

### **About Gretchen Brauer-Rieke**



Gretchen Brauer-Rieke received a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma) and Master's Degree in Nursing from University of Minnesota. She then spent 23 years delivering babies as a certified nurse-midwife, becoming a specialist in home-waterbirths. After retiring from midwifery in 2005, she obtained a Post-Master's Certification in Nursing Education from Oregon Health & Science University and began several years of teaching nursing at Oregon Coast Community College and Concordia University/Portland.

Becoming increasingly aware that patients and families often struggle over how to deal with complex treatment choices at the end of life without the information they need to make good decisions inside the medical system, she became certified as an Advance Care Planning Facilitator. In 2011, she founded an educational service called *CodaConversations* and now travels the Pacific Northwest providing presentations to congregations and community groups, motivating them to document and discuss end-of-life wishes well in advance of health crises. She also teaches classes for faith leaders, parish nurses, and health ministers on how to minister to those making end-of-life health care decisions. Gretchen recently was filmed as part of the new documentary *Hope* (see DVD special features).

She authored the book *InAdvance: A Practical Guide to Making Your Own End-of-Life Health Care Decisions*, with editions specific for Oregon and Washington. It can be ordered from [www.codaconversations.com](http://www.codaconversations.com).