



*"NWU helped me develop a set of core values... and gave me the tools to live by my faith in the world!"*

## Rev. Mary Beth Byrne ('62) Supports aspiring teachers and clergy at NWU

When someone is truly grateful for the help they received in life, the greatest thing they can do is to help others along on the same journey. Helping others is why Rev. Mary Beth Byrne became a teacher, a counselor, and a deacon. It is also why she gives to Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Rev. Byrne's life and career have taken her across the country and around the world. She conducted a year of graduate study in Sheffield, England, and she now serves in a regional ministry of the United Methodist Church comprised of three congregations in the Rock County, Wisc., area. But no matter where she calls home, her gifts to Wesleyan connect her to the place where she made her start. "[Giving to Wesleyan's Annual Fund has] been a wonderful way to 'stay connected,' and to become a part of that nurturing community for present and future students."

Her gifts have made a real difference for students at NWU. She created a scholarship in memory of her parents that supports Wesleyan students planning a career in education or the church.

Rev. Byrne remembers, "From the time I was quite small, I knew that my parents intended for me to attend college. They understood the value of an excellent education. My father, the eldest in his family of seven, desperately wanted to attend college, but he... grew up during the Depression and never had that opportunity. Upon his death, I found the instructions to his first employer to deduct enough for a savings bond out of each paycheck. He continued that practice throughout his working life, and invested it wisely as a hedge against the future.

"My brother and I inherited the value of his savings, and it seemed only appropriate to give a scholarship to Nebraska Wesleyan to help other students get the kind of education that my father never had a chance to get himself."

She designed the scholarship to help students with goals in education or the church because "NWU prepared me well for the teaching profession." She sees a direct connection between teaching and the ministry. "I found myself in various arenas of education throughout

my 38-year career, always approaching a new position as ministry."

Giving to Wesleyan is important to Rev. Byrne because "NWU helped me develop a set of core values that included helping others as a priority, and gave me the tools to live by my faith in the world!"

She takes great satisfaction in knowing she's opening doors, both spiritually and academically, for students she may never meet. Her experiences at Wesleyan, the weekly chapel services, and her coursework in her religion classes helped her grow spiritually. "Nebraska Wesleyan gave me the opportunity to integrate my faith with my life's work." With luck, her scholarship will do the same for others, again and again.

"My life was greatly impacted by my professors, fellow students, small classes, and Wesleyan's nurturing environment. This was made possible by the scholarship assistance I received as a student." Creating a scholarship for others was "one of the ways of showing gratitude for the strong liberal arts foundation I received."