

2011

Oh, What a Year It's Been!

We had not one, but two weddings this year. WOW! Both of our children have been blessed in that they chose to make life-long commitments. Joseph married in May and Ashley married in September. *(details later in the newsletter)*

The early part of the summer provided an opportunity for us to take a "road trip" to the Sarnia Bayfest in Sarnia, Canada. We literally drove up on Friday and



were back in Missouri on Sunday. Why? Steven is still trying to figure that one out. On the way, we picked up our niece Katie and her friend Jessica. With VIP tickets in hand, we enjoyed Lady Antebellum among other country musicians on Saturday evening. Other than the

border guards thinking we might be smuggling the girls into the country, there are no international incidents to report.

And, what would Thanksgiving be without Keona, Eian and Evan? Your energy blessed our home again and for that we love you all. Not to mention, the "family" movie would just not be the same. What else can we say except

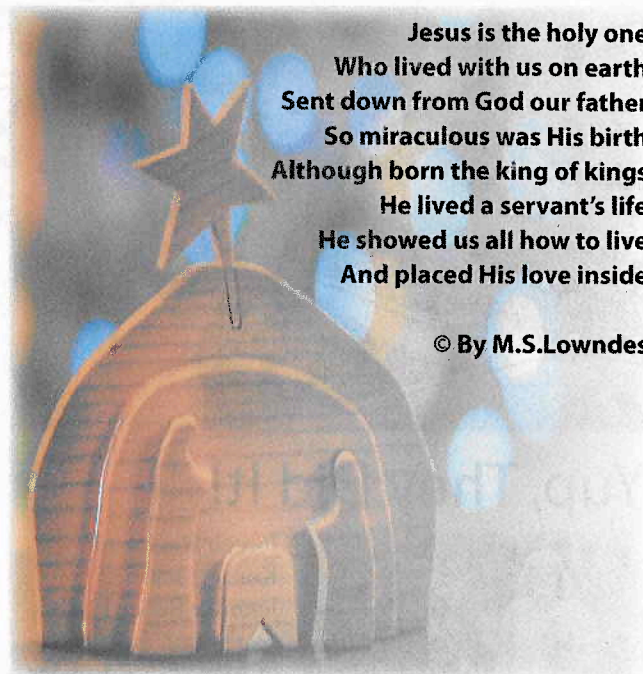
**MON
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KOCHERT KRONICLES

**Jesus is the holy one
Who lived with us on earth
Sent down from God our father
So miraculous was His birth
Although born the king of kings
He lived a servant's life
He showed us all how to live
And placed His love inside**

© By M.S.Lowndes



Then, it was time for our participation in Little Bethlehem, a live and interactive nativity presented by our church each year. Steven plays the part of a "wise man" and Jamie is one of the women sitting at the front gate. It is blessed opportunity to share the most perfect story with the Columbia community. If you would like to experience Little Bethlehem for yourself, Steven walked through with a video camera and taped the journey. Visit www.frontyardchurch.org and click on "videos."

Emmanuel with us! Thanks be to God!

On the Job Front

Steven has taken a new, or should I say, he has returned to his position as an Instructor in the Callaway Nuclear Training Facility. For our family, it means we will actually get to see him more than 10-15 hours/week. For him, we pray it means LESS stress, FEWER doctor visits, MORE vacation days, BIGGER smiles and GREATER happiness. Sometimes, the grass is not greener on the other side.

Jamie continues to work part-time for Regional Economic Development, Inc.

JOSEPH KOCHERT

TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO MADE IT TO THESE
MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS IN THE LIVES OF OUR
CHILDREN, WE SAY THANK YOU AND ARE HONORED
THAT YOU MADE THE TRIP!



Yup, They Did It!



Joseph Raymond Kochert married Jennifer Renee Hrabik on the rain-kissed day of May 28, 2011 under the most majestic of oak trees at Stephens Lake Park in Columbia, Missouri. There is an old wives tale about rain on your wedding day. It

allows for a "wet knot" (tying the knot), making it harder to break - making the marriage stronger. While the morning may have started with showers, the afternoon certainly blossomed into beauty.

Joseph and Jenny were married by a long-time Hrabik family friend, Scott Moon. After the sand ceremony (*mother of the groom was reluctant to give up her sand*), they were officially married and we headed into the pavilion for BBQ, wine and dancing. The couple even received a special gift of several bottles of wine to be opened on future anniversaries. (*Thanks Robbie*)



A few days later, Joseph and

Jenny treated themselves to a first-class honeymoon on the island of St Lucia. They were upgraded every step of the way. We're told they are going back!



Destination Wedding

Ashley JoLynne Kochert married Thomas Michael Jarrett in a SUNRISE ceremony on September 10, 2011 on the beaches of Tybee Island, Georgia. And, it was beautiful!

Family and friends made the trip to Tybee Island where we rented a magnificent house for the weekend. With seven bedrooms, a couple of family rooms and plenty of porch space for gathering; we had plenty of room get to know one another as we became one family.

We cannot lie. We were so surprised when Ashley told us she wanted a sunrise wedding. She is not known for being a "morning" person. Getting ready on her wedding day, we had to remind her that there were many things we could delay, but the sunrise was not one of them. We just made it to the beach...whew!

The on island reception was a filling morning meal at the Breakfast Club. And, from the looks of other diners, wedding parties were not that common at breakfast.

