

## Spotlight on Addison Downey, Elder

In the back foyer of the church is a picture showing some of the officers of the church at the time of the dedication of the fellowship hall. One of the men in the picture is Addison Downey who was a long-time member of the church.

Columbus Addison Downey was an elder for many years in the Sale Creek Presbyterian Church. He moved his membership from the Sale Creek Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Coulterville in 1908 and several years later was elected an elder in the church here.

Addison was a local farmer, nurseryman, cattleman, orchard and strawberry field owner, political, community, and church leader for many years. He raised large field crops including corn and wheat and also had strawberry fields and peach orchards. His enthusiasm for his profession was evident when he sold his first crop of wheat and loaded it onto the train at the Sale Creek Depot. He was so excited by the success of the crop that he walked all the way home before remembering that he had left his team of mules and wagon tied to the hitching post at the depot.

Addison Downey was driven by a desire to serve the Lord. His business dealings were above reproach, and he refused to conduct any business on Sunday. During the 1920's and 1930's, Addison owned the Sale Creek Nursery in which he raised different types of plants, flowers, and peach tree seedlings. He provided young peach tree seedlings for his own orchard as well as for the Ell-Dee Orchard Company and the B-Orchard Companies that were owned by brother Ed Downey, Will List, and Jack Kenney, his brother-in-law.

On many occasions people drove around on Sunday afternoons and stopped to see the plants at Addison's nursery which was unfenced and open at all times. When they saw something they wished to buy, they knocked at Addison's house that was located next door. Addison always told the prospective buyers that he did not conduct business on Sundays and that he would not transact a sale on Sunday and that they just needed to leave the amount of money for their purchase on a board or barrel top at the nursery. Addison never missed any money to anyone's memory, and even if he had, it would not have changed his business dealings on Sunday.

On more than one occasion when the church was in need of money, Addison looked at Deaconess Gertie List in officers' meeting and cackled in his distinctive laugh, "Well, heh, heh, Gertie, if you put up half of the amount, I'll match it.

Addison continued his service in the church until 1974 when he died. One day later his beloved wife, Burleigh, died in a nursing home. They had a double funeral in the church and were buried at Hamilton Memorial Gardens in Hixson. Their passing away at the same time was a fitting tribute to their love for each other and the service they provided to their family, church, and community.