

Mary Louise (Mel) Bringle

Bringle is Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Brevard College in Brevard, NC. She received her undergraduate degree from Guilford College and her doctorate from the graduate division of religion at Emory University with particular interests in practical and pastoral theology. She served on the faculty at St. Andrews University in Laurinburg from 1983 to 2000 where she taught Philosophy and chaired the Religious Studies department.

Bringle is an award-winning hymn writer whose original texts and translations appear in the hymnals of numerous denominations in North America and Scotland, she has served as President of The Hymn Society in the US and Canada and as chair of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song, responsible for creating the hymnal *Glory to God*. On weekdays, Bringle can be found in a classroom at Brevard College where she teaches and serves as chair of the Humanities Division. On Sunday mornings, she lectures at her local Presbyterian Church. A teacher at heart and a theologian by training, she has authored an assortment of publications in pastoral theology. She has won hymn-writing competitions, been featured as an "emerging text writer" by The Hymn Society in the US and Canada, and had her first single-author collection (*Joy and Wonder, Love and Longing*) published by GIA.