The Rev. David Early isn't comfortable being interviewed. But talking about his upcoming retirement from First Baptist Church of Sanford, where he's been associate minister for 22 years, he warms to his topic.

It's not the retirement he's enjoying talking about, but the memories of his work at the university in Waco, Texas.

He served for about nine years at a church in Tampa, Fla., and then at several churches in North Carolina before coming to Sanford in 1974.

In his capacity as associate minister, Early has been in charge of the church's music ministry and educational programs.

Early

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church, where he has spent just about half his working life.

Early began his full time ministry in 1955, after attending Mars Hill College and Stetson University in Deland, Fla., and graduate study at Baylor Uni-

See Early on BA
"I came as minister of music and education," Early said. "I was hoping to go to music alone, but it never worked out."

Early said that from the time he was called to the ministry as a teen-ager he thought his future was in music. "My gifts in and love for music seemed to steer me in that direction."

Early and the church’s pastor, Dr. Del Parkerson, are retiring together this weekend. Early turned 65 in May, but decided to stay until this fall.

They both talked about how well they have worked as a team since Parkerson came to the church 15 years ago. "His gifts and mine merge together quite well," Parkerson said. "And we've always worked as a team philosophy."

Early said the teamwork has been unique. "That has just been tremendous, it's been a joy," he said. "We see things the same, and pick up on each other. Where I need help, he has that exact gift. The Lord led us together and it's been a beautiful experience."

Early and his wife Phyllis haven't made definite plans for his retirement besides planning to stay in Sanford for the time being. They love the city, he said, and being here keeps them close to their sons — Wes, who lives in Greensboro with his wife, Sara Ann, and daughter Julie, and Butch, who lives in Winston-Salem.

Early says his wife is quiet and doesn't like to be in the forefront of things, but adds, "I've always said that any idea I ever had came from Phyllis."

Early doesn't have specific plans for his retirement — he's waiting for whatever doors God opens for him. That will probably mean supply preaching and work in interim music ministry, he said. "I'm not planning to get back into a heavy schedule, but I'm sure the doors will open."

"When you say to God 'Yes, I will invest my life,' you are never sure where it will take you. You find out how the Lord will take you where you need to be."
By LLOYD PRESLAR
Staff Religion Reporter

Former Winston-Salem man David L. Early has accepted a call to return to this city to become minister of music and education at North Winston Baptist Church.

In another staff change at North Winston, Miss Lounelle Sell was promoted from church secretary to director of children's work and church secretary.

Early, now minister of music and education at the First Baptist Church at Scotland Neck, was educated in the public schools here before attending Mars Hill Junior College and Stetson University in Florida. He did graduate work at Baylor University of Texas.

Early also has worked at Southside Baptist Church here and at a Concord Church. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Early of Winston-Salem.

He and his wife and two sons will live at 2334 Montrose Avenue after he begins work at North Winston in June.

Miss Sell has been church secretary at North Winston almost five years. She will work with children and pre-teens in her new position.
Minister tells parable to Rotarians at meet

The Rev. Dave Early, associate reverend and music director for the First Baptist Church of Sanford, told Sanford Rotarians at their regular weekly meeting an amusing, but meaningful parable. Early compared the procedure a hen undertakes to lay an egg to the process a person follows to do a good job.

The guest speaker listed the steps a hen takes in order to lay an egg as first, making certain she is a hen and not a rooster; next, finding the appropriate place to lay her egg; then, deciding to lay an egg, rather than roosting on the fence all day; and finally, concentrating completely on the job of laying the egg, despite interruptions.

A person, Early said, takes comparative steps. He or she must organize time wisely so sufficient time is allowed to do a job. Then a person must make up his mind to get the job done and fully concentrate on the task at hand.

Early said talent, a special gift of God, is found in all people. "Let's determine to use it to the best advantage of mankind," he added.

Roland Palmer, program chairman, introduced Early. Other guests introduced were Darilyn Dealey, Merrill Hunter and Alston Horner, all of Sanford, and Church Jones of Fuquay-Varina.

Dr. Jim Gibson, Sanford Rotary Club president, presided over the meeting. Billy Wyatt led the singing, accompanied by pianist June Hood. Hubert Garner gave the invocation and Danny Cape led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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