In Memory of Dr. Albert J. Lightfoot

On Sunday, February 15, 2009, a special event was held at the East Ann Arbor Health and Geriatrics Center, located at 4260 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor, in honor of Dr. Albert J. Lightfoot, who passed away in November, 2006. The founder of New Hope Baptist Church, a well-known, predominantly African American institution in Ann Arbor, Dr. Lightfoot served as its pastor for more than forty years, and was held in very high regard throughout the greater Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti community.

Sponsored by the University of Michigan's Program for Multicultural Health, the event paid special significance to Dr. Lightfoot's many achievements, including the establishment of the New Hope Outreach Clinic, a partnership between the University's Geriatrics Center and New Hope Baptist Church. A unique medical-religious affiliation designed to serve as a point of entry into the University's larger health care system, the clinic has been meeting the health care needs of the elderly, with special emphasis on the underserved, since 2001, and is the result of a strong, community-wide grass roots effort overseen by Dr. Lightfoot.

A special, mayoral proclamation honoring Dr. Lightfoot was read, and, as a lasting tribute, a photograph and plaque in his honor are now permanently placed in the main lobby of the East Ann Arbor Health & Geriatrics Center facility. Many New Hope members attended the event, as well as residents of the community at-large, and lovely gospel songs were sung by the New Hope choir.

Submitted by:
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