

Anthony and Vickie Thompson give leadership gift for Heckewelder House

In 2010, the idea of moving the Bach Office to Heckewelder House was a dream. Through the efforts of the staff, board of managers, and the Bethlehem Area Moravians, moving to Heckewelder House became a reality. In September 2010, the board of managers agreed to the long-term lease of Heckewelder House and developed a plan for a five year endowment campaign to help cover the increased office operating costs and the renovation costs for the move. The administrative office moved into the building in January of 2011.

We are pleased to announce that the \$520,000 campaign goal was met in under three years through the generosity of many people who believed the Heckewelder House should be part of our future. One special couple that deserves a great deal of thanks is Anthony R. Thompson and Vickie Ziegler Thompson, Ph.D. who made the lead gift for Heckewelder House. Anthony and Vickie have a passion for choral music and German Culture. These intertwined interests led them to The Bach Choir of Bethlehem. For many years, they attended Festival and concerts. They are Guarantors since 2007 and Anthony joined our Board of Managers in 2011. Vickie is Professor Emerita of German and Medieval Studies at Penn State University in State College. She is an active gardener and has been known to visit Heckewelder House and help with different gardening tasks. Anthony is a practicing attorney in Bethlehem who specializes in ad valorem real estate tax assessment appeals of industrial and commercial business properties throughout Pennsylvania.



Anthony's love of choral music began in high school in Mount Vernon, IL. He sang in the Men's Glee Club at the University of Illinois and the University Choir and Oratorio Society. He was in the U.S. Army Chorus for three years and has had church soloist positions in Washington, D.C., Alexandria, VA and Boston, MA. After moving to the Lehigh Valley, he joined the Festival Choir of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity where he sang as a tenor soloist for the Messiah in Packer Church and other oratorio works at Cathedral Church of the Nativity.

"Vickie and I were pleased to make our gift for the Heckewelder House because it provides a perfect home for the administrative staff of our choir, attractive space for displays of historical artifacts of The Choir's past, archival storage and pleasant rooms for meetings and visitors," Anthony stated.

He continued, "Moreover, that home further cements our relationship with the Moravian community in Bethlehem which has its own excellent musical traditions. The Heckewelder House location on the Central Moravian Church campus in Historic

Bethlehem and its proximity to that beautiful church and old chapel where music has been a vital tradition since the mid-18th Century provides a beneficial symbiosis for The Bach Choir of Bethlehem. We are especially pleased that the administrative staff and board have had a long tradition of careful frugality in fiscal matters. The knowledge that our organization's financial affairs are being managed in a conservative and prudent manner is a comfort to anyone who makes a gift to The Bach Choir of Bethlehem."

The Bach Choir of Bethlehem is grateful for Anthony and Vickie's generosity and their leadership with this successful campaign.