

# Dickens of a Christmas 2009

*A note about the festival...*

Charles Dickens, the great 19th Century novelist who wrote "A Christmas Carol" and scores of other famous tales, was born in Portsmouth! Portsmouth, England, that is (although he did visit our city of Portsmouth, Ohio once while visiting the US.)

During Dickens' lifetime a remarkable number of our present holiday traditions developed. When we realized that Christmas, Victoriana, and Dickens himself could be woven together into a special Portsmouth holiday celebration, A Dickens of a Christmas Festival was born!

The Portsmouth Area Arts Council with funding from the Southern Ohio Medical Center, presents the 23rd Annual Dickens of a Christmas Calendar. We appreciate the enthusiastic participation of the area's cultural organizations, music groups and creative individuals who provide Portsmouth with the vibrant cultural life throughout the year and who are the very heart of "A Dickens of a Christmas Festival."

For additional information on festival events, please refer to the calendar for contact numbers, or call the Portsmouth Area Arts Council at 740-351-3642 or the Portsmouth-Scioto County Visitors Bureau at 740-353-1116.

## Throughout the Portsmouth Area... Throughout the Holiday Season

**Friday & Saturday, November 13 & 14,  
Holiday Artwalk - All Day  
The Scioto Valley Artist Guild**

The second Friday and second Saturday of each month, the Scioto Valley Artists Guild organizes an Art Walk. This is the perfect time to see and purchase locally-created artwork and meet the artists themselves. Located with merchants throughout the Boneyfiddle and downtown Portsmouth area, local artists will be displaying their works for sale. This is a great opportunity purchase unique gifts and support local artists and craftsmen.

**Thursday, November 19, 6 pm  
70th Annual Jaycees Christmas Parade  
Portsmouth Area Jaycees**

The parade, a longtime tradition in downtown Portsmouth, welcomes Santa for the children and kicks off the shopping season in downtown. Line-up at 5 pm; the parade starts at 6 pm. Route: Portsmouth High School, west to Gallia to 5th Street; ends at Valley Wholesale Foods on Market Street. Contact: chaz417@msn.com or Lisa Carver at 740-353-7647 for more information.



**SOMC Winter Wonderland  
November 20-29**

SOMC kicks-off to the holiday season in the Portsmouth area, as it has for many years.

**Friday, November 20, 6 pm  
SOMC Winter Wonderland Ball  
\$45 per ticket**

**Friends Community Center**

The newly camped, formal black-tie event will feature a professionally catered, sit-down/served dinner and classical, live entertainment from the Gary Billups Music Department. Mingling and dancing will be strongly encouraged.

Guests of the evening also may participate in a raffle for four eloquently decorated, 7-foot Christmas trees, and bid on Chinese and silent auctions featuring themed baskets, trips and many more exclusive items.

Only 350 tickets will be available, so reserve your table early. Contact: Jennifer Schackart, 740-356-7101

**Sunday, November 22, 7:30 p.m.**

**G.F. Handel's Messiah - FREE**

**Vern Riffe Center for the Arts-Main Theatre**

The Shawnee Choral Department commemorates the 250th anniversary of the death of composer George Frideric Handel with a performance of MESSIAH. Tracing the life of Jesus through the prophecy, birth, suffering, death and resurrection, MESSIAH stands as one of the monuments of music history, and will certainly be an inspirational beginning to the holiday season. The Shawnee State University Choir and Chorale are under the direction of Stan Workman and the Shawnee State University Community Choir is under the direction of Shirley Crothers-Marley.

**Tuesday, November 24, 11:30 am  
SOMC Winter Wonderland Tea  
\$15 per ticket**

**Friends Community Center**

Much like the previous Hollydays luncheon, the Winter Wonderland Tea will feature a sit-down/served luncheon and many valuable door prizes. Contact Jennifer Schackart, 740-356-7101 for tickets.

**Saturday, November 28, 10 am  
Winter Wonderland Wreath Making Event  
Boneyfiddle Garden Shop - 511 2nd Street**

**Saturday, November 28, 10 am - 6 pm**

**Sunday, November 29, 12 - 4 pm  
SOMC Train & Merchant Expo  
\$2 per ticket (children under 5 FREE)**

**Friends Community Center**

Attendees are invited to peruse and enjoy many train displays, accessories and local craft and vendor booths during this annual weekend favorite.

**Sunday, November 29, 6 pm  
Hanging of the Greens - FREE  
Cornerstone United Methodist Church  
808 Offnere Street**

The centuries old European tradition of The Hanging of the Greens continues at Cornerstone United Methodist Church. During the program, the significance of the legends and myths associated with many of our cherished Christmas symbols and traditions will be explained. The evening will be accented with seasonal music, spoken word and liturgical dance. A festive holiday reception will follow the service.

