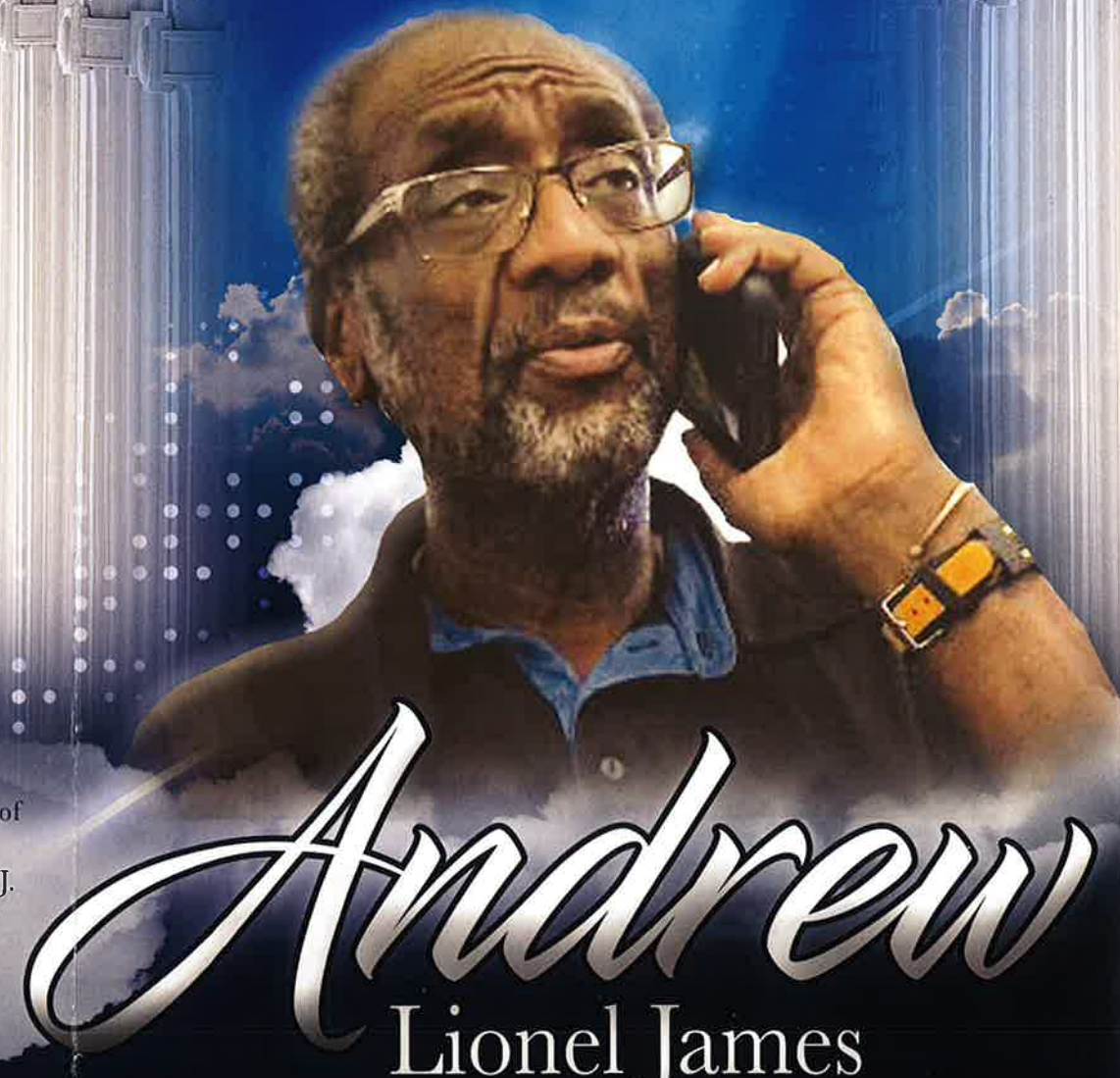




*Celebrating*  
THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD AND THE LIFE OF



*Andrew*  
Lionel James

*Sunrise and Sunset*  
March 7, 1958 ~ February 25, 2022

"For I am now ready to be offered,  
and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight,  
I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:  
Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the  
Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only,  
but unto all them also that love his appearing." (II Timothy 4:6-8)

Saturday, March 5, 2022 10:00AM  
Friendship Baptist Church  
2017 N. ML King Ave • Oklahoma City, Ok 73111  
Pastor E. Jennings Tyson • Officiating Pastor

*Pallbearers*

Christopher James  
Elijah James  
R. DeWayne Willis

Richard Willis, II  
Calvin Brown  
Ernest King

*Honorary Pallbearers*

Richard Willis, Sr  
Deacons and Brothers of Friendship Baptist Church

*Flower Bearers*

Jayla James  
Crystal James  
Lamesa Williams

Temika Willis  
Michelle Samuels  
Marita Barkus

*Honorary Flower Bearers*

Shirley Willis  
Teachers, Staff, Administrators of MLK, Jr. Elementary

*Interment*

Trice Hill Cemetery  
5101 N. Coltrane  
Oklahoma City, OK 73121

*Acknowledgements*

The family of Andrew L. James gratefully acknowledges the kind expressions of love and support during the illness and transition of our beloved father, grandfather, brother, uncle and nephew. We offer special thanks to Pastor E.J. Tyson and the New Hope Baptist Church family and the Friendship Baptist Church family...We pray only God's choicest blessings on you all!



