October 12, 2017 ***Reflections on Transition***  Milepost 208

 Before the transition period began, leaders established five congregational objectives: closure with Dagne; clarify current mission

(who we are, why we exist); discern vision (new direction); evaluate structure; and call new leadership. Who gets excited about metaphorical (or concrete) foundations? Whether learning a musical instrument or sport, the fundamentals are essential, and usually boring.

 I believe the Holy Spirit blessed Shalom in delightful ways, because you focused on foundational matters. There were no goals for increased attendance or participation, or for expanded ministries. Some feared these areas would go south during transition, and yet…

* the number of children and youth more than doubled;
* more adults have stepped up to teach them;
* ten new households are participating;
* some are going the second mile (i.e. many miles) to provide transportation;
* five new small groups have formed;
* significant clarification of passion, spiritual gift, and calling has taken place for at least a dozen, which is strengthening the process of calling leadership for the new structure;
* neighborhood outreach efforts have expanded in scope and effectiveness.

As you know well, I could go on and on, but I’ll stop there. -Gary Martin