

Your Dream House

Where laughter and love, comfort and joy come to live



Peace at last

I have lived in 18 different locations throughout my life. When my husband and I moved to North Carolina, we were ready to put down permanent roots and raise our children in this beautiful state. We love the mountains and boating, and we found the perfect combination of both settings in Denton. We just completed building our dream log home this year. We chose decks with log rockers, rustic furniture inside, and displayed quilts from our great-grandmothers. We wanted a comfortable, relaxing getaway house for our family and friends. What is the best thing inside our dream house? The peaceful wooded view overlooking beautiful High Rock Lake!

Dawn Engels, Pfafftown, EnergyUnited



Thanks to everyone who sent us stories and pictures of your dream house. You can see more on our Web site. Next month we'll publish stories and pictures of those dumb exercises someone told you would do some good. (Deadline was April 15.) For more themes and rules of our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series, see page 15.

A roof, floor and doors

Inside my dream home, I would have hot and cold running water. The ceilings would be nice and smooth, not cracked, sagging and leaking. I wouldn't have to put out buckets to catch water when it rains. My dream home would have a nice roof and vinyl siding, too. There would be no holes in the floors. I would have a sliding glass door instead of a piece of plywood. I would have doors to my bathroom and bedroom instead of hanging sheets. Now that's a dream home!

Marilyn McCoy, Red Springs, Lumbee River EMC

Comfort and joy

The inside of my dream home would be filled with casual, comfortable furniture—the kind that invites people to stay awhile. I see a lovely sofa and two chairs with good lighting to read by. Shelves would be lined with all my favorite books, and music from a lively CD would fill the air.

Hardwood floors would gleam in the late afternoon sun, and a soft area rug would tempt me to lie down on it next to my sleeping golden retriever. The large windows of a sunroom would look out on a pond of floating geese. A crackling fire would bring warmth on a cold winter's day, while in summer the whirring of an overhead fan would temper the southern heat. I envision my friends and family gathered around a large country table to share some wine and a delicious meal.

My bedroom would represent a respite from the stress of the day with a large bed and soft pillows, a chair and lamp for reading, and a nearby tub for soaking.

But most of all, my dream home would be filled with the sound of laughter—of children, grandchildren, parents, friends and neighbors.

Mary Anne Watson, Wake Forest, Wake EMC

Finding High Rock Lake

It took 15 years to get our dream home, and we found it on High Rock Lake. This six-bedroom, three-bath house sits on four acres surrounded by woods. The front porch wraps around the house to include several rocking chairs, handmade tables for checkers games, and a hammock. You can lie in the hammock and hear the leaves rustle in the wind or feel a cool mist from the May rain showers. The kitchen seats 14, which is great for family nights. You will usually find the kids outside riding 4-wheelers in the woods or playing basketball in the driveway.



The fireplace lights up with a flick of a switch. No log stacking or stoking the fire. On school mornings the kids sit in front of the fireplace drinking their hot cocoa and staying warm. The back deck has a fire pit—great for cooking s'mores and roasted marshmallows. This is the kids' favorite. The living room has theater seating, large screen TV, and a real popcorn machine. It feels like you are at the movies. The adult guest room is a king-size suite. The kids' guest room was inspired by cartoon Spiderman to include bunk beds, Playstation 2, Wii, games and puzzles. The kids can let their imaginations run wild.

The basement has a pool table, foosball, ping pong, air hockey, puzzles, chess and checkers, juke box, darts, and arcade games. It has a full-sized kitchen to include a bar which is great for entertaining and not having to carry food downstairs.

We find ourselves wanting to stay home more often to enjoy the games and luxuries of our home. Over the past two years we have had over 90 visitors. Some of the visitors liked it so much that they looked at property for sale. They also enjoyed the friendliness of North

Carolina and the beautiful landscape of the mountains. I started a visitor's book so that they can write their names and places they saw while they stayed here. We are only 2½ hours from snow and 3½ hours from the beach. Our home is only minutes from downtown Lexington which houses famous places like The Candy Factory and Conrad and Hinkle. Visitors love to visit the race shops and Childress Vineyard.

