

## A God Story

Lighthouse Presbyterian Church  
Paola, KS

Praise be to God who has answers for our needs even before we are aware of those needs!

Two years ago a vote of about 90% percent of our congregation to request dismissal from PC(USA) was denied by Heartland Presbytery. Dismissal of the Session and defrocking of the pastor with the order that he was not to preach anywhere in its jurisdiction followed. After much prayer, the Holy Spirit directed the session to just leave the denomination, the building, and everything in it - an action not anticipated by any elder or pastor prior to that meeting. The freedom and joy experienced by the congregation was unexpected and great. In seeking a place to worship and to have an office we found that God had already made provisions. A furniture store on the town square had recently been remodeled into a reception hall. Only one Sunday in 18 months has it not been available for worship. The owners of a local franchise business had remodeled a warehouse-type building (originally built for a youth center) for their office headquarters and they made room for us there. We use their space for committee meetings, Bible studies, etc., and the youth have great space for their "home".

This has all worked out well, but can only be temporary and doesn't fully meet our needs for our ministry to Paola (the county, country and world) so a committee has been looking for a building already standing or a site that would be suitable for erecting a building. Consideration was given to many things - locality, availability of city services, topography, price, etc. There were a few possibilities available but all had major challenges. Then shortly before the committee was preparing to present their finding to the Session, a realtor approached the committee chairman asking if there would be interest in a plot that is adjacent to a housing development and is across the street from the two grade schools. The high school and middle school adjoin one of the grade schools. Streets and availability of city services are all in place and the price is under that of some much less desirable places. Who but God would offer us something we hadn't even dared consider? (Eph. 3:20a)