**Mill Creek Parish Preschool (MCPP) Scholarship Program Update (October, 2021)**

This article tells about what has happened with the Mill Creek Parish Preschool Scholarship Program that began in early spring of this year. The original idea came about as a result of book that was read and discussed in the Mill Creek Parish Men’s Wednesday morning discussion group (winter, 2021). The book, “God and Money,” looks at how our income and wealth can be thought of from a Christian perspective of where that money comes from and how it can best be used as part of God’s Kingdom. A strong personal connection to charitable endeavors seems to be one key to effective giving. For extra-mile giving to a MCPP Scholarship Fund, two of those connections include: a Preschool that many church parents have had close ties with, and a Church mission statement that includes meeting under-served people in our local community at the point of their need. An appeal was made, first to the Men’s group, and then to the overall church, to raise money for a scholarship fund, and the response was amazing. The church contributed over $17,000 toward funding multiple scholarships. The surprising part came next. We thought we could circulate flyers (also in Spanish) describing full scholarships to an amazing Preschool for 3- and 4-year olds, and stand back to receive a flood of applications. It didn’t happen that way even though we made connections with MCPS Head Start program, the Judy Center, Epworth UMC (which has a scholarship program), local MCPS Principals, a Gaithersburg community food distribution location, and even MCP Loaves and Fishes food distributions. A week or two before school started, we finally received an application from a parent who qualified for our program. That child is now attending MCPP, and off to a good start according to the Preschool Director, Cyndi Sanford.

At this point, the church designated account, “MCPP Scholarship Fund,” has enough funds to cover several more scholarships starting next school year. We wish to continue the program for the foreseeable future so there will be more appeals for contributions. We are so thankful for God’s goodness and the generous response from the Mill Creek Parish community.