

"Tower In The Sky"

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Foreword

The following messages of encouragement
are from two of our former pastors and the
Moderator of our Synodical Presbytery.

Even **WORTHINGTON PRESBYTERIAN** our
CHURCH

may progress with the highest interest.

As we work together in the clearing of
our present indebtedness, let us note their
counsels and faith and go forward led by
God's spirit.

Walter James Wright, Pastor

WORTHINGTON, OHIO



1945

Foreword

The following messages of encouragement are from two of our former pastors and the Moderator of our Columbus Presbytery. Even though they are not living in our midst, they do follow our growth and progress with the keenest interest.

As we work together in the clearing of our present indebtedness, let us note their vision and faith and go forward led by God's spirit.

NELSON JONES WRIGHT, Pastor

"As Moderator of the Presbytery of Columbus, I am very happy to bid the pastor and officers and members of the Worthington Presbyterian Church Godspeed as they undertake the very important and eminently Christian responsibility of liquidating the indebtedness of the Worthington Presbyterian Church.

The successful consummation of this strategic project will be not only in the interest of the local church, but will make a very real contribution to the strength of the Presbyterian denomination in this area. The recent survey made of present conditions in the Presbyterian denomination in Columbus indicates the absolute necessity of our strengthening the cause of our beloved church in every possible way. It further indicates that a major portion of the future expansion of greater Columbus will take place in the northern districts of our community and consequently an enlarging future lies ahead for the Presbyterian Church in Worthington. Anything you now do to prepare yourselves to take full advantage of this larger future represents a signal contribution to the kingdom of God on earth.

May the spirit of God guide and sustain you in this challenging task.

**GANSE LITTLE, Moderator
Columbus Presbytery**

"Knowing the situation at the Presbyterian Church of Worthington, and appreciating the handicap the debt has been to that very promising field, I am fully convinced a contribution given to help lift the burden will be a distinct investment to the Kingdom of God as well as the Church's future usefulness."

C. A. HUNTER, *Pastor*
1931—1938

"No grander gift could be made to those young men and women from your church who are in the service of their country than to give to them a debt free church upon their return from the horrors of this present conflict."

Your liquidation enterprise is worthy of the sacrifice of every member, and from sacrificial giving, the goal can be reached and God's blessing will rest upon you and lead you into even greater channels of Kingdom service."

GEORGE E. PARKINSON, *Pastor*
1938—1942

"Tower In The Sky"

IT WAS also in a time of crisis and great change. "In the fulness of time," God's Son did come. It was in a little village on a Judean hillside and this same Jesus became the Saviour of men. Countless children loved Him and men and women from all walks of life followed Him. Then his enemies had him crucified because he claimed he was king. But faithful followers everywhere, banded together from then till now to tell the "good news" of abundant living which he brought to men. So it was—that centuries ago in the land of Palestine, in villages nestling in the valleys, on mountain top, and by the shores of many seas, that I, The Church, came into being.

Down through the centuries I have moved, ever calling to men and women to be what they were born to be—sons and daughters of God. And against oppression and wrong, and all

Dr. Thomas
Woodrow

things which enslave or belittle man's dignity,
I have constantly striven.

