

Our History

Bridgeway Church of the Nazarene

In the Fall of 2001, several families that were spread throughout Carteret County, NC began to meet, pray, fellowship, and seek God's will. In a short period of time, this led the group to follow what God had laid upon their heart a few years before: Launch a Church of the Nazarene east of Morehead City, in Beaufort, NC. To begin, the core group met in each other's homes – rotating on a schedule system. This allowed each of the families to host “church” services in the fabric of the home environment. But it wasn't long until living room space was inadequate. The group “grew” out of anyone's potential to host. Very soon after this, it was unanimous that the church would meet in the oversize garage of Golden Construction (in Harkers Island). This is about 20 minutes from Beaufort's city limit, but it provided temporary facilities and a consistent location.

It was that December (of 2001) that everyone testified to the greatness of God. He was providing for the local church in profound ways. At that time, there were as many as 50 people in regular church services – some driving as far as 45 minutes each direction. Not long after, in 2002, the church was once again relocated. This time, to the Jones Village Shopping Center right along HWY 70E in Beaufort, NC. This provided more space and a very observable view for the community. Pastor Curt Nelson was serving as interim Pastor until Pastor Clark Streubing arrived later in 2002 to become Bridgeway's first full-time Pastor. This was a major transition for the church. God continued to bless the church and growth continued as we sought to meet the needs of the people here in Carteret County, NC. On January 25th, 2004, Bridgeway was officially incorporated as a Church of the Nazarene with 56 chartered members. It was at this time that the property at 100 Lockhart Drive was purchased – and a few months later – Bridgeway moved in! The building, formerly occupied by the American Legion, was gutted and received a major face-lift (internally and externally) with the helping hands of Golden Construction and the Bridgeway Family. The property and building were officially dedicated to the Kingdom of God on June 24th, 2004.

God continued to expand Bridgeway as a part of His Kingdom. In 2005, Pastor Austin Fletcher was brought onboard to help with Youth Ministries and Organization. His giftedness in music and song was no small thing either. In the Spring of 2006, the church was in transition and new leadership was sought for the next wave. Pastor Curt Nelson assisted during this time, and God was in control. Then, in October of 2006, the congregation and the leadership team called Pastor Porter Graves, III to lead the church as Vision/Lead Pastor. With realignment and restructuring – we believe the Vision is clear for the 21st Century. **We will be a church that bridges relationships and builds lives!** We believe we have the power and presence of God and the right leadership in place to make effective impact on Carteret County. In May of 2007, Vicki Simpson joined the team as our Worship Arts Director, and with our local ministry team and life groups in place - we are poised to be a local church that makes a positive, eternal difference here in Carteret County and in the nations.

With a major building project completed in 2008, adding 10,000 sq.ft of Christian Education, Nursery, and Gymnasium Space to our facilities – our desire is to use it for the glory of God in whatever manner He sees fit. A new Teen & Youth Center is in the works now - demonstrating our sincerity and commitment to reach **“future generations for Jesus Christ!”** **We would be honored to have you join us – on this leg of the journey. We believe Bridgeway can be your church home!**

Know > Grow > Go