**Monday, November 30, 6 – 9 pm**  
**Polar Express Pajama Party**  
**\$2.50, activity tickets for sale inside**

**Friends Community Center**

**Kids of all ages are encouraged** to jump into their comfiest pajamas and cuddle up to their loved ones as they settle in for an evening of food, games, hot chocolate and the holiday classic film, The Polar Express. Santa will be making a very special visit to see if you still believe. Can you hear the bell?

**Tuesday, December 1, 7:30 pm**  
**“A Christmas Carol”**

**Tickets starting at \$28**

**Southern Ohio Performing Arts Association (SOPAA)**

**Vern Riffe Center for the Arts**

A musical stage adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale, “A Christmas Carol.” Tickets are available at the McKinley Box Office, 740-351-3600 or through tickemaster.com.

**Thursday, December 3, 7 pm**

**Sonshine School of Evangelism’s Christmas Gift to Portsmouth- FREE**

**Vern Riffe Center for the Arts**

This concert will feature a variety of Christmas music with the Shawnee State University Community Concert Choir, The Shawnee State Children’s Choir, Art Bush, Jeff Bush, Tracey Tooley, Lisa Jordan, Steve Foster, Leeann Bower and Danny Bentley. Admission is free but tickets are required and are available at Gatti’s, Tim Horton’s, Ace Hardware in Portsmouth & Wheelersburg, Little Scioto Golf Course, Praises Bookstore, Carpets Plus in New Boston, WNXT, WOKE and the McKinley Box Office.

**Fridays & Saturdays**

**December 4, 5, 11 & 12, 7:30 pm**

**“A Christmas Story”**

**Tickets \$10 & \$12**

**Portsmouth Little Theatre, 1117 Lawson St.**

All the elements from the beloved motion picture are here, including the family’s exploding furnace; Scott Farkus, the school bully; the boys’s experiment with a wet tongue on a cold lamppost; the Little Orphan Annie decoder pin and a gorgeous leg-shaped lamp which will be raffled off at the end of the show’s run. Tickets are available on-line at [www.pltlive.com](http://www.pltlive.com).

**Saturday, December 5, 10 am – 2 pm**

**Pet Photos with Santa**

**Portsmouth Feed & Supply**

**240 Second Street**

**Animal Welfare League**

**The Animal Welfare League** of Scioto County and Portsmouth Feed & Supply are sponsoring the third annual Pet Photos with Santa. Photos may include pets with or without their caretakers, and of course, Santa. Photo package will consist of one 8 X 10 and one 4 X 6 photo for \$12.

**Saturday, December 5**

**Living Gifts Workshop**

**Boneyfiddle Garden Shop- 51 2nd Street**

Join us for a workshop in how to make terrariums or topiary gifts.

**Saturday, December 5 & 6, 2 – 4 pm**

**1810 House Christmas Open House**

**FREE (Donations Appreciated)**

**1810 House, 1926 Waller Street**

**Scioto County Historical Society**

The 1810 House will be decorated for Christmas. The public can tour the house. The tour ends in the kitchen where Christmas goodies will be served. R.L. (Bo) Mohl will read Christmas stories to the children as Charles Dickens.

**Saturday, December 5, 7:30 pm**

**Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops – Tickets from \$6 - \$16**

**Vern Riffe Center for the Arts**

**Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra**

The Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra, Carl Daehler, conductor, and the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra Chorale under the direction of Justin Wiget, join forces for its annual holiday pops and sing-a-long concert. Children and adults of all ages will enjoy singing holiday favorites with the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra, Chorus and special guests.

**Sunday, December 6, 4 p.m.**

**Christmas at St. Mary’s - FREE**

**St. Mary’s Church, 5th and Market Streets**

A tradition begun in 1975, the Shawnee State University Community Choir and Shawnee State Children’s Choir are joined by the University Choir and Chorale for their annual Christmas concert at St. Mary’s. The Shawnee State University Community Choir and Children’s Choir are under the direction of Shirley Crothers-Marley and the Shawnee State University Choir and Chorale is under the direction of Stan Workman.

**Monday, December 7, 6 – 10 pm**

**Boy Scout Holiday Auction**

**Vern Riffe Center for the Arts- Main Theater**

**Simon Kenton Council**

Get your Christmas shopping done by watching the Boy Scouts Holiday Auction on Time Warner Channel 20 or listening to it on WNXT 1260 am for your chance to bid on items like sports memorabilia, restaurant gift certification, celebrity autographed pictures, a television and more. A special preview of auction items will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 on Monday.

