

Dar Hines Retires As St. James Church Secretary



While working in Santa Monica, Cal., Dar Hines and her friend Ruby Lemke visited Catalina Island for a week. She remembered really liking the ride in a glass bottom boat. She worked as a nanny.

By: Karen Carpenter

People switch jobs and careers often as the world continues to evolve into different realms of staffing needs.

Dar Hines has worked in many capacities during her working years which lasted over 70 years. She has retired for the last time...maybe!

On December 31, 2018, Hines officially retired as church secretary from St. James United Church of Christ in Barnesville. She had held that position for 20 years.

In 1998, St. James Pastor Dave Martin made the decision to take a call to another congregation. His wife, Kay, had been the librarian at the City Library.

The church secretary was Shaw Simonson, who decided to apply and was hired for the librarian position. That left an opening at St. James for church secretary.

"I had never done secretarial work," remembers Hines. "But I asked Marguerite Wardeberg what the job was like and if I could do it, so I put in my application."

The governing body of the church met on a Monday evening and called Hines to ask if she could start the next day.

With both the minister and secretary moving on to other positions, Hines had to learn the job in a hands-on fashion.

Hines' dad, Walter Braton, taught her to appreciate a job well done. That advice has served her well.

The first job for Hines was when she was barely a teen. She babysat and did household chores for neighbors, Orval and Esther Downing. Hines took care of the three Downing children, LuVern, DeLore and Joyce. She had to get up early each morning to make breakfast for the family and two hired men.

Hines had to prepare the other meals during the day. In addition she baked two cakes a day to be used for the morning and afternoon coffee breaks. For her efforts Hines was paid \$1.00 a day.

"I remember saving up for a special dress that I wanted. It took me six days to save enough to purchase the dress," said Hines.

After graduating from high school in 1948, Hines and a classmate, Ruby Lemke, struck out for the big lights of St. Paul. There Hines lived with a relative and worked for Dr. Harold and Marge Flanagan. They had four young children, three girls and one disabled son. The little boy needed a lot of care and could not talk.

Hines remembers, "He was such a sweet boy."

In 1952, Hines and Lemke

decided they would really stretch their wings and traveled to California to find employment.

There Hines worked for a woman with three children whose husband was in the military service. She later worked for another family with a newborn baby named Bruce. He was a very special lad to Hines. Later she named her first son Bruce because of the special memories made with the infant.

Hines took courses and received a practical nurse license while in California.

During that time the young women had many adventures, including visiting Catalina Island and cruising on a glass bottom boat.

While in California, Hines had been corresponding with Diz Wheelright, from Barnesville. In 1952, Hines came home to marry Wheelright.

She worked as a nurses' aide at St. Ansgar Hospital in Moorhead.

"I got to do all the care except giving shots," commented Hines. "The Catholic sisters in charge knew I had practical nurses training so she let me do more things."

She worked at St. Ansgar until her first child arrived.

The couple moved to Barnesville and rented a trailer located behind the big stone castle. The owners of the large landmark rented the trailer.

The drawback was that there was no bathroom in the trailer and so Dar remembers having to go up two flights of stairs in the castle to use the bathroom.

Later Hines worked for Manchester Biscuit Company in Fargo on the cookie line. Because of her height she had trouble catching the last cookies off the line. They moved her to crackers and that went better.

Hines also worked on and off at Emery's Cafe. It was a family restaurant but known as a great place for local teens to hang out before and after sporting events.

"Diz and I purchased Gilbertson's Restaurant and named it Diz's Place. It was located in the south half of where Barnesville Drug is located now. I worked there and did most everything from tending bar, cooking, baking, waitressing and cleaning up," Hines remembered.

During the years she had five children, Bruce, Darrel, Craig, Mary Jo and Kevin. While raising her family, Hines worked many part-time jobs. She worked for Miles Osborn at the Dairy Queen, the original Eagle Cafe, Frank Nicklay's Pool Hall and the Travelers Inn.

Hines later divorced Wheelright

and had to find full-time work as the bread winner of her large family.

She traveled around the area putting up liquor ads for Ollie Krag Advertising. She visited area bars and liquor stores to set up advertising displays in the front windows.

This job took her to Mahanomen, Valley City, Browns Valley, Wahpeton, Morris, Sauk Center, Battle Lake, Perham and Detroit Lakes. She did that for a couple of years but the constant travel was difficult with five kids at home.

The new Galaxie Supper Club opened up in the late 1960s and Hines worked on the bar side first as waitress, then bartender. Later she became the bar manager and worked for the club for over eight years.

In 1970 Dar married her husband of 48 years, DuWayne Hines. The couple had one son, Thomas.

In 1976, Hines bought Dee's Gift and Ceramic Shop from Dee Goodrich. Since Hines had taken classes at the shop prior to the purchase she was able to go right into teaching classes.

There were about 75 students from children to adults that learned the fine art of painting beautiful ceramic pieces under Dar's tutelage.

