

JAMES THOMAS SIMS

Life Celebration

SUNRISE: 4/15/1986

SUNSET: 4/21/2025

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025

VIEWING: 9AM

SERVICE: 11AM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GLENARDEN WORSHIP CENTER

600 Watkins Park Drive . Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Pastor John K. Jenkins, Sr.

Streaming: <https://fbcglenarden.org/funeralviewing>

Program: <https://fbcglenarden.org/funeralprogram>

JAMES THOMAS SIMS

Remembering James

James T. Sims was the third son born to Pastor Gregory and Ellen Sims on Tuesday, April 15, 1986, at Howard University Hospital in Washington, DC. James transitioned on Monday, April 21, 2025, and now abides in the presence of the Lord. He accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior in 1993, and was baptized at New Canaan Baptist Church on June 6, 1993, where his father serves as pastor. While a member at New Canaan, James served faithfully in the Kitchen, Creative, Puppet, Music and Children's ministries.

James's education began at the Ascension Lutheran Elementary School. He started learning to play the piano in kindergarten. Over the course of attending multiple middle schools, he developed an interest in playing the trumpet. Throughout middle and high school, James showed a strong passion for music, participating in both the concert band and concert choir. He graduated from DuVal in 2004 and went on to attend Morgan State University. While pursuing a degree in Music, James performed with the marching band and concert choir. His talent eventually led him abroad, where he had the honor of touring internationally with the Morgan State University Choir under the direction of Dr. Eric Conway.

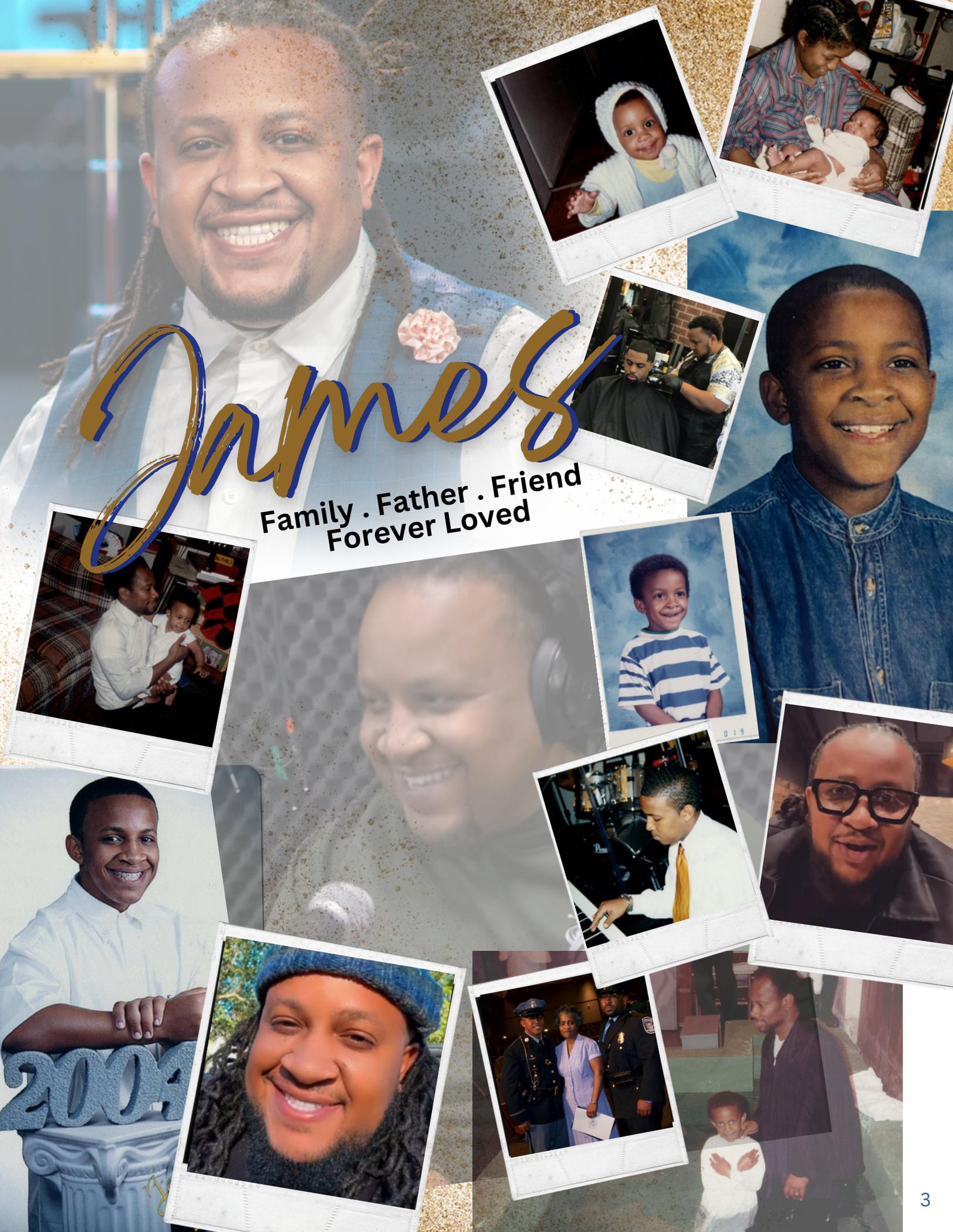
Throughout his life, James worked as a swimming instructor and lifeguard with the Park & Planning Commission, serving at both the Theresa Banks and the Allentown Pools. His career path reflected both his deep faith and his dedication to serving the community. He was the youth choir director and musician at New Canaan Baptist Church, led worship at various churches, and formerly served as an officer with the Prince George's County Police department. Most recently, James worked as a barber at "The W Hair Loft," while also offering private swim lessons to his friends' children and anyone who desired. He was a beloved member of the Worship & Arts ministry at Maple Springs Baptist Church in Capitol Heights, Maryland.

