

# Christmas

# Joy

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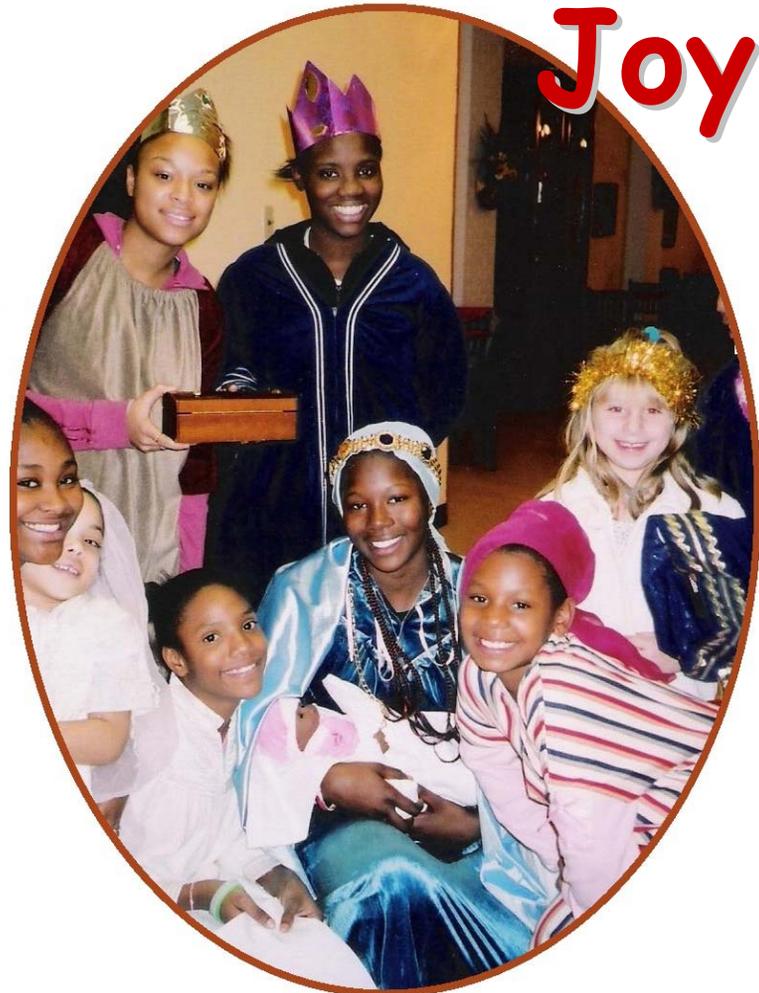
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Washington Street  
**MISSION**

# May Christmas Joy Fill Your Hearts As Jesus Comes To Bring You Hope And New Life

On a Sunday afternoon several years ago a number of children presented a Christmas pageant at Washington Street Mission. The joy on their faces as they acted out the parts of Mary and Joseph, the wise men, the angels, and the shepherds reflected the hope of the season.

Their hope and joy were contagious. The children cheered the hearts of the people at the Mission by reminding them of the message of Christmas, the story of the birth of the Savior who came to rescue us from the sin and pain of our broken lives.

We like to think about this picture and remind ourselves that sharing the love of Jesus is our central mission. As we share the message of Jesus, we see hardened faces begin to smile. We know that we have been given a great privilege in bringing joy to people who are often facing difficult circumstances.

Join with us this season in sharing the love and joy of Christmas with people in need in the Springfield community.

*An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."*

Luke 2:9-11