**Thursday, December 10, 7 pm**

**Oak Ridge Boys Holiday Concert**

**Tickets starting at \$33**

**Vern Riffe Center for the Arts**

Ring in the holidays as we welcome back the Oak Ridge Boys annual Christmas tour featuring classic hits as well as holiday harmonies. Tickets are available at the McKinley Box Office, 740-351-3600 or through ticketmaster.com.

**Friday & Saturday, December 11 & 12, All Day**

**Holiday Artwalk**

**The Scioto Valley Artist Guild**

The second Friday and second Saturday of each month, the Scioto Valley Artists Guild organizes an Art Walk. This is the perfect time to see and purchase locally-created artwork and meet the artists themselves. Located with merchants throughout the Boneyfiddle and downtown Portsmouth area, local artists will be displaying their works for sale. This is a great opportunity to purchase unique gifts and support local artists and craftsmen.

**Fridays & Saturdays**

**December 11, 12, 18 & 19**

**2 pm (Saturdays) &**

**7 pm (Fridays & Saturdays)**

**Farewell to Winterscape**

**Tickets starting at \$4**

**SOMACC Hopkins Theatre**

Southern Ohio Museum/Cirque d’Art Theatre  
This spirited holiday show tells the story of a young girl, her travels, a dance with a prince and being left wondering if the experience was real or if it was, in fact, a dream. The museum’s Cirque d’Art performers will transform into live toy soldiers, Christmas spirits, Winterscape children, angels and royalty. This is an extravaganza you don’t want to miss.

**Saturday, December 12, 9 am – 5 pm**

**Dickens of a Holiday Open House**

**Downtown Portsmouth**

**Chillicothe St. & Boneyfiddle Historic District**

Can you imagine how Portsmouth looked when Charles Dickens visited? Now you can see and believe. Come enjoy a “Dickens” of a Holiday Open House for Christmas shopping in shops dressed in Victorian decorations, life-sized figures in Victorian dress dot the streets, entertainment by street musicians, carolers, vendors and many more surprises will complete your Dickens of a Holiday Open House experience!

**Saturday, December 12**

**Cookies with Claus**

**Boneyfiddle Garden Shop- 511 2nd Street**

Kids, bring an adult with you and decorate a dozen special cookies. Includes cookie cutters.

**Saturday, December 12, 12 – 3 pm**

**Hot Chocolate with Mrs. Claus - FREE**

**B Sweet Chocolaterie – 509 Second Street**

Meet Mrs. Claus and her elves as they treat you to samples of your favorite hot chocolate, made from scratch the old-fashioned way.

**Sunday, December 13, 6:30 pm**

**Christmas Hang-Ups - FREE**

**KYDS Choir of Cornerstone UMC**

**808 Offnere Street, Portsmouth**

An evening of watching children preparing for Christmas, what could be more fun?! Join us as the children of CUMC present a Christmas musical featuring dramatic and musical performances. Contact Karen McGraw ([kmcgraw69@yahoo.com](mailto:kmcgraw69@yahoo.com)) or Becky Climer ([beckyclimer@verizon.net](mailto:beckyclimer@verizon.net)) for information.

**Saturday, December 19**

**Christmas Candle Table Arrangement**

**Boneyfiddle Garden Shop- 511 2nd Street**

Make-and-take event using fresh greenery.

**Sunday, December 20, 2:30 & 7 pm**

**“The Heart of Christmas” - FREE**

**Sunshine United Methodist Church**

**Corner of Rt. 7 & Tygart Road, South Shore**

Join the Sunshine Community Choir for our annual Christmas Cantata presented at our home church in South Shore, Kentucky. Our program lasts an hour and contains live music, singing and narration with special involvement of the youth in our church.

**Sunday, December 20, 6:30 pm**

**A Christmas Musical Extravaganza - FREE**

**Music Department of Cornerstone United Methodist Church**

**808 Offnere Street, Portsmouth**

The music ministry of CUMC is featured in this evening of musical worship variety. The Chancel Choir, the Praise Team, the KYDS Choir, the Adult Handbell Choir, David Pettit, organist, and various soloists will share with the community the joyous sounds of Christmas. Contact Becky Climer at [beckyclimer@verizon.net](mailto:beckyclimer@verizon.net) or [cornerstone808@frognet.com](mailto:cornerstone808@frognet.com) for more information.

**Monday, December 21, 7:30 pm**

**A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - FREE**

**2nd Presbyterian Church, 801 Waller Street**

The Second Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir will present the traditional service, “A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols” accompanied by a full orchestra under the direction of Stan Workman, Director of Music. Join us in the beautifully decorated sanctuary for this festive service of scripture lessons, carols, and anthems of the glorious Christmas Season. The 2nd Presbyterian Chancel Choir is under the direction of Stan Workman, Director of Music.