

The letter inviting him to become rector of Christ Church was written by Robert Boggs, clerk, and signed by wardens, John Dennis, Sr., and Mathew Egerton, also by the following vestrymen, William Leupp, George Farmer, David Davies, Simon Hillier, Nehemiah Vernon, William Peacock, Robert Boggs, John Garnett, Miles Smith, John Dennis, Jr. While he was rector in Feb. 1805 the spire of the church was struck by lightning and entirely consumed. It was rebuilt in a few months by the help of friends in New York and Savannah, Ga. The interior of the church was remodeled and a new desk and chancel were made. Mrs. Isaac Lawrence, Dr. Beach's daughter, gave covers for the communion table and two mahogany chairs.

Dr. Croes was consecrated bishop of his diocese and became the first bishop of New Jersey Nov. 19, 1815, Bishops White, Hobart and Kemper officiated. He continued to discharge his duty as rector until his death, though he gave up teaching, devoting his time to the diocese and parish. In Oct. 1850 "in consequence of severe and protracted illness", at his request his son, Rev. John Croes, was appointed his assistant. Bishop Croes died July 30, 1852 and was buried beneath the chancel of Christ Church, to which parish he had devoted 30 years of service. Rev. John Croes continued as rector after his father's death until Oct. 1859. He was followed by Rev. Alfred Stubbs in 1840. About this time Charles M. Leupp presented the church with a valuable organ "as a memento of his affection to the church in which his infancy was trained and nurtured".

In 1846 a very desirable property was purchased for a parsonage; part of the money came from the sale of lots given years before by Mr. Edward Boggs and Mrs. Mary R. Blauvelt. Frederick Schuchardt was also a large contributor. In that year Mrs. Mary Leupp bequeathed the large lot adjoining the churchyard to the church.

The old stone church had become too small, it was taken down, with the exception of the tower, and rebuilt. The congregation worshipped in the Presbyterian Church until their edifice was finished in Aug. 1854. It is built in Norman style, from a plan furnished by Messrs. Willis and Dudley. The superintendent was John G. Hall, Esq. The first contributors to the new building were two sisters, Mrs. S. V. Hoffman and Mrs. R. J. Livingston, who