

**February 1, 2009**

**Acts 6:1-7**

*Ministry of Mercy in Our Midst*

**The Call of Christ into His Mission:**

## **The Reorientation of Vocation**

How the 1<sup>st</sup> Church of Jerusalem dealt with a problem that arose in their midst:

1. They did deal with it – they raised it up and didn't wait until they were in the parking lot to talk about it.
2. The leadership didn't get defensive – they recognized the problem and sought a solution.
3. The leaders gathered the Body
4. They found and blessed those who were gifted to meet this challenge (and hence the apostles stayed with their called work).
5. They made no issue about a hierarchy of gifts.
6. Those that raised the problem were given the task of accomplishing the solution.

### **Your Story**

Share a story of a time when you felt cared for by the body of Christ.

### **God's Story**

#### **Read Acts 6:1-7**

Share one thing that catches your attention in this story or a question that it raises in your mind.

Read Acts 2:44-45 and 4:32. Given the culture of this church how could the widows be neglected?

Why do you think the church chose all Greek-speaking Jews to respond to the need that had arisen?

Read Acts 1:8, 2:42-47, 4:32-35, 5:43 and 6:7. How would you summarize a description of the first church? What is its identity and purpose?

### **Jesus & Us in The Story Together**

How is FPC like the 1<sup>st</sup> Church of Jerusalem? How are we different?

Read the text in the column to the left as a model for how we ought to respond to needs that arise in our midst.

In what ways can you enable our church to respond in a similar pattern?

What specific actions have/would inhibit this positive process at FPC?

Brainstorm positive ways to respond when you find yourself in a conversation that includes complaining about something wrong with our church.

Are we all called to meet needs that arise in our midst? Why or why not?

What needs are you especially aware of? Are you doing anything to respond to these needs? If not, what can we, as a church, do to empower you to respond?

Where do you see the Holy Spirit active among us at FPC?

### **Pray Together!**

Care for one another in your group and for others in our church family through your prayers.