

Union Lodge's U.D. Status Means "Ultimate Dedication" to Service

By Bro. Adrian V. Cooley



Michael Humphrey

Since being organized on October 11, 2007, Union Lodge U.D. has been busy working as a brotherhood of Masons. Union believes in hitting the ground running letting zeal and energy manifest through our good works. The lodge does not want the label of "U.D." to be used as an excuse not to perform up to or beyond the standard of a subordinate lodge of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois. Here are some snapshots of our highlights from 2008:



- On February 21, 2008 Union Lodge adopted Emmett L. Till Math & Science Academy on Chicago's South Side. On this day Till Academy held a program honoring Black History month. At the Black History program the members of Union Lodge announced the adoption of this public school located in the Woodlawn community.



Union Lodge's Worshipful Master, Michael T. Humphrey P.M., presented Principal Mary Rodgers with a plaque commemorating the event. Bro. Adrian Cooley gave a brief historical presentation on

the man Prince Hall, the founder of "African-American Freemasonry" in the United States of America. The presentation also touched on Prince Hall's place in Black history month as the founder of the first public school for African-American children in America. Union Lodge's Adopt-A-School coordinator, Christopher Calhoun, presented student Dontrelle Duncan with two tickets to a Chicago Bulls game (top).



- Easter basket delivery to the Washington Heights Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (middle);
- Participating in the "Real Men Read" program (right).

The members of Union Lodge expect to be role models to the students as a group of positive African-American men working in the community.

Keep Up the Great Work!!!

M.W. Bro. Frierson Testimonial Banquet

The Masonic Family of Southwestern Illinois honored Past Grand Master Melvin Frierson, 33°, on Saturday April 12th at the Holiday Inn Select in St. Louis, Mo., for his many contributions to the Masonic organizations and his community. He has been an asset to the East St. Louis community and the Prince Hall Masonic Family for years. A member of all Prince Hall Masonic bodies and the AASR Deputy of the Orient of Illinois, NMJ, he is a staunch supporter of the fight against cancer. As a result, he has asked that the proceeds from the affair be donated to the American Cancer Society to continue research.



Annual Melchizedek Services

by R.M. Jeannette D. Gary, Royal Grand Perfect Matron

The Most Illustrious Prince Hall Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters Melchizedek Day Service was held Sunday, April 13th at Universal Temple of Christ Church. Melchizedek was a King of Salem, priest of the Most High God and in his dual office, without predecessor or successor, was a peculiar type of Christ. In Masonry, Melchizedek is connected with the order or degree of High Priesthood, and some of the high degrees. Empress Leah, Overseer Carl Richardson, Prince Judah, Lady Elect Charmine Richardson and the Universal Temple members welcomed us and made us feel at home. Prince Gad gave an outstanding talk titled "Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God" and explained that we are a Royal Priesthood and have power. Sometimes we forget who we are and whose we are and that we as Royal Children of God have a job to do. We must respect and serve others, protect our children, dress approximately, change our ways and speak with the authority given to us by God. It was truly a blessing to see the young people dressed in their garb taking us to greater heights with their singing voices, singing unto the Lord. If you were not in attendance, you missed a treat and gaining some knowledge and insight concerning the Masonic Family.

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