

# Bedford Church of the Nazarene

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bring  
grow  
serve

# The Setting: Bedford, OH

The Bedford Church of the Nazarene is located in the city of [Bedford, Ohio](#). Bedford, one of the oldest communities in Cuyahoga County, has tree-lined streets and an old-fashioned town square adjacent to the downtown business district. Many families have lived here for generations, and newcomers have found a warm welcome in the community. The population includes a broad diversity of races, ethnicities and economic status\*. Despite being part of the largest urban county in Ohio, Bedford maintains a small-town atmosphere. Each year there are parades, parties-in-the-park, and family activities on the square.

The location of Bedford makes it easy to take advantage of the myriad of cultural offerings, recreation opportunities, and educational activities available in the greater Cleveland area. Cleveland is home to several world-class institutions like the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame, and Playhouse Square. Lake Erie is just a short drive away, and you can root for any or all of three professional sports teams: Cleveland Indians, Cleveland Cavaliers, or the Cleveland Browns.

While the majority of the congregation lives in Bedford, others come from the [surrounding communities](#). In recent years, the number of African-American and Hispanic individuals in the Church has increased significantly. This has enhanced the diversity of the church, which ministers to families and singles of all ages. The largest area of growth is families with young children, and 19 babies were dedicated in 2012.

- 2010 Census data for Bedford: 13,074 people, 6,265 households, and 3,346 families. The racial makeup of the city was 53.9% White, 41.9% African American, Hispanic or Latino of any race were 2.0% of the population. Estimated median household income in 2009: \$39,196 (it was \$36,943 in 2000.) Full Census Data [HERE](#).

[Bedford Church of the Nazarene](#) has enjoyed a rich history and heritage in the Bedford Community, which was recently celebrated in 2012 at our [75th Anniversary Celebration](#).

[Church Membership  
and Attendance](#)

# Our Mission: Bring, Grow, Serve

The church draws her mission from Jesus' commands and teachings. The most succinct missional statement that Jesus gave to his disciples is found in Matthew 28.19-20. We know it as the great commission:

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*

From this great commission we clearly see that we are to make disciples (evangelize), help these disciples grow spiritually (discipleship), and also to help them obey Jesus' commands. Jesus taught his disciples:

*"...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20.26-28*

Jesus taught and modeled the life of a servant (servanthood).

From these three concepts: evangelism, discipleship and servanthood; we endeavored to fashion a mission statement consistent with the Biblical mandate, but uniquely applicable to our environment and situation.

We came up with three words that can be put into sentences, but also can be easily remembered as three words standing alone.



## VBS

VBS has been a treasured activity and outreach to the Bedford community for the past 75 years. Thousands of children have experienced the love of Jesus through the efforts of countless volunteers who work together to create a faith experience filled with fun each summer.



The Southeast Early Learning Center (SEL C) has been an integral part of outreach at BCN since 1966, when it began as the Bedford Nursery School and Kindergarten. It provides care and educational services to children of all races, nationalities, and religions in a distinctly Christian atmosphere.

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

B2  
SB

AUGUST 11 @ 10AM

The annual Back2School Bash has evolved over the last five years to a day-long event that welcomes area students and families to BCN for a time of fun, fellowship, and “shopping” through the donated uniform items. Each child goes home with a complete outfit and school supplies to start the school year off well.

## Ladies Craft Night

The annual Ladies’ Craft Night and Potato Supper is a wonderful outreach presented by Women’s Ministries each November. The women enjoy a meal, a thought-provoking devotional, and the joy of fellowship while learning to create and craft.



[KidZone](#) is a Wednesday night program for school age children that teaches them Bible lessons with fun, hands-on activities that range from exploring bugs to building soap box derby cars. Learning the Bible has never been more fun!



[Quizzing](#) has been a strong component of Christian education for children and teens for decades. This year's group of Teen Quizzers brought home the trophy....



[NaCl](#) (which is the chemical compound for table salt) is the name of the Youth service held every Sunday night. Based on the scripture Matthew 5:13, this ministry equips teens with the knowledge of God's Word to reach their friends and family for Christ.



Sunday School is offered for all ages, and is an opportunity for biblical study, prayer, and fellowship in a small group setting.



[Celebrate Recovery](#) is a weekly program offered for those who are struggling with hurts, hang-ups, and habits by showing them the loving power of Jesus Christ through the recovery process.



BCN is honored to host the internationally known Bible study for women called [Bible Study Fellowship](#) International each week. Women from all over northeastern Ohio come to study the Word of God together.



BCN has brought the national ministry of [Kid's Hope USA](#) to our community for the past three years. This year, 19 BCN church members are paired with at-risk students in supportive, mentoring relationships. Weekly, one-on-one visits with these children are supported by a prayer partner for each mentor/child.

## **We Care Connection**

We Care Connection of Cleveland, Ohio is a faith-based, non-profit outreach called to connect the homeless to Christ by contributing to their essential needs and building of grace-filled relationships. A committed group of BCN believers faithfully support this ministry each month.

## **Cleveland Victory Church**

BCN has had a long-standing, supportive relationship with the Victory Church, a Nazarene-sponsored church plant in the inner city of Cleveland. Each month volunteers serve a lasagna dinner to the homeless.



Work and Witness has been a well-supported ministry for the past 75 years. Numerous teams of adults and teens have shared the love of God through building houses, upgrading churches, and ministering to those in need all over the world.

# Are You the ONE?

The Bedford Church of the Nazarene celebrated 75 years of ministry in 2012. This church has been blessed with Pastors with diverse gifts that served God's purpose for each season. As we continue seeking God's will for BCN, the following qualities have surfaced as priorities for this time and place.

1. Gifted teacher and communicator of God's Word

*We desire a pastor who possesses a "passion and presence" that will attract others to hear the preaching of the Word. We value deep biblical teaching that calls the congregation to increase in faith, live a holy life, and impact the world for Christ.*

2. Able to set direction and communicate vision

*As a Church, we are dedicated to the mission of "Bring. Grow. Serve." We are seeking a pastor who can build on this foundation and help us get to the next level.*

3. Active participation in the community

*One of our primary goals in recent years has been to become a partner in the Bedford community through our relationships with city and school leaders. We are committed to continue this effort. Our new pastor must have the interest and ability to maintain and evolve our connections with the community and foster a broader connection through the congregation.*

4. Socially comfortable with people

*We desire a pastor who genuinely loves people and is willing to be a shepherd. The BCN church family is racially, socially, and economically diverse. Many of our members and regular attenders are new to the Church of the Nazarene, and our pastor must be able to relate to people from various church backgrounds.*

5. Has a record of leading healthy and growing churches

*We need a pastor who has experience leading a congregation of believers, and is ready to grow with us. Experience in evangelism and outreach are key.*

6. Can demonstrate a proven means for disciple-making

*We are looking for someone who can encourage lay people to grow spiritually, and identify and use their spiritual gifts for ministry.*

7. Has effectively formed and led a pastoral staff

*The ability to select and lead staff effectively to carry out the vision and mission of the church is a vital skill set for our next pastor, as well as administrative expertise to manage the business of the church.*

8. Has experience relevant to providing leadership to a church day school or education center

*BCN has offered quality, Christian education to pre-school and school-age children for over 50 years. We are seeking a pastor who can build on this heritage and effectively impact our community through this ministry.*