



Ann Castor Wayne spends a reflective moment on the front porch of her mountain cabin, a place to rest and just be still.  
Photo by Shannon Josey.

## A Dream Come True

BY ANN CASTOR WAYNE

Childhood memories of sleeping in bunk beds in a rustic log cabin engraved fond memories in my heart when I was a young girl. Sitting around the fireplace, singing and playing games made an impression that would last a lifetime. The setting was Camp Greer in Old Fort, NC in the early '70s. These memories impacted my life more profoundly than I ever realized until my dream turned into a vision. Hearing the older folks share stories and ringing the dinner bell at the dining hall began a dream that, 30 years later, turned into a reality.

I'm a Cabarrus County native, but have always found solace in the mountains. So I began pondering the idea of finding a log cabin where people could come for restoration and serenity.

Many visits to my aunt and uncle's mountain home confirmed that the rolling hills would be the perfect place for such a retreat – a smaller version of my experience in Old Fort. My Aunt Faye, a native of Watauga County, and my late uncle, Rev. David L. Castor, had purchased a second home in Boone, adjoining some of the land that Faye's family had owned for years.

Uncle David rode around with me all day long and showed me land and put in his ten cents' worth of advice on different areas while Aunt Faye was hard at work in the kitchen preserving the fruits of their labor from their garden. She always had a home-cooked meal on the table when we finished our journey for the day.

It was during this time that I became familiar with the mountain region from West Jefferson to Banner Elk.

After many visits and working with a realtor in Boone, I found just the right cabin. One step into the front door of this custom-crafted home and I knew that it would be the one. It soon became a host cabin for retreats for small groups from various churches, writers' groups and families. Resting on a hillside near the historic Todd General Store, it is surrounded by trees in a peaceful wooded setting up a winding gravel road. Looking out the bay window early in the morning, one sees nature at its best as birds chirp in their own language in the spring and snowflakes blanket the ground in the winter.

A steppingstone sits on an easel in the bay window of the dining room, its message very clear: "Be still and know that I am God" - Psalm 46:10. This reminds visitors that they need to slow down and have some quiet time. Each bedroom and bathroom hosts a lodge theme with bears, deer, moose, canoes and anything rustic to set the mood for the outdoors.

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The large kitchen on the main floor is perfect for feeding a large group as they share stories of the day or get acquainted with a new face from another region. Some of the writers' retreats draw in women from several states.

Today, as the owner of the Cabin Cove in the historic community of Todd, nestled between Boone and West Jefferson, my goal is helping families and small groups make memories in the mountains, just as I experienced many years ago.

Many families have found restoration and reconciliation at the Cabin Cove already, playing games at night or singing along to a strumming guitar. Television and electronic games take a back seat to quality time and bonding. Even relaxing in the loft proves to be the perfect getaway with a favorite book.

I believe that the Cabin Cove will be a place of restoration and healing for a long time to come, a place to rest and just be still. It is my deepest desire that lives will be touched in a very special way when visitors stay at the cabin and that each one who enters will be richly blessed.

For more information, check out the cabin Web site at [www.thecabincove.com](http://www.thecabincove.com) or reach Ann at (704) 305-3304.