1849-57

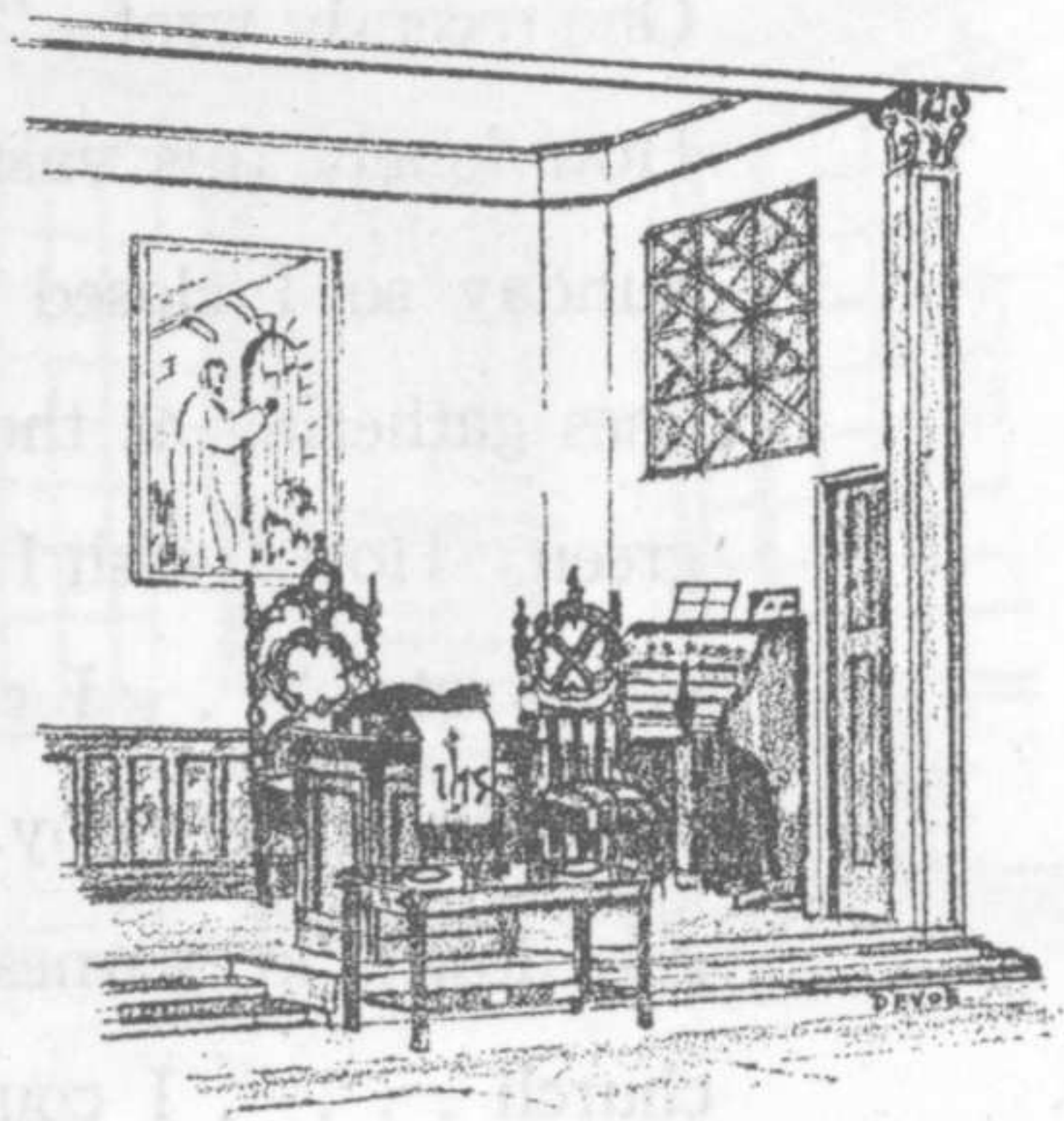
My particular family really began in Scotland in the eighteenth century under the leadership of John Knox and they called us Presbyterians. People in other lands became interested in my form of church government and worship and my people journeyed to other countries, particularly to the several states of America, and it was here that I really found my home.

I know you are wondering when I settled in Worthington. Well, it was on June 18, 1816. When I first came here there were very few houses and not many people. My first home was a small wooden one but it served my people quite well, and had a "tower in the sky." In a little while, however, Worthington began to



grow, so my wooden home was remade into a brick one and it, too, has a "tower in the sky." Many of your fathers and mothers, and grandparents too, were nurtured in this hallowed place. Some of them are quite well known and have long since become famous. I even had one minister, Thomas Woodrow, whose grandson, Woodrow Wilson became President of these United States. You may see some of their pictures hanging in my parlors.

I wish I could share all of my memories, heart throbs and scenes of sacred beauty—the good resolutions made by young parents when for the first time they bring their little ones to me and where before the Altar of God they are consecrated to His service—the patter of little feet as they come joyfully to my house and to the church school where voices of