In 2008 James joined the First Baptist Church of Glenarden International, under the leadership of Pastor John K. Jenkins. There he had the privilege of serving on the Praise Team and in the Young Adult Ministry. He also embarked on systematic, Christ-centered studies in preparation for preaching, as he pursued his calling to become a minister.

In 2014, James married Nekole R. Reynolds, and in January 2016, they welcomed their greatest blessing, Jacksen Dean Sims. Fatherhood brought James immense joy. He was dedicated to being present in Jacksen's life, taking him to school each morning, helping with homework and science fair projects, and proudly serving as coach of his flag football team. James cherished every moment spent with his son, and their bond was unbreakable.

James had a vibrant spirit and truly loved connecting with others. In 2020, he helped launch the Push N Pedals cycling club, where the fellowship was just as important as the fitness. He also enjoyed striking up some fun with the club's bowling team. James was a member of the band Ahzay and The Squad, playing keys and bringing his musical gift to life through every performance. Always sharp and stylish, James was known for stepping out clean. He looked good, smelled even better, and took pride in being well dressed wherever he went.

James was preceded in death by his paternal grandmother, Deaconess Lillie Mae Sims. He leaves to cherish his memory: his beloved son, Jacksen Dean Sims; parents, Pastor Gregory and First Lady Ellen Sims; brothers, Brian Sims and Warren (Kametra) Sims; sister, Gretchen Sims; grandparents, Rev. Thomas H. Sims and Deaconess Penelope Johnson; aunts, Ellen Watson and Kimberly Lee; uncles, Dwayne Sims and Daryl Sims; niece, Emma Sims, and nephew, Elijah Sims; cousins, Malone Watson, Kevin Lee, II., Alana Allen, Spencer (Jean) Allen, Tameka Sims, Sean Sims; Jacksen's mother, Nekole R. Sims; godson, Savion Wade; goddaughter, Amelia Washington, and a host of extended family and friends.



