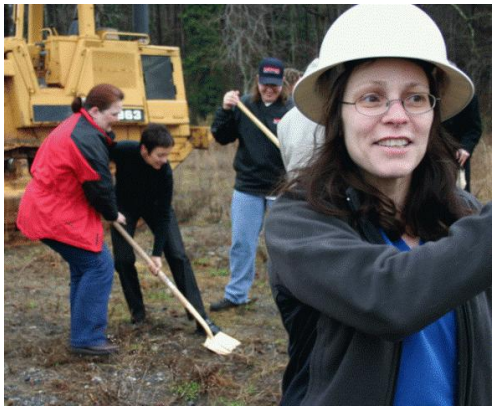

**Groundbreaking Prayer**
**March 16, 2005**

Creator God, of all time and space, all wisdom and healing, from the beginning you have found delight in all your creatures and declare your work to be good. You have given humankind dominion over the animal life which fills the earth and the responsibility to care for each creature great and small. Your spirit has granted, for the common good, all talents, all miracle workers who are part of your varied and wonderful plan of interdependence since time first began.

We seek your presence here as we come to turn the good earth and to celebrate new beginnings and the future plans for this clinic's enlarged space, which will be a healing refuge to care for our faithful companions, our pets, who we regard with high esteem. They live in our families as our adopted children, each one depending on us for food, happiness and for help when they are ill or wounded.

We give you thanks for doctors and care givers and especially for Dr. JoAnne Roesner, and her staff who has been called to care for animals, rescue needy ones and find them good homes; and to work with service animals that help people who need them. We thank you that in the community, locally and nationally, through school programs and public seminars, Dr. Roesner trains and teaches veterinary medicine. We thank you for her interest in mentoring young people in this community who are interested in this most important work, sharing her vision and love of animals with them.

We claim this day for the breaking of ground for "Loving Hands Animal Clinic" a teaching hospital, devoted to the healing of earth's creatures and an outreach center to all the people who come this way. We give you thanks for skillful hands who turn the dirt and work with steel, mortar and glass as this long awaited day becomes a reality in the days and months ahead. Equip your faithful servants, JoAnne Roesner and husband, Chief Financial Officer, Network Administrator, Tom Denham for the challenges they face and equip them with wisdom, fortitude, patience and insight for new ventures to serve your world with love. May the Clinic stand as a witness to your love and grace for all that you have created. Amen.

Reverend Helen Skillern
Alpharetta Presbyterian Church