July 20, 2017  ***I’d rather be here now, part 2*** Milepost 124

 We’ve all seen bumper stickers: *I’d rather be fishing, etc*. A bumper sticker for Jesus’ followers: *I’d rather be here now*, i.e. fully alive and present in the now, free from hindrances of the past and/or anxieties about the future.

 In the now, the Holy Spirit is

* sending Shalom folk with clear passions, spiritual gifts, and callings to Oregon, and back to Ecuador and Bolivia…and is sending new folk (of all ages) to Shalom!
* enabling Shalom members to bring healing and hope to those desiring healing.
* enabling a number of folk to discover greater clarity of passion, spiritual gifts, and calling.
* prompting a congregation wide renewed commitment to engage in the process of implementing the new structure (I was blessed to watch my e-mail inbox fill up quickly with prompt responses to the two new Spiritual Gift Discernment Team candidates.)
* enabling relationships started during Thriving Thursdays with children and parents, to deepen.
* enabling generous responses which are blessing others.

It is good to celebrate similar Holy Spirit work in the past at

Shalom, and to know that the Spirit will surprise us with amazing works in the future. But it is even better to be fully aware of what the Spirit is doing now.

 Share your “I’d rather be here now” experiences with others, informally in conversation or small groups, or via brief written accounts in *Journeying Together*.

 -Gary Martin