



Compiled by **Holli Weatherington** • Photos by **Troy Glasgow**

Tammy Oliver is no stranger to renovation and with a husband and five kids in the house, she's no stranger to being in the kitchen — a lot. That's why this latest (and last) renovation to her East Memphis home is the best. Working with her contractor, David Clark, and architect Jeff Dillard, she opened up her living space and kitchen to make a congregational area for sharing good food and friendly company.

When did you buy the house and how old is it: We bought it in 2002 and it was built in 1960.

Why did you decide to do this renovation: I had done two renovations and the kitchen and the screened porch were the only things left that I wanted to do.

Why is the kitchen your favorite room: I love to cook. I wanted the kitchen to be open for entertaining and large enough for all of the kids to hang out and help cook or do homework or watch TV while I am cooking. We always seem to have company and the kitchen lends itself well to extra folks. I have a huge dinner party every Christmas Eve, my favorite family tradition, and love that everyone can mingle



Reclaimed wood island tops were a must for Tammy Oliver when renovating her East Memphis kitchen.

easily while I am still preparing the food for the evening.

Elements of design: The island tops are made of reclaimed wood, which came from Green Family Lumber, and they could not be more perfect. The islands are a mix of cabinets and a custom look that I had in mind. Basically, any and everything I showed to David (Clark), he made happen. He has an amazing crew of people that work with him. The tops of the islands were really the beginning idea for the kitchen, and everything else was based around those. My architect, Jeff Dillard, made everything fit perfectly. My interior designer, Linda Wingo, who helped me pick paint colors and various other small details. The old shutters I found at Toad Hall in Midtown which, sadly, is not there anymore.

Details you love: The pegs in the floor (which I was told is not done in newer homes, I love that look. Each one is done by hand. I also love the

separate towers for the fridge and freezer. Also, the white farm sink — I love it but it always stays full.

Only regret: Not putting in two dishwashers.

Kids comment: My son said, "It's just a kitchen, Mom."