

# Unique Birdseed Labyrinth & St. Francis Day Pet Blessing

By Crystal Dawn Walker



In 2008, a birdseed labyrinth was created as part of the St. Francis Day Celebration at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Beaverton. Community members brought their dogs, cats, bunnies, a hermit crab, a tortoise, and a guinea pig to be blessed by the clergy, after which they walked the labyrinth with their pets. In addition to the birdseed, the labyrinth was also constructed of dog biscuits and canned tuna. This successful event will be repeated in 2009.

The 2nd Annual Birdseed Labyrinth and St. Francis Day Pet Blessing will occur on Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 2:00-4:00 p.m., at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church on the back lawn. Following the creation of the birdseed labyrinth, there will be a brief outdoor service and special Blessing of the Animals will honor St. Francis of Assisi known for his gentle spirit and his love for all animals.

Everyone is welcome to attend and bring their family pet, or a picture or stuffed representation of the pet. Everyone is welcome to this family and pet friendly event at St. Bartholomew's.

#### About the Author:

Crystal Dawn Walker is a Veriditas Certified Labyrinth Facilitator and the designer of the birdseed labyrinth. She leads Lunch-n-Labyrinth pilgrimages from St. Bartholomew's to labyrinths in the Portland metro area on the third Wednesday's May-October. Crystal Dawn is a student at Marylhurst University where she is President of L.A.B.Y. (Labyrinth Alliance Balances You) student group at Marylhurst University.

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