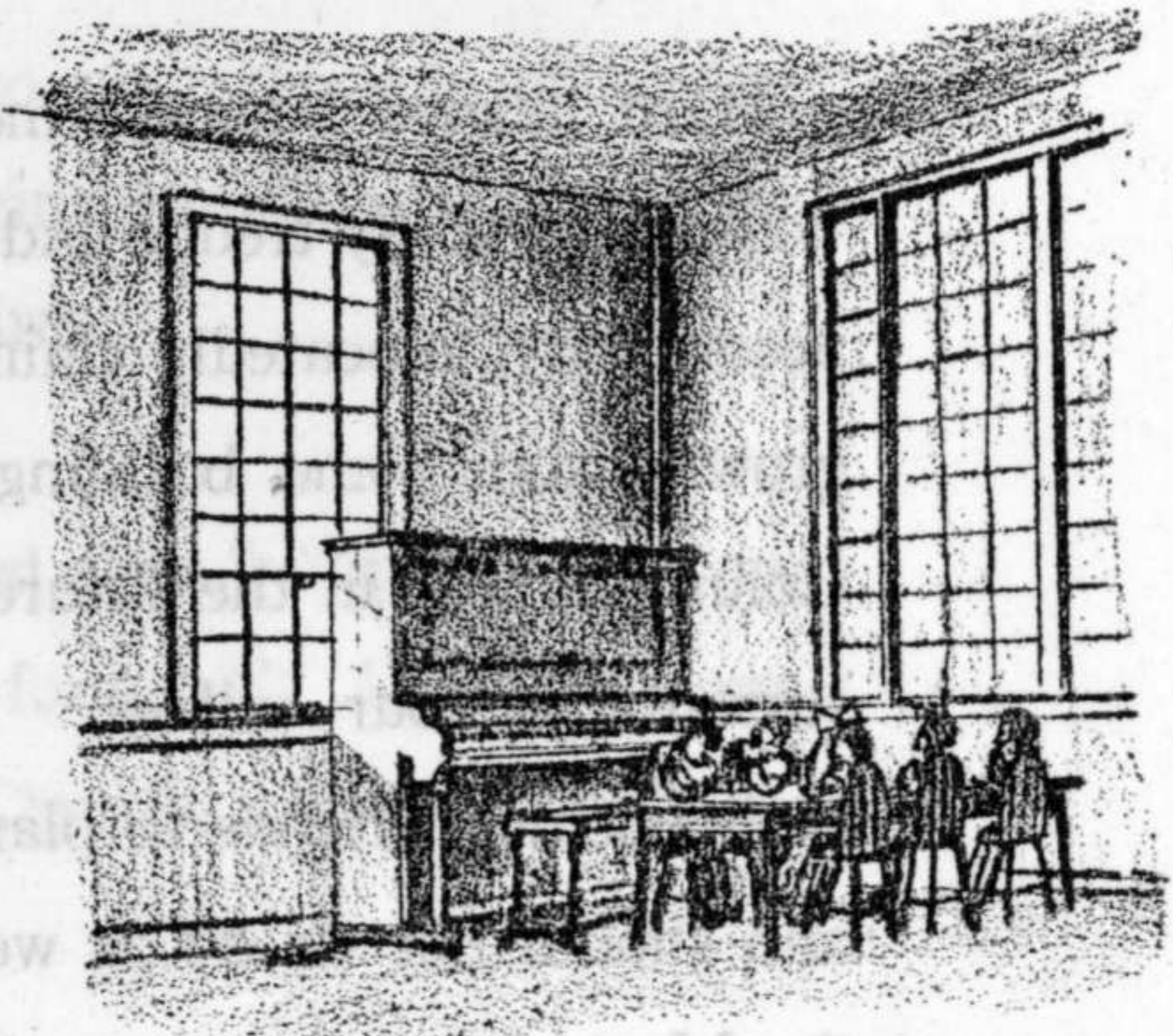


little children are joined in singing—the trembling sparkle of the communion wine as my people gather at the Lord's table—the quickened pulse at the wedding of a fine church son to a lovely church daughter—and the tears which have fallen on my Altar as my people have found in me solace and comfort when loved ones have passed into the new life beyond.

Yes, and I would show you letters from my boys and girls who are in the armed forces. They remember me for we were close together in their childhood and youth and I am with them now. One recently wrote, “. . . I am on my way across. How lonely this vast ocean really is. Today is Sunday so I closed my eyes and saw my dear ones gathering at the little church on the village green. How I wish I could be there . . .”. Another one wrote, “. . . I can hardly wait to get back home from Germany. When I do, I'm going to get down in earnest and work hard in my church . . .”. I could continue but then I am

wondering if my people here at home will have me ready for their return.

As you know our village is growing rapidly. I am told that when my present cornerstone was laid on May 2, 1926 (almost 20 years ago) the population of our village was 705. It has now grown to over 1600. My membership then numbered 75. It is now 300. Many new families are now worshipping with me. My church school is growing and it is very crowded—in fact one class meets in the kitchen. The little ones come but the older boys and girls have no satisfactory place to meet and I am hoping that they too will come to make this their church home even as you have already done. But I must confess that I, Your Church, have cast envious eyes at the



well equipped class rooms of our public school across the village green.

Now I am deeply troubled. A great burden rests like a heavy weight about me so that I cannot do as I would long to, for my people and for the stranger within the shadow of my tower. I owe a debt to those who long ago made it possible for me to have my present home. Oh, much of it has already been paid with the help of faithful friends throughout the years. But that which remains is somewhat like a millstone about my tower.