James

Family . Father . Friend
Forever Loved

ORDER OF SERVICE

James Thomas Sims

Presiding
Reverend Joshua K. Jenkins

Processional

Scriptures

Old Testament: Psalm 23

Deacon Derrick Patten, New Canaan Baptist Church

New Testament: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Deaconess Yvonne Watson, New Canaan Baptist Church

Prayer

Reverend Tabitha Capito

First Baptist Church of Glenarden International

Ministry of Music

Mrs. Renee Berkeley

FBCG Music & Creative Arts Department

Acknowledgments

FBCG Funeral Department

Remembering James ~ Please Read Silently

Reflections

Limit reflections to two minutes

Wade Menendez, The W Hair Loft

Tressa Azarel Smallwood, MegaMind Media

Reverend Dr. Jerome Tarver, Maple Springs Baptist Church

Curtis Washington and Friends

Pastor Gregory M. Sims, Father

Music Video

James Thomas Sims

Family Tribute

Minister Warren Sims, Brother, Zion Church

Ministry of Music

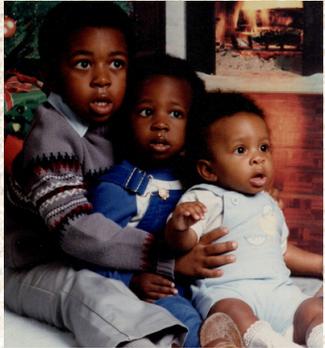
FBCG Music & Creative Arts Department

Message

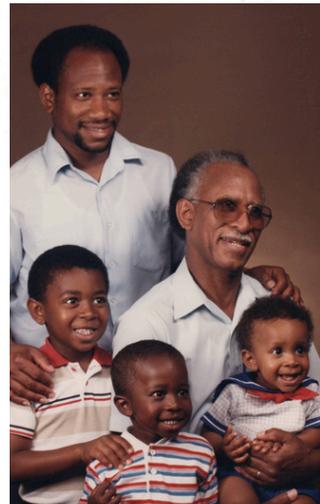
Pastor John K. Jenkins Sr.

Benediction & Recessional

Interment - Fort Lincoln Cemetery



James & Family





James & Jackson





James & Friends



TO PONDER

Dear Sims family and other friends of Uncle James



Today I witnessed a horrible, horrible feeling of grief. I'm mad and sad right now because of my uncle dying. I loved Uncle James. I know and I am thankful that he accepted Christ, so he is not in hell. So, he is in a better place. He is not suffering anymore, so I guess that's a good thing. So, if any of you are either friends or family of Uncle James, if you haven't already and you want to give your life to Christ, you can today. Keep Jacksen, my cousin, in prayer please. And just know that you're not going through this alone.

Sincerely, Emma Sims (Niece, 10 years old) Written April 22nd

THANK YOU *From the Sims Family*

The Family of James Thomas Sims wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the comforting messages, prayers, calls and many other expressions of kindness and concerns during our time of mourning.

~ Pallbearers ~

Ryan Florence
Winfred Turner
Kevin Lee, II
Brian Washington
Brian Sims
Curtis Washington
Warren Sims
Derel Williams

~ Honorary Pallbearers ~

Vincent Peden
Donta Wade
Terrence Shinglar
Anthony Harris
Melvin Witcher
Jared Thomas
Larry Vaughn
Joshua Jenkins

~ Services Entrusted to ~

Hodges & Edwards
Funeral Home

~ Funeral Service Director ~

Rhonda Green, FBCG

~ Interment ~

Fort Lincoln Cemetery

~ Funeral Department ~

First Baptist Church
of Glenarden

~ Florist ~

Johnnie's Florist LLC

~ Make Up Artist MUA ~

Nicole Steele

~ Barber ~

Wade Menendez

~ Hairstylist ~

Lori Jordan

~ Program Design ~

OGM Designs LLC

~ Program Printer ~

CH Graphics

~ Floral Bearers ~

Friends of the Family



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