



Photo courtesy of Jim Fesler

## 2013 FOLLEN STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

### CHANGING LIVES — TOGETHER

**Sally Cassells:** When I give money to Follen, I see where it goes and the good that comes from it.

## WHY WE GIVE TO AND LOVE FOLLEN

**Andy Dixon:** Serving as a FUUY advisor has enabled me to get to know the young people of Follen in a way that otherwise wouldn't have been possible. I'm also very fond of the church building because it is a beautiful and meaningful embodiment of the idealism of its builders. Lastly, so many people at Follen want to make the world better. This initially was a wonderful surprise. I now know it is the essence of Follen.

**Stephen Ervin:** We entered Follen during a Coming of Age service and were so impressed, we stayed – for over a decade now. It's a place that enables individuals to find their own way and do their own thing, and it's also a community that enables the kind of work you alone could never do as well – or even at all – from maintaining the church's buildings and grounds, to installing sets for the operetta, to singing in a choir, or pursuing a shared social justice agenda.

**Bob Heingartner:** First, Follen's music inspires me. Second, I saw the good that came from my own kids being in RE, and now I'm seeing the wonderful things happening with the next generation.

**Kyle Johnson:** I can be my honest, authentic self at Follen. I don't need to reinterpret what I hear at Sunday service to match my beliefs. I know some are not able to give as much as I can, so I feel responsible to give as much as possible to maintain and strengthen what Follen is.

**John Lempesis:** I gave little to Follen for 14 years and received little in return. A horrible hurricane changed that. Follen's next service trip to New Orleans will be my 10<sup>th</sup>. I bonded with Follen folks on the initial trip and discovered *how wonderful* Follen youths are! Now, I'm Parish Board clerk and a FUUY advisor. I donate time and treasure to Follen and get back so much more in return. Don't wait 14 years – or even one – to give to and receive from this amazing, caring community!

**Laura Maltby:** I love our church building. I love being able to make beautiful music as part of Follen's choir, and everyone is welcome in the choir whether you have a good voice or not – something you don't find at every church. I give because Follen is my community and it gives back so much to me and others.

**Nancy Sofen:** Follen is Steve's and my community, and we have become who we are partly because of it. When our children attended, they developed wonderful relationships with Follen youths and adults that remain strong years later. I know firsthand that this church is well managed. That inspires me to give of my time and to pledge generously because I know neither is wasted. What also inspires me to give is knowing that other children will be as supported and encouraged by Follen as ours were.

## CHANGING LIVES — TOGETHER

**We launch our 2013 fund-raising drive to build on Follen's proud history and to welcome a new minister to join us in widening opportunities that change lives. But the impending end of Nextel payments presents us with a challenge: All of us must pledge more robustly this year because we must fund a larger percentage of Follen's operating budget from pledge income.**

**Our more robust pledges will:**

**Offer our new minister a strong financial foundation**

*This could be pivotal for attracting the caliber of minister we want.*

**Enable us to continue to enrich and change lives within our community and beyond**

*We need your more generous financial support to continue Follen's tradition of minister, staff and congregation working as one to enrich our own lives and striving to better the wider world.*

**Create the opportunity to further achieve our shared dreams**

*While we must fund ongoing operations, also establishing an "opportunity fund" will enable us to form a more vibrant relationship with our new minister to shape and accomplish our shared goals together.*

**Why Follen needs all of us to give more generously:**

**First, Follen must be in a strong position to recruit the new minister we want** at a time when more churches than in recent memory are seeking settled ministers. Being a vital church with a robust, growing level of pledges will help us attract top ministerial candidates!

**Second, though church leaders wisely created a fund** to ease the loss of Nextel payments, we will ultimately have to make up this loss through generous pledging. This year, we're hoping our larger pledges will replace at least half of this loss.



**This means we must move toward financial sustainability together** by significantly increasing our pledges to cover a greater percentage of our annual operating budget that pays for programs, salaries, maintenance, heat and more.

**Follen's vibrant programs and dedicated staff enrich our lives across all age groups.** The church needs your increased financial commitment to maintain and build upon what makes our loving community a pillar for us!

**What we all need to do:**

**We all must pledge as generously as we possibly can! To inspire everyone to pledge at the more robust level of giving that Follen now requires of us, our church leaders on Program Council and Parish Board – as well as all members of the Stewardship Committee – have answered the challenge by strongly increasing our pledges!**

We understand that some Follen members cannot increase their pledges as much. Regardless, **the unfortunate reality is** that substantially increased donations only from church leaders and Stewardship members *simply aren't enough!* **Boosting your pledge more generously than you ever have before** is what Follen needs to meet the challenges and fulfill the opportunities ahead.

**Reminder: Please help us accomplish our pledging needs by early February** so Follen's budget committee knows where we stand financially, and so our more robust pledging will help attract an outstanding new minister.

**Thank you for helping to make Follen even more of what it can be!**

**With our caring hearts and generosity, we will continue to succeed at**

**Changing Lives – Together!**

Photo courtesy of Turner Photography