We enjoyed our couple of days at the beach and some wonderful meals on the island. We did not want to leave. For those of us who did not think island life was for us - Tybee changed our minds. Returning is most definitely on the wish list.

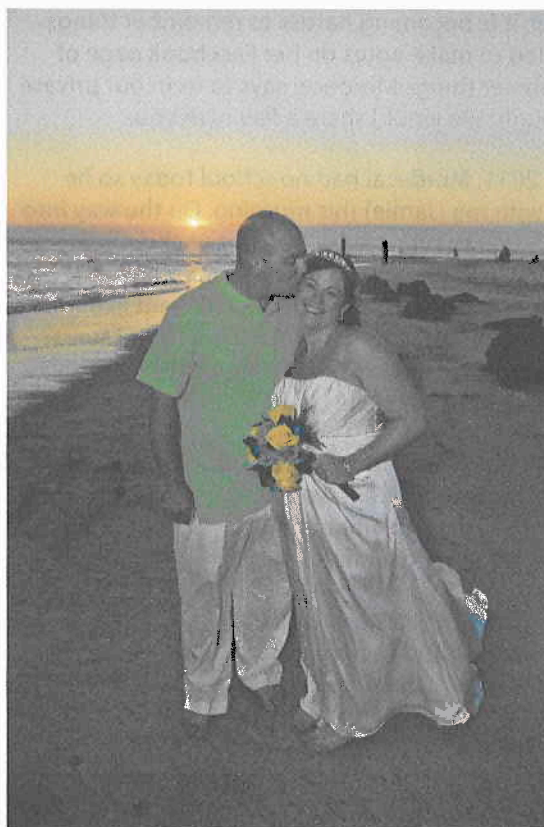
Reception

On October 1st, at Orr Street Studios (*thanks Cori, girls and Leanna*), Ashley and Tommy celebrated their wedding with family and friends. We dined on yummy BBQ, got busy on the dance floor and hammed it up in the photo booth. (*just a few shots to the right*). And, we cannot forget the special cocktail selected by Ashley and Tommy. With Amanda's amazing mixing skills, the "Ghost" came alive.

This working art studio was the perfect setting for a special night of FUN!



ASHLEY KOCHERT



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS!

MAY YOU FIND **HOPE**, **JOY**, **PEACE** AND **LOVE**

IN THE **NEW YEAR!**

MORDECAI MUSINGS

As we get older, it is becoming harder to remember things so Jamie decided to make notes on her Facebook page of some of the funnier things Mordecai says to us in our private moments. Thought we would share a few with you.

November 11, 2011: Mordecai had no school today so he came to work with me (Jamie) this morning. On the way into the office, he began to sing a song he sings at church - it is supposed to go like this: Ho Ho Ho Hosanna, I have the Joy of the Lord. However, Mordecai's version went like this: Ho Ho Ho HoSanta, I have the Joy of the Lord. After several repeats of the verse, he stopped to ask me, "is this the guy who brings us presents?" I cried!

August 8, 2011: Lately, he has had an obsession with zombies. I have tried explaining that "zombies are not real." But, this evening, he did the explaining to me... "Diva, zombies are nature's way of dealing with the dead."

May 22, 2011: Telling Papaw about making a candle on his field trip at school last Friday - Papaw asked "what did you make the candle out of? Mordecai's reply - ear wax.

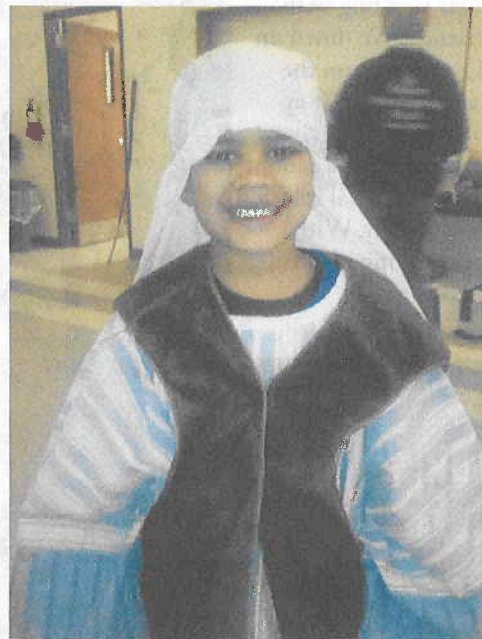
May 21, 2011: After "hooking" up Mordecai's Wii game at the house last night, Mordecai came back into the living room with a question... Papaw, did you go to "hooking" school?

May 11, 2011: Picked Mordecai up from school today and he says to me: "Diva, I wish I was a girl." Why, I say. His answer - I want to wear lip gloss. (Makes

me question how parents are sending their little girls to Kindergarten these days...)

April 25, 2011: Coming home from school today, Mordecai and I (Jamie) followed a nice RV. We discussed that Papaw and Diva would like to buy one after we retire for traveling. After talking about the advantages of such travel, his only response was, "after you guys die, can I have it?"

March 14, 2011: Mordecai had \$20.00 to pay for a toy at Wal-Mart today. When he got to the check-out, he handed the cashier both the toy and the cash and said, "keep the change, Sister!"



Mordecai in costume for his first Little Bethlehem (our church living nativity). He was so helpful leading visitors to the stable. He did not want to come inside. We were sooooo proud!