Hard headed business men who make it their business to study trends and to plan their ventures accordingly, repeatedly claim that the population growth and home building program of greater Columbus will in the future be to the north and surrounding our village. They further advise their business friends to plan now for that day—and should not we do as well and take heed lest the Master's words prove all too true that, "The

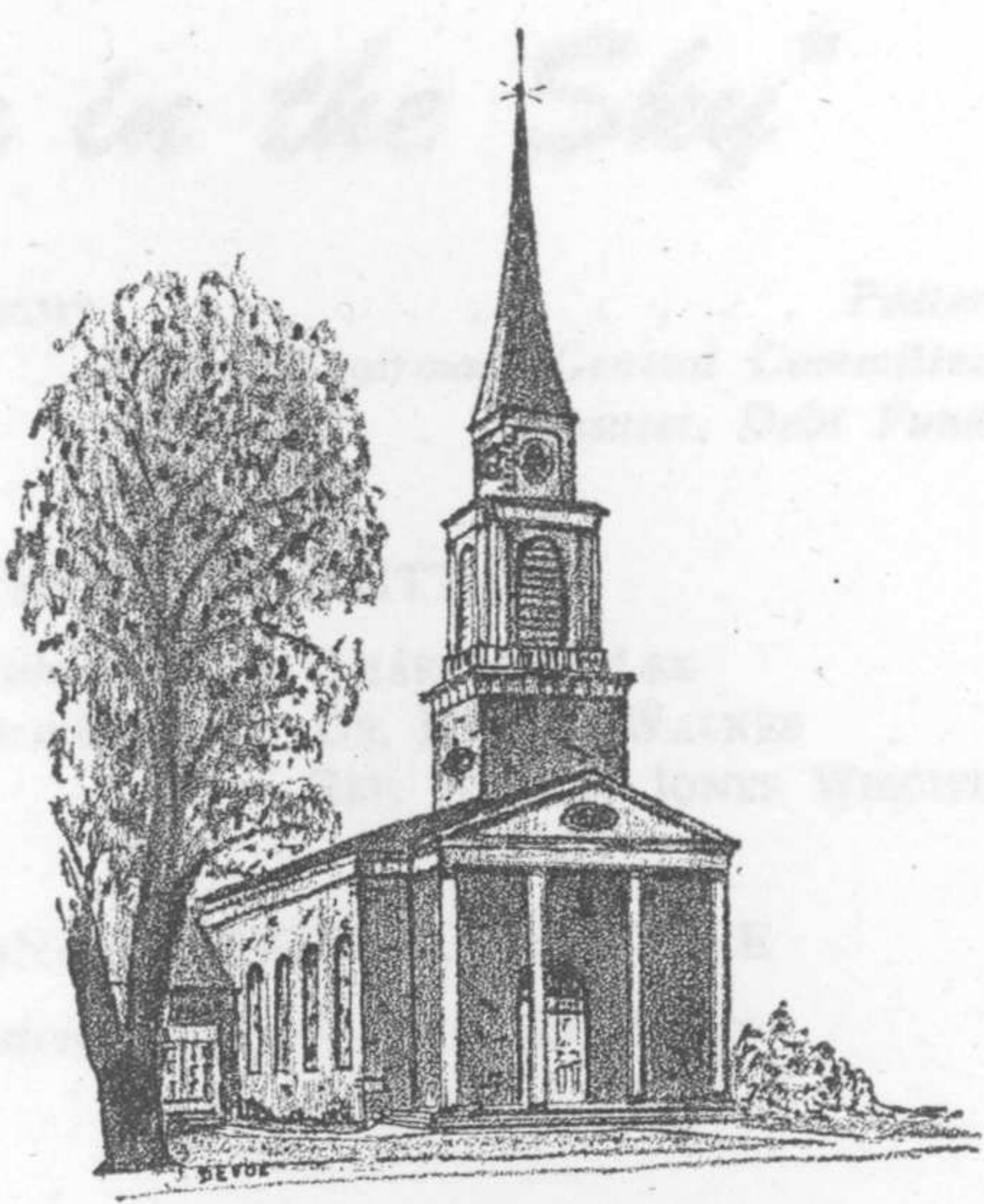
TO KEEP THE ...

children of this world are wiser than the children of Light."

Let us therefore cast aside the sin (procrastination) which doth so easily beset us and rid ourselves of every encumbering weight (the debt) that

we may be prepared to play the role of leadership in our ever enlarging community which our strategic position requires.

"Now is the accepted time." "Speak unto my people that they go forward." Undergird my columns. I am thy Church. Keep my "tower in the sky."



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GEORGE LADLE
RAYMOND M. LAWRENCE
CHARLES R. LEE

WALTER WILSON
WALTER WILSON
WALTER WILSON
WALTER WILSON
WALTER WILSON

TO KEEP THE . . .

"Tower in the Sky"

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