



Board of Trustees

2009 Term

Harriett Cooper
Dick/Cynthia Luke
Crosby Houston

2010 Term

Darrel Clowes
Miriam Dakin
Bob Youngs

2011 Term

Marcia Bailey
Rev. Christine Brownlie
Linnette Petersen

Officers

President: Marcia Bailey
Vice-President:
Dick&Cynthia Luke
Secretary: Harriett Cooper
Treasurer: Darrel Clowes

Isabel Berney, Exec. Dir.

Find out more

Grave matters	2
Annual Report	3
Membership grows	4

Annual meeting hears Johnson

Mr. **Charles Johnson** was born in the small community of Wake Forest in Montgomery County, attended the Christiansburg Institute, served in the military during the Korean War, and has worked as a barber at Virginia Tech and in his own barber shop in Blacksburg. He is a descendent of people who were slaves at Kentland, a plantation in the Wake Forest-McCoy area of Montgomery County.

Mr. Johnson briefly reviewed a history of the Kentland farm and its owners during and after the Civil War. He eloquently described his youth in Wake Forest and at the Christiansburg Institute, emphasizing the sense of community in both these places. He then discussed the response of the Wake Forest residents to the death of their members,

See **Wake Forest**, p. 2

Board of trustees elected

At the September annual meeting, two new board members were elected to fill a three year term and **Marcia Bailey** was re-elected to an additional three year term.

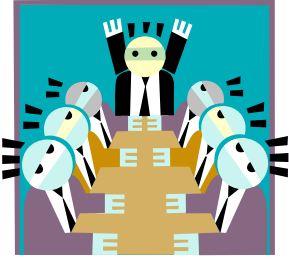
Linnette Petersen first contacted FCAVBR because of her interest in green burial. After reading *Grave Matters* by Mark Harris, Linnette requested more information about green burial. That led to a general interest in end-of-life issues. She is interested in bringing a green cemetery

to our area, if land and resources become available. Linnette lives in Salem.

The Rev. Christine Brownlie is the minister of the BUnitarian Universalist Congregation (in Blacksburg). Christine has been a strong supporter of our affiliate since its first organizational meeting, which took place at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House. She is active in community organizations, including Planned Parenthood and the Interfaith Child Care Center.

See **Board elected**, p.2

Board elected



Special thanks goes to outgoing board members

Marcia Bailey is a retired social worker who has been involved with the Funeral Consumers Alliance for many years. When she moved from New York State, she joined the Funeral Information Society of the Piedmont, the FCA affiliate in Charlottesville. She transferred her membership here as soon as this affiliate was organized eight years ago.

Special thanks go to outgoing board members **Jenny Schwanke** and **The Reverend**

Gary Schroeder, who contributed their time and talents so faithfully.

After the annual meeting adjourned, the new Board convened to elect the executive committee.

Marcia Bailey was re-elected to lead the board as president. **Cynthia Luke and Dick Luke** were elected co-vice-presidents, **Harriett Cooper** was elected secretary, and **Darrel Clowes** treasurer.

Wake Forest

noting the rites that were followed regarding care of the body, obtaining the coffin, travel to the cemetery (which was in McCoy, a white settlement, on land donated by the Kent family), and the donation of food (and money if needed) to the grieving family. He mentioned that one reason someone was appointed to stay with the body overnight

was to keep rats, which were abundant then, away from the body. He talked about the segregated cemeteries of the past and about the slave cemetery that was recently discovered on Kentland property after being buried under a corn field for years.

More grave matters

E. Maria Roth, a Blacksburg member, sent this in after receiving our last newsletter. "After reading the verse in the current letter, Summer, 2008, here's one for your enjoyment I memorized long ago (no longer have the source but am quite sure it is from a New England grave stone.)



*Under the sod and under the trees
Here lies the body of Solomon Pease.
The peas are not here, here is only the pod.
The peas have shelled out and gone to God."*



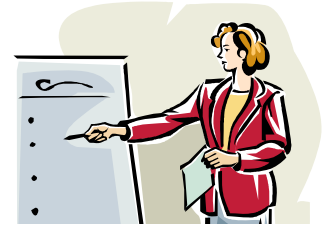
Annual Report 2007–08

Outreach

- Provided programs
 - Radford University for nursing students studying geriatric issues
 - Presbyterian adult Sunday School on "The Body after Death."
 - NAACP meeting of Montgomery, Floyd, Radford Branch
- Displayed literature at
 - Roanoke Boomers and Beyond Fair
 - Blacksburg AARP Health Fair
 - NRV Palliative Care Conference, Wytheville

Provided information – to our area and beyond, some examples

- Request for a tapestry to cover a casket "a nice tapestry or afghan/blanket type thing--especially with a Christian or perhaps floral theme"
- Request from Alabama about how to get a body from the UK to the US
- Request from a local Methodist church parish nurse who wanted 50 copies of eight of our pamphlets for her parishioners
- Several requests from various cemeteries, funeral homes, and local government officials for our price lists and information
- Requests from people wanting funeral planning information
- Requests for information on home funerals
- Requests for information concerning veterans' benefits
- Several requests for help in resolving problems with prepaid arrangements with cemeteries or funeral homes that were not fulfilled
- Requests from the Agency on Aging, several hospitals and nursing homes for our information



Report highlights some of our activities.

Helped consumers – members and non-members alike, examples:

- Assisted a woman in filing a complaint with the State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers
- Provided information to the New River Valley Voice and several national journalists
- "We have already picked up valuable information from your web site including the citation of the State statute authorizing pickup of the body by a member of the family"
- "We appreciate your information on topics relevant to Virginia"
- "Just got the newsletter and it was great! Enjoyed the article on 'It's not easy being green' and plan to share it with my Sunday School class."
- What a great web site, packed with helpful information. Thanks!

"Enjoyed the article on 'It's not easy being green' and plan to share it with my Sunday School class."

**Funeral Consumers
Alliance of the
Virginia Blue Ridge**

PO Box 10082
Blacksburg VA 24062

PHONE:
540-953-5589

E-MAIL:
fcavbr@bev.net

www.funerals.org/affiliates/fcavbr

Affiliated with **Funeral
Consumers Alliance**

www.funerals.org

Membership grows and support continues

Our membership is now 202 strong. Although most of our members live in the Roanoke Valley or New River Valley, we continue to pick up members from all over southwest Virginia. From Bedford to Abingdon, we have members who support our work and want to lend their numbers to our collective voice.

We thank all those who have given generously of their time and/or money. You enable us to continue our outreach. We also acknowledge all of you who have told others about our work, spreading our message of dignified, affordable, end-of-life choices. We want you to know that if you need pamphlets or know someone who would like us to put on a program, we would be happy to work with you to try to come up with what you need.