The name of the business was Dar's Unique Little Shoppe.

DuWayne and Dar purchased the Emery Cafe building located on the corner of Front Street and Second Avenue. The family lived on the top floor with the business on the main floor.

Luke Dusek rented the front part of the building and started a flower shop.

Hines decorated a ceramic basket with artificial flowers which turned out so well many of her students asked her to design a basket for them.

Running next door to purchase a



During the time Dar Hines worked in St. Paul she was walking on one of the streets in the downtown area. A photographer took her picture. The year was 1948.

few stems of flowers from the Ben Franklin Store soon turned into ordering them by the box.

After only a few months, Hines bought out Dusek and The Flower Shoppe was born. The business sold fresh and artificial flowers and arrangements.

In 1979 Hines opened a place for local teens to hang out. It was next to the Bijou Theater. The business was called Dar's House of Games.

There were arcade games and candy to purchase. It was just a safe place for youth. Hines operated that business for a couple of years.

In 1994 Hines opened New To Me Thrift Store located in a portion of her building. That business too only lasted for a short time, but was well received.

Her son Tom began publishing a small tabloid paper called the Crusader in the Cities. It was a neighborhood crime watch tool. The publication highlighted missing children or those who had outstanding warrants. There were also safety articles of all kinds. The paper was funded by advertising.

With Tom's help, Hines started a similar paper in the surrounding area. She contacted sheriffs of the surrounding counties and asked for information. The law enforcement supported the paper and said that some people were reported and brought to justice because their picture was recognized.

"One of the people who had their wanted picture published called and wanted the spelling of their name corrected," laughed Hines.

In 1997, Hines sold The Flower Shoppe. She and DuWayne sold the building to Karen Mostue and bought a four-plex on Fifth Street which they still call home.

Hines worked at the Fashion Gallery in Moorhead Center Mall for about 18 months before taking the job at St. James. The store was owned by Lorraine Peterson Kimm.

In 1991, Hines was chosen to receive a Blandin Scholarship. She was recommended by Dave Hanson, local bank president.

Blandin Foundation funds rural Minnesota leaders training to encourage people to pursue a vision that their community stands behind.

Hines grew and found confidence as a leader. She spent time helping to raise money for the grants for Clay County.

During one of the Blandin training secessions, Hines was elected mayor of a fictitious town.

"They were looking for a man who would run for mayor and I said well why can't it be a woman," said Hines. "They said okay then you put your name on the ballot, and I won."

That training led Hines to be among those who saw the value in the Main Street Program and serve on that board.

The program was state funded for three years and Barnesville was one of the towns chosen to receive the grant.

Hines was part of the group instrumental in hiring Karen Lauer as the first Main Street Director.

Other branches of the program where Hines served were the Promotions Committee, Retail and Business and downtown beautification.

Project Future, The Barnesville Clinic Board, Community Fund and Potato Days were also boards where Hines shared her leadership skills.

Hines has served as an election judge for over 20 years. She is a member of the Lions, VFW and Red



Dar Hines retired as St. James United Church of Christ church secretary. She held the post for 20 years. The congregation held a party in Dar's honor on January 30, 2018. She had served with five ministers during her time in the office.

Hats along with church work.

There isn't much of anything that Hines hasn't tried. In 1981 she participated in the mud wrestling contest at the Clay County Fair with Susie Braton. Susie being much younger won, but Dar didn't make it easy.

While in The Flower Shoppe Hines participated in many parades throughout the summer months. One year she dressed as Lady Godiva to promote the store in a Potato Day Parade.

"Friends helped me up on the horse before the parade and then left. I sat there in the heat before the parade started," said Hines. "I hadn't ridden a horse and wasn't sure what I was doing."

"When the parade was almost at the end the horses in front of me got spooked when someone in the crowd sprayed water. I was afraid my horse would get scared but it was okay. I didn't know what I would have done, I couldn't get off."

Hines was one of the group who

started Main Street's Showcase. She dressed as a Pilgrim for St. James Church Thanksgiving Day Dinner.

In 2003, Hines was chosen as Outstanding Senior Citizen for Clay County during the fair. She went on to compete at the Minnesota State Fair.

Hines was chosen as Grand Marshal of the Potato Days Festival in 2011. All of their children and grandchildren rode on the float with Dar and DuWayne.

The Helen Keller Award was presented to Hines for her work with the Thursday Nite Lions Club.

Dar Hines could be likened to the Energizer Bunny. She just keeps going. Her mind is fertile ground for new ideas and ways to make things better.

Hines has a heart for the community of Barnesville. She has worked and volunteered in the city for nearly eight decades. What Hines will find to do next is anyone's guess but rest assured she won't remain idle.



Dar Hines was awarded the Helen Keller award one of the most prestigious honors given to Lions. A member of the Thursday Nite Lions, she went to the Lion's Eye and Ear Bank in the cities. While there Dar looked up her name on the plaque.

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