

Our History

In the Fall of 2001, several families from **all over** Carteret County began to meet, pray, and fellowship – all along being sensitive to the will of God. Within a short period of time, this group decided that it was clear that the vision God has given them, a few years before, was going to need to come to fruition. That dream was, to launch a Church of the Nazarene east of Morehead City.

To start, this group met in each other's homes, which allowed everyone to host and share. But it wasn't long before living room space couldn't contain what God was doing and the new people He was bringing. Within 7-8 months, it was decided that the church would meet in the commercial garage of Golden Building Corporation, Down East. This was about 20 minutes east of Beaufort, but it was a blessing as it allowed a consistent location with much more space.

By December 2001, God was providing in profound new ways. At that time, there were as many as 50 people attending with some driving as far as 45 minutes from the west side of the county. A few months later, in 2002, the church relocated once more to the Jones Village Shopping Center on 70E in Beaufort. This provided for a location that was clearly seen by the community, and it gave the church an identity. Pastor Curt Nelson was serving as interim pastor, giving way to Pastor Clark Streubing who came later in 2002 to be Bridgeway's first full-time Pastor. This was a major transition for the church.

On January 25th, 2004, Bridgeway was officially launched as a Church of the Nazarene with **56** chartered members. Dr. J. Mark Barnes, D.S., conducted the special service of confirmation and anointing. It was at this time that the property and building at 100 Lockhart Drive was purchased, and a few months after renovations and necessary improvements, Bridgeway moved in. The building and property were dedicated on June 24th, 2004.

God continued to move in the hearts, lives, and ministries of Bridgeway, and in 2005, Austin Fletcher was brought in to help with Youth Ministries, Worship, and some administrative duties. In the Spring of 2006, the church underwent some transition of leadership. Pastor Curt Nelson filled in during the interim, and in October 2006, the leadership team and congregation called Pastor Porter Graves, III to lead the next wave as Lead/Vision Pastor. With some realignment and restructuring, we believe the vision for the future has never been clearer: **“to bridge relationships and build lives”** for **Jesus Christ**.

We know that with His presence guiding and directing us, that Bridgeway is positioned to be His hands and feet to this community, this people, and this world – at such a time as this.

With a building expansion project completed in June 2008 (called **Phase II**) that adds 10,000 sq.ft to our facilities in Education, Recreational, Gymnasium, and Ministry space; our desire is to see it used and open it up to the community in whatever manner God sees fit. **Phase III** plans have been done and will commence very soon. This expansion will add a whole new Youth Ministries Center and more classroom space to the tune of 3 rooms.

Many wonderful things are happening within the Bridgeway Church ministry and we would like to invite you to come and be a part of God's plan being worked and carried out. Come and worship with us – come and be a part of Kingdom expansion here in Beaufort and Carteret County, NC. We would be honored and delighted to have you join us on this next leg of our journey, together. ***We believe Bridgeway can be your church home! Please contact us today or come Worship with us this Sunday @ 10:45 a.m.***