

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Mrs. Catherine Elaine (Hopson) Staples was a transplant from Birmingham to the East Alabama area, where she relocated to pursue her career as a public school teacher.



A proud graduate of Ullman High School, a former Birmingham City Schools high school for African-American students from Southside and Titusville and beloved HBCU, Daniel Payne College, Birmingham, Alabama, Catherine pursued a career in education, earning her Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education. Once she landed in Roanoke, she remained here throughout her life, dedicating forty (40) years of service to the Roanoke City Schools, where she made a lasting impact as a passionate and caring third-grade teacher at Knight-Enloe Elementary School.

After her retirement from Roanoke City Schools, Mrs. Staples enjoyed connecting with former students and coworkers on Facebook, spending quality time with her great-grandchildren, and enjoying annual family trips to the Florida coast.

She was a passionate member of the Peace and Goodwill Baptist Church here in Roanoke, Alabama.