



Kingsbridge Historical Society
Kingsbridge, Riverdale, Spuyten Duyvil,
Marble Hill, Inwood
Bronx, NY
established 1949

2570 Independence Ave
Bronx, NY 10463
kingsbridgehistoricalsociety.org

- PRESS RELEASE -

**KINGSBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACQUIRES LANDMARKED BUILDING,
EDGEHILL CHURCH OF SPUYTEN DUYVIL, FOR NEW HEADQUARTERS.
(Bronx, NY - December 2, 2022)**

The Kingsbridge Historical Society is pleased to announce its acquisition of the historic Edgehill Church of Spuyten Duyvil at 2570 Independence Ave in The Bronx. With the sanction of the New York Supreme Court, title to the property was amicably transferred on December 2nd from the church's membership to the society, which will take immediate steps to preserve and restore the landmarked building. The Kingsbridge Historical Society aims to make the building a valuable cultural asset for the people of the northwest Bronx.

The church building was designed by renowned architect Francis H. Kimball in 1888 to serve the neighborhood of Spuyten Duyvil, which was then home to hundreds of iron foundry workers. It served the community for decades and had a small but dedicated membership from the late 1970s through the 1990s, when the Rev. Dr. William A. Tieck served as pastor. Under his tenure the building was landmarked and added to the register of historic places. In the last couple of decades however, the membership dwindled and could no longer afford to hold services.

Since 1949, the Kingsbridge Historical Society has educated our community about the rich history of Riverdale, Kingsbridge, Spuyten Duyvil, and Marble Hill. But in recent years, it found itself without a meeting place. Its acquisition of the church building "makes all the sense in the world" according to Kingsbridge Historical Society President, Nick Dembowski. "We need a place to hold meetings and store our archives. But the church also gives us a historic landmarked building that we can work to preserve. The building offers a lot of potential for different ways it can serve the neighborhood." According to the former Chairperson of Edgehill Church, Carolyn Abernathy, "I am happy to know that the church is in safe hands and its future is secure." The church and the society have a shared history: the church's former beloved pastor, Rev. Dr. William A. Tieck, was also the first president and founder of the Kingsbridge Historical Society.

The Kingsbridge Historical Society has already secured a grant to do some urgent repair work and will actively seek more grants, donations, and volunteers to restore the building to its past glory. A fundraising campaign will be unveiled this winter. The society will open the building for a neighborhood open house sometime in January and the grand opening is slated for the Spring. More information will be available on kingsbridgehistoricalsociety.org. Email address: info@kingsbridgehistoricalsociety.org.