

degree. But, she says that will have to wait. Finishing one is enough for now.

Tommy continues to be in the carpet cleaning business. The best thing about his schedule is that he can put Mordecai on the bus in the morning which gives them a little one-on-one "guy" time.

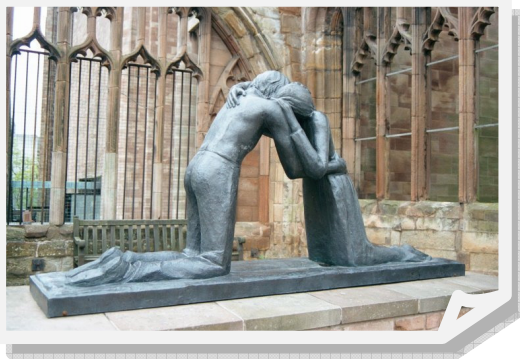
**STEVEN AND JAMIE** both made job changes this year. While Steven maintains his employment with Ameren, he returned to his position in Training. There were just too many long hours and days that kept him at the plant. The family never got to see him and his doctor did. His blood pressure was on the rise and well, it just came down to "sometimes, moving up the ladder ain't all that it's advertised to be."

Jamie, on the other hand, left her job with the City of Columbia. She is the Administrative Assistant at our church – Fairview United Methodist. She had been volunteering her time in the afternoon when the previous person left the position so decided to make the move when it was offered to her. Again, flexibility is always the key. The grandkids can go to work with her if the need arises and well, her stress level has gone down too!

In the middle of Sandy's hospitalization, Jamie had knee surgery to clean up a nasty knee. While it is better than before the surgery, it would be far better if there were 50-75 lbs less of her putting pressure on that knee....maybe in 2013 she'll work on that side of the equation.



Now, here we are at the end of 2012 and family dysfunction keeps going and going just like that little energizer bunny. Try as we might, reconciliation seems but an elusive dream as no one seems able to let go of past hurts, slights, harsh words, perceptions of neglect, etc. Someone once said, "make peace with your past because no matter what you do it is too late to change it. Forgive those that have hurt you. Let go of old resentments and mistakes. Forgive yourself for things that you have done...You can start fresh and create the life you want."



That is our wish this season for our family and for your family. If there is hurt and pain; we wish for you reconciliation. We wish for you God's grace of forgiveness, not only for others, but also for yourself. It is yours for the taking and it will make for a more **PEACEFUL MORNING**... God guarantees it!



# Kochert kronicles

December 2012

We have always prided ourselves on providing you with a Kochert Kronicles that told the whole story—not just the glorious triumphs, but the tragedies as well. This year is no different. Bring on 2013!

Jamie found her mother, Sandy at home having fallen and breaking her hip. After repairing the hip and returning to the rehabilitation center, she experienced other more severe complications that required emergency surgery and a multi-day stay in ICU. One day after her release to the rehabilitation center, Jamie's mother died unexpectedly (March 14th). While it is absolutely no secret that their relationship was a stormy one, they were family and never seemed to lose sight of those ties that bind.

In July, a beautiful celebration of life for Sandy was held back in Frankfort. There were wonderful words spoken by family and friends. There was cherished as well as fun music played and great food shared by all.



A "crab" apple tree has been planted overlooking the Frankfort Little League Park so that Sandy can always watch a game. And, a scholarship was created in her memory to assist those children who might need a little help with registration fees, a new glove or cleats or any of those little things that make playing baseball possible. Debbie and I were very touched by all of those attending, as well as the wonderful memories shared.

Christmas, this year, will be harder without her. She so loved the holiday. While her gifts were always a bit unusual and certainly never anything you wanted or requested, they were given with love and from the heart. She could not wait for you to see what she picked out... *just for you*. Merry Christmas Mom!



But, like all things in life when one door closes another opens. Such was the case with the arrival of Elizabeth Renee Kochert on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. She is the first child of **JOSEPH AND JENNY**. She weighed 8 lbs 11.5 oz, was 21-1/2 inches long and has a full head of dark hair. After Jenny goes back to work, Lizzy will be going to work with Jamie where there is a Mother's Morning Out program. She will get to spend the morning

interacting with other children and then come home in the afternoon with Jamie. What could be better? Great Grandma Sandy would have loved picking out "purple" dresses for her to wear.

Joseph, as he does in all things, seems to be taking fatherhood in stride. She eats, she sleeps, she... well, you know! And, Jenny is a doting mother. Is anyone surprised?

Joseph also changed jobs in 2012. He is now a City of Columbia employee working in the Street Dept. Lucky for us, he lets us know when he has changed speed limit signs on various roadways. That will be very handy for his lead footed mother.



### **Mordecai's 2012 Musings:**

December 5, 2012: From the backseat of the car on our way to volunteer at Harbor House this evening, Mordecai asks, "Diva, were you ever an elf?" Before I gave him an answer, I asked him why the question. His response was that I had "ears shaped like an elf." Guess I'm up for the next Hobbit movie!

October 18: Me: So, tomorrow is "Grandparent's Day" at school, right?

Mordecai: Yup!

Me: What are we going to do?

Mordecai: It's a surprise.

Mordecai: Oh, and there's a book fair too! BRING YOUR WALLET! (Big Grin)

July 22: Mordecai was invited to a birthday party one weekend which included a hike on the "Devil's Trail" ending with a tour of "Devil's Icebox" (a cave). When I ask him if he wanted to go, his reply was; "I'll do anything that starts with Devil." Here's hoping his mother has a plan...

May 24: Tears, Tears, Tears. With tears in his eyes, Mordecai just told me, "he wishes



**ASHLEY AND TOMMY** have settled into marriage having celebrated their first anniversary in September. They had hoped to get back to Georgia, but a Chicago business trip for Ashley diverted their plans. Tommy tagged along and they reported that in spite of the hotel, they had a wonderful time, ate good food and enjoyed the time away.

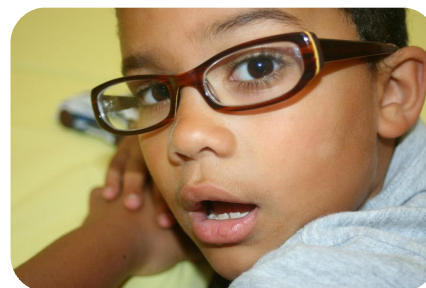
Ashley continues to work at the Columbia Food Bank where it seems they cannot make do without her as evidenced by the phone calls and text messages she gets when she is supposed to be on vacation. And, Ashley is tackling those final 13 hours to finish her Psychology degree. She just finished her finals so actually, she is down to needing 7 more hours and she is done... Major in Psychology, Minor in Sociology. And, because she has taken so many Criminal Justice classes, if she chooses, she can take just a few more classes to complete her second

**MORDECAI** took up the one sport that Diva absolute HATES... soccer! And, he loves it! He wishes he could play soccer year-round. Baseball—hated it.

Basketball—Nope. Football (Diva's favorite)—not interested.

Taekwondo—maybe a few more classes.

But, soccer—can't get enough! Diva sees boredom in her future! But, he's happy, so she'll be there on the sidelines. Here's a picture of him right after "scoring" his FIRST goal.



GaGa could see him be promoted to First grade." Death is hard enough for adults to understand let alone a 6-year-old who misses his biggest fan!

March 7, 2012: Heard a lot of talk about schools not saying the Pledge of Allegiance anymore. So, I asked Mordecai, "do you say the Pledge of Allegiance at school?" His reply, "oh yes, we have an American flag and everything. We're all about the republic." So, no worries... democracy is safe.