



## **Biographical Information—Rev. Joan Gray**

On March 12, 1978, Joan Gray was ordained as the first female pastor of a church in Atlanta Presbytery. She started her ministry in a small, country congregation where it was not unheard of for a dog to wander in and lie down in front of the communion table during the sermon. Then in an urban setting, the focus of her ministry as an associate pastor was reaching out to college students and overseeing a vigorous community ministry.

Next, while pastor of Columbia Presbyterian Church, she also served as pastor, mentor and spiritual director to many seminary students and their families. After twenty years of installed pastorates, in 1999 she moved into a new ministry as a trained interim pastor. Her work since that time has often involved working with churches in conflict.

Since her seminary years Joan has been active in the Presbyterian Women. She wrote leader guides for two national PW circle Bible studies, has taught the Bible leaders in her congregations, and has led workshops for PW at the presbytery and denominational level. Two of her congregations have awarded her an Honorary Life Membership in the Presbyterian Women.

In her life outside church, Joan enjoys gardening (strange but true for someone who lives on the sixteenth floor of a condominium), baseball and taking walks with her husband Bill.

The Grays met at Presbyterian College and have been married for 31 years. Bill is a Presbyterian elder and serves on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.