

Christ Episcopal Church was permanently established in New Brunswick 184 years ago, being one of the first of its denomination in America. Before the Revolution, the society in England for the "Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts", sent out all the Episcopal missionaries, or clergymen. In 1703 or 4 a missionary had been sent to Piscataway, about two miles east of New Brunswick, and the Episcopalians of New Brunswick had worshipped there until 1745. The missionary circuit included Elizabeth, Amboy, Cheesequake, Freehold, Rocky Hill, and Piscataway - a circuit of 50 miles. The members in New Brunswick decided to build a church in 1742. They leased the lot on which the church now stands, from Philip French for 2,000 years; he afterwards made a deed of gift of the land to Peter Kemble, Francis Costigan, James Lyne and John Kearny, the officers of the church.

The first church was built of stone in 1743, and the same stones were put in the present edifice, which was built in 1849, and the tower was never changed. It is the link between the original church and the present one and a monument to the ancient society for "The Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts" and one of New Brunswick's oldest landmarks.

The earliest records of Christ Church, that is, those prior to 1790, are to be found only in the proceedings of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, organized in London in the beginning of the 18th century. This society provided clergymen for the church during the colonial period under the Bishop of London.

In response to a petition for a missionary, Rev. Thomas Wood was sent to serve New Brunswick and Elizabeth churches, May 13 or 14, 1744. He went to Nova Scotia in 1755 and became an eminent missionary to the Indians.

On August 4, 1748, the members resorted to a lottery to raise money to pay for the new church and rectory. The lottery was managed by Edward Ansell, Bernardus Lagrange, William Mercer, M.D., John Berrien, Samuel Kemble, William Harrison and Peter Kemble. (John Berrien was one of the most noted men at that time. Born in 1716, he married Margaret,