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JULY 2018

Pretty Normal Life

Braeden Lewis, Joshua's Citizen of the Year, stays true to himself

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In the Kitchen With Emily Jones

Country Living

At Home With William and Cassie Carpenter

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ON THE COVER

William and Cassie Carpenter share a sweet moment with their daughter, Quinn.

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COUNTRY LIV

At Home With William and Cassie Carpenter

Country living with a modern, classic twist — that was Cassie Carpenter’s vision for her family’s open-concept home on just over five acres in Crowley. Cassie and her husband, William, purchased the acreage at the end of a private drive back in 2015. William grew up in Joshua and wanted to settle in a country setting. “We just like being outside where it’s a little more spread out, and we have our space,” he shared. They broke ground on their custom farmhouse a year later around the same time the couple discovered they were expecting their first child, now 2-year-old Quinn.

A few weather delays postponed the building process, so the Carpenters and their newborn moved in with William’s parents for about two months as crews completed their home. “We were very fortunate that it was an option for us,” Cassie shared. “It was nice because we had our whole little family in one little room.”

The tight living quarters were a distant memory once the family moved into their new, modern farmhouse. The original floor plan incorporated an open living and kitchen area, and Cassie tweaked the design to include numerous windows overlooking the property, bringing the outside view indoors. The interior and exterior color scheme integrates gray, white and black throughout, expressing a modern feel. “We want it to be classic, so it’s timeless,” Cassie shared. White subway tiles brighten the kitchen, and stainless steel appliances modernize it. A large stainless steel countertop covers a bar that divides the kitchen from the living area. “When you go with stainless, you have to be OK with scratches,” Cassie stated. “I think it adds character.”





— By Amber D. Browne

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The Carpenters used quartz for the kitchen countertops and spacious island. A wooden beam running along the ceiling links the kitchen to the living area, which houses a comfy, dark gray, L-shaped sofa. Shiplap is featured on the wall of the gas fireplace and in the entryway. Wooden floors keep cleanup easy with little Quinn and the family's Golden Retriever, Gunner, running around indoors.



The dining area showcases a wooden farm table custom-made by William. "That's one thing I really wanted — a huge table for the whole family," Cassie said. William purchased the table legs at a flea market and built the rest. Black metal chairs provide an abundance of seating to dine. With William's parents, sister and brother-in-law in the local area, Cassie's parents visiting from Waco, and Cassie's sister and family planning to move back to the area from Delaware, the Carpenters often open their home to host family gatherings.

William works in surgical sales at Oculus Surgical, and although he is not a carpenter by trade, he spends his free time tinkering with projects. In his man cave/home office, a desk made of aromatic red cedar tells a story of long ago. When he purchased the slab of wood, William was told a musket ball had been

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embedded in it. “We sanded it down, so you can see the lead on there,” he said.

William has always enjoyed working with his hands. “If he doesn’t know how to do it, he figures it out,” Cassie shared. “If he wasn’t the way he is, we probably wouldn’t have tackled such a project out here.”

With William’s experience showing sheep in Future Farmers of America in high school, the Carpenters planned to purchase goats to keep the grass down. After some research, they decided on miniature donkeys. “We fell in love with them,” Cassie shared. “They follow you around like puppies.” They now have seven miniature donkeys and breed them on their property dubbed Diamond “C” Farms, which pays homage to Cassie’s late grandfather who owned the Diamond “T” brand. Their love of donkeys is apparent throughout the home with canvas paintings and photographs, many captured by William’s sister, Crystal Wise of Crystal Clear Photography, displayed in nearly every room.

After moving into their modern farmhouse, Cassie left her career developing business for medical practices to devote more time to her home life. “I wanted to take a step back and enjoy what life had to offer out here,” she shared. “I took a leap of faith.” Cassie now focuses her energy on her family, property and miniature donkey venture. They have multiple projects on the to-do list including a garden, a chicken coop and a play house for Quinn.

“She loves playing with the rocks in the driveway, and she likes feeding

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the donkeys,” Cassie said. The toddler enjoys feeding her baby dolls at a tiny table and playing in a teepee in her bedroom.

Each of the bedrooms has an attached bathroom that features quartz countertops. The master bedroom includes a barn door of reclaimed wood that the Carpenters purchased from Old Home Supply House. To keep with the farmhouse motif, they purchased a refurbished claw foot tub for the master bathroom.

The walk-in pantry labeled “Farmer’s Market” provides space for culinary necessities and tasty treats. The laundry room includes a piece of Cassie’s family history, which was saved from her late grandparents’ home. The old wooden door lists the heights of Cassie, her father and other family members dating back to the 1960s. She hasn’t added Quinn’s growth chart on the door but plans to in the future.

Their modern take on the farm house is the perfect place to make new memories. William and Cassie met about 10 years ago and will be married seven years this September. Before Quinn was born, the couple spent their days wakeboarding on their boat and traveling the world. Several of the miniature donkeys are even named after places they’ve visited, such as Aspen, Maui and Florence. Now, their family of three enjoys spending time grilling out back and getting to know their neighbors out in the country. **NOW**

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