2801 North Kelley | Oklahoma City, OK 73111 | (405) 427-8321  
templeandsons.com



# Andrew

## Lionel James

Andrew Lionel James was born to Tommy Lee James and Gracie Lee Sanders-James on March 7, 1958 in Oklahoma City, Ok. He was the only child born to this union. Andrew was the eldest of six siblings and the first grandchild in his maternal family. As a result, he had a very special bond with his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Mildred Willis. Andrew received strong nurturing and guidance from his grandmother, who faithfully took him to Friendship Baptist Church where she was a member.

Andrew had a strong affinity for Friendship Baptist Church because of his grandmother, his early introduction to a relationship with Christ and his baptism there. As a result, Andrew returned to Friendship under the pastorage of the late Rev. Michael L. Bubb-Brown. Under Pastor Bubb-Brown's leadership Andrew was elected Secretary of Friendship Baptist Church, Inc., Financial Secretary and Trustee. Continuing in those capacities under the pastorage of Rev. Wayne A. Wyatt, Andrew rendered faithful and distinguished service for over five decades. In addition, Andrew provided physical and fiscal oversight over Friendship Baptist Church's infrastructure, properties, and holdings.

A servant at heart, Andrew was a dedicated usher, groundskeeper, handyman, holiday decorator and overall church "beautifier." A student at heart, Andrew faithfully attended the adult Sunday School classes. He hand-delivered Sunday School materials to each member of the Sunday School classes during the pandemic as instruction was provided by conference phone line.

Andrew was a lifelong resident of Oklahoma City, graduating from Southeast High School in 1978. He attended Rose State College and the University of Oklahoma. Andrew was employed by Presbyterian Hospital before accepting a position at Coca-Cola, Southwest Beverages of Oklahoma. Andrew rose to senior management in the Logistics Division. He retired after over 20 years of exemplary service.

Andrew met and married the former Ms. Gloria Potts. God blessed this union with one son, Christopher Michael James, the "apple of his parent's eye."

A nurturer at heart, Andrew recognized a need and brought his three-year-old nephew, Elijah into his home. Andrew trained him, taught him, mentored



him, provided for him, protected him and most of all demonstrated to him what a relationship with Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ should look like, raising him as his very own son.

When Elijah entered kindergarten at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, Andrew's love for service, nurture and learning found its fullest expression in volunteerism. He was known as "Mr. James" to the students, staff, administrators of MLK Jr. Elementary School and all across the Oklahoma City Public School System. Andrew was an integral part of the success of MLK and continuously found opportunities to support the students and staff. Andrew began volunteering at MLK the first year it opened and continued until the pandemic limited access for visitors in the building. In July 2017, "Mr. James" was recognized in The Oklahoman and NewsOK for his outstanding and tireless contributions to MLK and also received the "What's Right with our Schools" award. He was the PTA president for a number of years. He also hosted teacher appreciation lunches, provided mobile snack carts for students, and ensured the marquee was updated frequently. If there was a need in the building, "Mr. James" was steadfast in making sure the need was met. He assisted with the school's Food for Kids program, popped popcorn for students as an attendance and behavior incentive, and helped provide the food and labor needed for the concession stands that operated during sports programs. "Mr. James" also volunteered in classrooms, donated uniforms, socks, and shoes to the school's clothes closet, and even found furniture to beautify staff lounges.

Andrew was a blessing to some and a gift to others. He leaves to his son Christopher (Delores); granddaughters: Jayla and Lamesa; brother: Marshall; sister Crystal; nephews: Elijah and DeAngelo; uncle: Richard Willis (Shirley) cousins: Dewayne, Andre, Richard II; Michelle, Temika and all who knew him a rich legacy of the faithfulness of God, faith in God; relationship with God and His word, love for family, commitment to family, honoring your parents; loyal friendship, being a good steward over your today, trusting God; contentment in all situations, facing all challenges with pride and dignity, peace from surrender, determination, financial responsibility, helpfulness, service, selflessness, and enduring until the end.



## Order of Celebration

*Processional*  
Glimpse 'Til Glory

*Congregational Hymn*

*Scripture Reading*  
Old Testament  
Sis. Lamesa Williams

*New Testament*  
Sis. Jayla James

*Prayer*  
Bro. Elijah James

*Selection*  
FBC Mass Choir

*Resolutions & Acknowledgements*  
Sis. Carol Hill

*Remarks*  
Sis. Vanessa Barkus

*Selection*  
FBC Mass Choir

*Words of Comfort*  
Pastor E.J. Tyson  
New Hope Baptist Church

*Video Presentation*

*Recessional*