Our dream home is so dreamy we have had local nature move in. We have a wreath at the front door that has housed several birds including three baby finches.

The weather, friendly people, landscape and nature make this our dream home. We have not only found our dream home but our dream location here in North Carolina.

Gene & Angela Watson, Lexington, EnergyUnited

The blessed home

I am already in my dream home. It's not my dream home because it's big or has five bedrooms. It's because it's where I was raised by wonderful loving parents who have gone on to be with Jesus. It's the house my dad built with his own hands.

Inside, the only thing of high value is love, family and God. I also have angels that I've collected since 1994. I've lived here all my life. Not many people can say that. I thank God everyday for a loving family. I am truly blessed.

Be thankful for what you do have, because you could lose everything in an instant. You could lose your job because of a disease and lose your home while waiting on your disability. I know because it happened to me and a friend of mine. God saved my home. My friend lost everything, but God is taking care of him.

Always be thankful for everything. Never take anything for granted.

Sharon Hardin, Rutherfordton, Rutherford EMC

Settled in Haywood County

During the 1970s when our family was living in Asheville, my husband and I decided that we would like to build our retirement home in the mountains of western North Carolina.

We attended a land auction in Haywood County and soon became owners of an acre of property in Woodbine Acres. Just what we wanted! For 23 years we had lived in Methodist parsonages. Now we were the proud owners of a piece of land on which we planned to build our dream home. And that we did!

Joel began gathering beautiful granite rocks from the open cut in Asheville, which was under construction. A member of our church was cutting trees on his property, both pine and oak, which he donated. Joel hauled them to the saw mill at Haywood Tech to be dressed. The pine was used for framing, and the oak became beautiful bookcases on either side of the large rock fireplace and wainscoting in the dining room and kitchen. The kitchen curtains came from Dorothy's Ruffles in Wilmington.

Thirty years later the walls of our dream home continue to echo the sounds of our grandchildren celebrating New Year's Eve. They loved roasting marshmallows in the fireplace and celebrating with hats and noise makers. They enjoyed sledding on a snowy day and playing whiffle ball in the front yard.

Our dream house has been filled with love, fun, hard work and joy.

Faith Key, High Point, Haywood EMC



The meaning of the claw-foot tub

When my husband and I built our home seven years ago, claw-foot tubs were one of my must-haves. We compromised on many things to save time or money, but the antique bathtubs were something that I had always dreamed of having. We purchased one of the tubs new, but we were on a budget and could not see spending that amount of money on a second tub. We found the second tub in a cow pasture, and my husband decided to try his hand at refinishing it. He did a great job. It was as good as a new one and was appreciated more for its uniqueness.

Our youngest daughter, Hallie Ann, loves the claw-foot tub. It is one of her favorite places to be. I have thought of the days when the old tub was used and have to thank God for Hallie. She was born with a heart condition and had to have open heart surgery. Back in the days when these tubs were popular, medical science was not advanced enough to have helped her. I love my tub and antiques, but I am very grateful for the advancements that have been made. 🙏

Dawn Priest, Seagrove, Randolph EMC

send us your best EARN \$50

Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures about these themes. If yours is chosen for publication, we'll send you \$50. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

July 2009

Summer Recipes
Recipes using summer foods.

Deadline: May 15

August 2009

Advice From Parents
As a parent, how would you like to see your local schools operated? *Deadline: June 15*

September 2009

Stupid Moments in Sports
Send stories and photos of sports moments that did not make you proud. *Deadline: July 15*

Rules

- Approximately 200 words or less.
- One entry per household per month.
- Photos are welcome. Digital photos should be a minimum of 1200 by 800 pixels.
- E-mailed or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
- Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
- If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
- We pay \$50 for each submission published. We retain reprint rights.
- We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
- Send to: Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Summer Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616
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