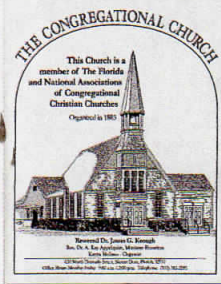


Forward



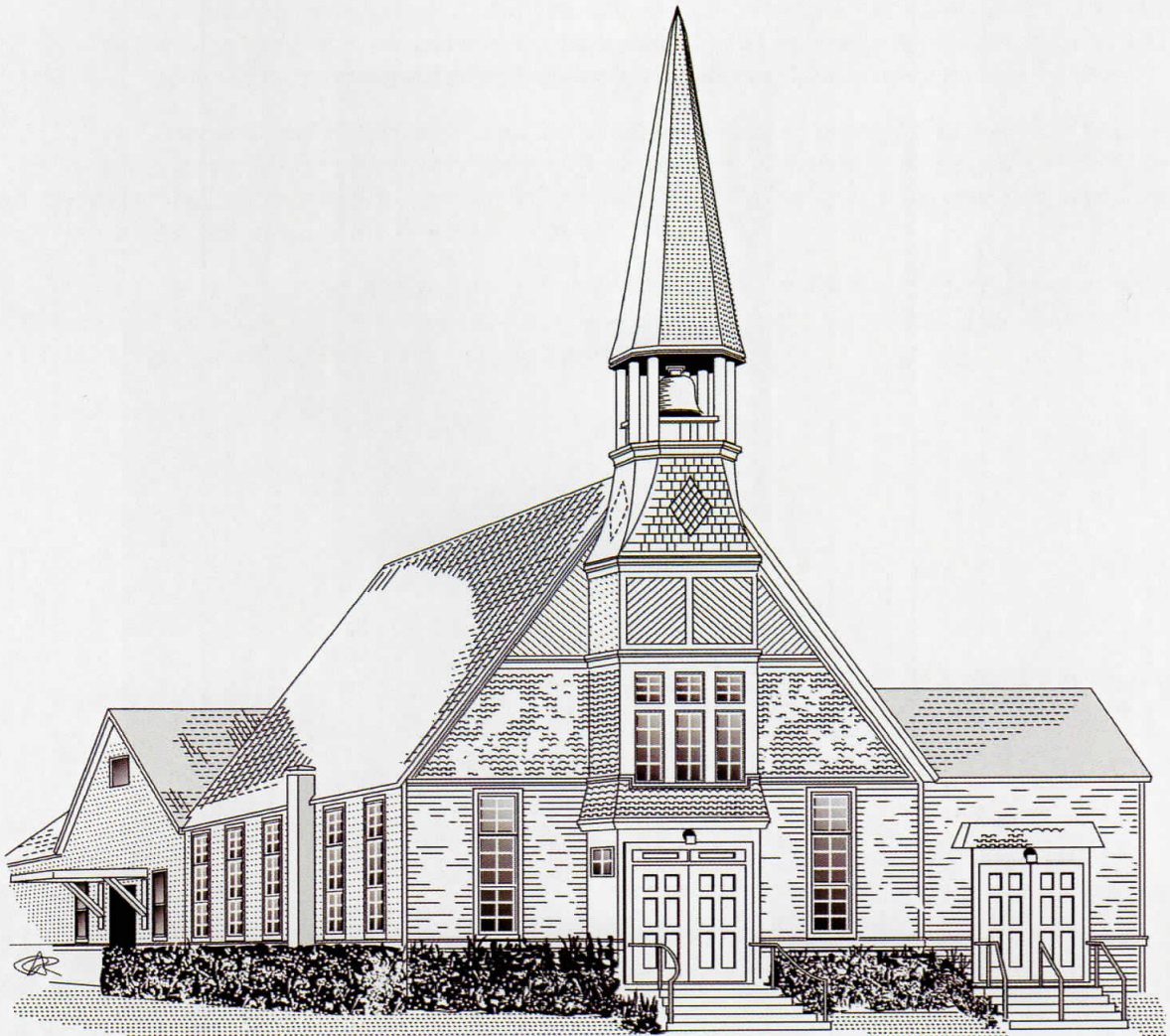
It is fascinating to follow the early development of this church. It must have taken a great deal of commitment and courage on the part of those people to form a new congregation and build a building. Holding the congregation together through world wars, depressions, and a rapidly changing community was no easy task.

Through this book you will catch glimpses of some of the people who have given of themselves to make this church a viable witness in the community. They are really the "saints of God" who heard and responded to God's call of shared ministry – more than one hundred years of ministry.

The Congregational Church of Mount Dora is about to begin the second 125 years. The church has seldom been challenged as it is today. In many ways the church in America is fighting to stay alive. Lots of changes will need to be made in order for the church to 'keep afloat'. I firmly believe that this is a congregation with a vision, a sense of call and the courage to move into the twenty-first century.

May we learn from our foremothers and forefathers something of the commitment and challenge to receive what has been given to us and move ahead in "God's Redeeming Love" to touch hearts and minds for Christ. Blessings on all of us as we move out into God's world and attempt to do just that.

Rev. James G. Keough, Pastor 1/05/2006



The 2003 sketch pictured above currently graces the cover of the weekly Church Bulletin (refer to the upper-left corner of this page). Permission to use this impressive artwork was granted by the artist, Paul Riccelli.