not to eat animal products; ensure that options are always available for them at congregational meals. Refrain from hosting events that center on meat, such as pig roasts or lobster feasts.

- Hold a cooking class. Some of your congregation's best cooks will enjoy learning new meat-free dishes and teaching them to others. Include meatless recipes in your next congregational cookbook.

- Spread the word about local alternative food sources. Farmers' markets and community supported agriculture businesses offer fresh produce and may sell more humanely raised animal products from small family farms.

Videos for Group Screenings

Eating Mercifully: Narrated by Robert Martin, executive director of the Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production, this HSUS documentary features commentaries on factory farming from Christian scholars and religious leaders. A study guide for adults and teenagers is also available. (26 minutes)

Overlooked: This video examines the worst abuses of factory farms and their impacts on animals. (5.5 minutes)

David Kirby Talks Factory Farming: Best-selling investigative journalist David Kirby is the author of *Animal Factory*, which documents the devastating impacts of factory farms. In the video, he discusses how animals are raised on factory farms, while footage helps illustrate the reality. (3 minutes)



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Videos and other resources are available at humanesociety.org/ministryguide.

FEATURED CHURCH

Trinity Episcopal Church

LOCATION Bethlehem, Pa.

ANIMAL MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

- Vegetarian options at all congregational meals with vegetarian-only meals for certain occasions
- Low-cost animal care clinics and pet food bank that also gathers donations for wildlife rehabilitation organizations
- Grief counseling for loss of companion animals, memorial garden for parishioners' pets, and inclusion of companion animals in prayers offered for the dead at All Saints' Day and requiem services
- Annual blessing of the animals service

THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN ministering to animals and ministering to people are clear at Trinity Episcopal Church. The church's care extends to welcoming people who choose not to eat meat. All congregational meals include a vegetarian option, and some meals, such as the Maundy Thursday celebration, are completely vegetarian. As the rector and a vegetarian herself, Mother Laura Howell feels that the church should be a welcoming place for all. "We have quite a number of vegetarians in the parish," Howell says, "and some people have visited us specifically because we are listed as animal- and vegetarian-friendly."

This inclusiveness has received only favorable reactions—not surprising in a congregation that recognizes both the importance of creating an inviting worship community and the connections between human and animal welfare. Reaching out to help animals has enabled the congregation to assist humans as well; the pet food bank began when church members realized that some clients of its human food bank were going hungry so they could feed their pets.

Making the connections can require conversation and education. "I sometimes get a question implying that concern for animals is trivial when we have so many problems for the humans in our midst," Howell says. "Sometimes [people] need to be reminded that for some of us, our animals are all the family we have. Indifference to cruelty has an impact on our own souls." These ministries, she explains, help congregation members be more aware of and thankful for their many gifts.

CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE RESOURCES

Find more resources for helping animals in the online version of this guide. Explore the issues, pick up more ideas for ministries, and share what your church is doing to care for creation. View the videos suggested in this guide for group screenings, as well as videos featuring pet blessing services and reflections by religious leaders. **To get started, go to humanesociety.org/ministryguide.**



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



ROMILLY LOCKYER

About The HSUS

The HSUS is the nation's largest and most powerful animal protection organization—backed by 11 million Americans, or one in every 28. Established in 1954, The HSUS seeks a humane and sustainable world for all animals, including people. We are America's mainstream force against cruelty, exploitation, and neglect, and also the nation's most trusted voice extolling the human-animal bond.

For more information on our Faith Outreach programs, visit humanesociety.org/faith.

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THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

2100 L Street, NW Washington, DC 20037
humanesociety.org