

Barbara TeStroete

Associate since 2014



I was born the oldest of five children and raised in Platteville, Wisconsin. I was raised and confirmed Lutheran. My church youth program was a big part of my life in high school. It was a large group that was a choir, and we sang in local churches. Camping was also a big part of the program, and I was a camp counselor, and Sunday school teacher. It was through that program that faith became a part of my life rather than a requirement or an expectation.

I graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I began my career in hospital nursing, then worked at Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Hospital, followed by experience with long-term care, and finally my service at Sacred Heart in Milwaukee.

I have worked in faith-based facilities most of my career because of their mission and values. I started with the School Sisters of St. Francis at the rehabilitation hospital, which then moved to St. Mary's Hospital. I returned to the congregation in Campbellsport as the Director of Nursing at St. Joseph Convent, and I transitioned with the sisters to Milwaukee when that convent closed. In Milwaukee, I was involved in the Sacred Heart remodeling program and later navigated the COVID pandemic. Working with the sisters has been a joy and a privilege.

I retired in 2023 and have been enjoying the opportunity to be involved and explore many activities. My daughter and grandchildren live with me and we are renovating an old house. I love the opportunity to be involved in their lives. I have learned a lot about plumbing, drywall, electricity, and carpentry!

I am active in Redeemer Lutheran Church as council secretary and as a member of the Compassion Team, Worship and Music Team, choir, and the altar guild. I also teach Sunday school and vacation bible school, and I serve as a lay worship assistant and a lectionary reader.

I am involved in Generations, an intergenerational community center in Plymouth, Wisconsin. I work with friends to manage the flower gardens, and participate in a hiking group and a book club.

I am involved in Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ) which is a local interdenominational organization in Sheboygan County that supports neighbors in our community to provide them with a hand-up when facing challenges. I have also taught summer school in the Plymouth School district for the past three years.

I also spend time with my dad, his younger sister, and my siblings. My siblings, their spouses, and I went on a canoe trip this summer together with nieces and nephews. I am blessed with a close, supportive family.

When I think of influential people, I think of my maternal grandmother. I admired her serenity, steady faith, and green thumb!

I became an associate while I was working at Campbellsport. I felt drawn to the sisters' Franciscan values, and it was an opportunity to broaden and deepen my faith. I try to live my life as a reflection of God's light, and to love and serve others in whatever way I can.