



*Five in a Row Holiday  
through the seasons*

*by*

*Jane Claire and Becky Jane Lambert*



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Because this book includes page numbers we thought you'd enjoy having should you print the book in its entirety, we have provided the printed book page numbers (on most pages at the bottom) and the PDF page numbers for your convenience.

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## GREETINGS & INTRODUCTIONS

Greetings to you from Jane and Becky and welcome to *Five In A Row Holiday*. We hope you enjoy it as much as we enjoyed writing it together for you.

In most cases, we have given a number of ideas for one holiday. We don't intend for you to do all of these activities and ideas in one day. Take the few that speak to you for this year, and have a wonderful time. Earmark a few others and use those ideas for the following year, or even the year after. We want each and every holiday your family celebrates to be the most relaxing, the most inspiring...the most cherished holiday it can be! Please don't allow *Five in a Row Holiday* to become your taskmaster, but instead let it be a small spark to set your own ideas into action.

### Traditions:

Traditions, with their inevitable repetitions, are a special aspect of family life. Vital for children but important for adults as well, they tie together the passage of the years. Traditions are something one can look forward to, something to savor and enjoy at the moment, and something to look back on as precious memories. As life changes—moving to a new town, beginning a new career, having friends or family move away, etc.—traditions help hold families together and provide a sense of constancy. These family rituals do not have to involve great cost but they do take time, imagination and some effort. The results, however, far surpass the sacrifice involved and even such little effort can bring light and life to a family holiday celebration.

### Jane Claire:

Some of you may wish to enjoy and celebrate seasons in general, because anytime is a great time for a party! During these times of seasonal change, when there is not a specific holiday, there are still poems to read (Robert Frost has great seasonal poems) and music to listen to (such as "The Four Seasons" by Vivaldi) and food to eat (like apple pie on that first crisp autumn day) and winter picnics to have as the seasons continue their coming and going.

For instance, it is a sort of tradition for me to enjoy a spring day by taking out my Robert Frost and enjoying "Putting in the Seed." In autumn, Frost's "Gathering Leaves" is a favorite while I completely enjoy reading Frost's "Blueberries" during the summer, etc.

Many of the read-aloud stories at the Lambert home are read yearly at specific seasonal times. Today was our first particularly magnificent day of spring. So, I grabbed *Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Graham and began to read to my husband as he snoozed in the sun, all about mole and his spring housecleaning and "oh bother" and "whitewashing," and the breezes that blew and called to him, and of that wondrous river. It's nearly impossible to have the first real spring day and not think of and enjoy that story.

Each season has its specialties of verse, song and literature. Create a family tradition of making lemonade and reading some *The Wind in the Willows*, for instance, each year as that first perfect spring day arrives.





the winner is the grand egg champion until next Easter.



### Songs:

Jane Claire: For many years I have tied the celebrations of Christmas and Easter together in my mind. At Christmas time I remember not only the birth of Jesus but I spend some time pondering the miracle of His birth against the backdrop of the ultimate work He came to do. At Easter, amidst the fullness of the story of Calvary and the Resurrection, I find myself marveling at the fact the King of Glory was willing to come into our world as a baby.

A few years ago at Christmas time I was singing the famous Christmas carol "We Three Kings of Orient Are" and I was surprised that the last verse was such a powerful one for the Easter season. So now, each year at the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection I sing (at least to myself) the entire song (usually minus the choruses) up through the slow and sad verse of crucifixion and finish with a flourish the last verse in celebration of His life and His victory over death:

Glorious now behold Him arise!  
King and God and Sacrifice!  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Sounds through the earth and skies."

### Crafts:

#### Cotton Ball Chick

This craft is a darling way to welcome in spring. Little ones will love the soft, fuzzy chick and even older children will find this project a fun way to spend an afternoon. Serve eggs for breakfast the day you want to do this project and you'll not only have a wonderful meal, but you'll have all the egg-shell halves you need! Be sure to carefully rinse the shell with warm, soapy water and let air-dry.

For one chick you will need:

- 1/2 clean egg shell
- 2 yellow cotton balls (pastel colors are available from most discount or drug stores)
- black construction paper
- orange construction paper
- a hole punch
- glue
- scissors

Place a small dollop of glue in the bottom of the egg shell half. Place one of the cotton balls in the bottom of the shell and let dry for a few seconds. Next, place another drop of glue on top of the first cotton ball and set the second cotton ball on top. This is the body of your chick.

Using the hole punch, punch out two dots of black construction paper. These are your chick's eyes. Glue them on. Use the scissors to cut out a small triangle from the orange construction paper. This is your chick's beak. Glue it on in the appropriate place. Your children can carefully decorate the edges of the egg shell to reflect an Easter theme if they wish, or they



## FIVE IN A ROW HOLIDAY – THROUGH THE SEASONS

prise is extremely thrilling for a small child. Carrying out a surprise successfully is something that only adults often manage. Taking flowers to people and “going a-Maying” is a wonderful tradition for children and parents. I so enjoyed passing this experience on to my girls.

### Book Ideas:

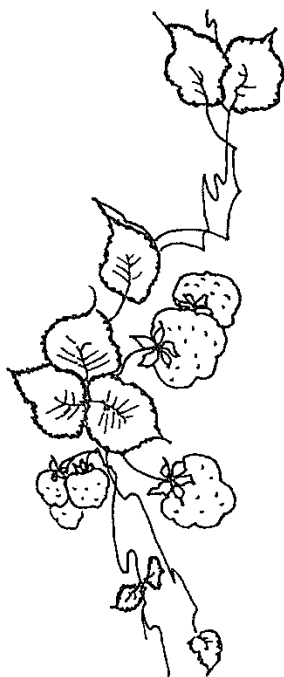
*Under the MidSummer Sky* by Carole Lexa Schaefer, a Whitebird Book

This story, set in Sweden, actually celebrates the first day of summer (the longest day of the year). Filled with warm caring love, a farmer and his wife work to surprise each other. The plans turn out to be surprises even for the givers.

### Activity Idea:

Anytime is great for a tea party...but why not bring out a small table, spread it with a white cloth, use special cups and plates and have a spring tea party. Find some spring flowers for little centerpiece vase and enjoy the lovely springtime that the Lord has made!

There are an infinite number of food items which could be set out for the tea party, but our family especially loves popovers. Popovers are relatively easy to make and are made from ingredients that one usually has on hand—flour, eggs, butter and milk. (The recipe is below.) We would make them and serve them warm with butter and honey along with a hot cup of tea. You might want to include a bowl of fresh strawberries for your tea table. (Popovers are also wonderful for a winter morning study break with a cup of tea or hot chocolate.)



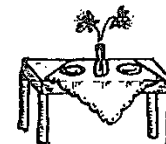
### Popular “Anytime’s a Good Time for a Party” Popovers

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 Tbs. melted butter
- dash of salt
- 2 eggs

Preheat oven to 450° (hot). Beat flour, milk, butter and salt until just smooth. Add eggs, one at a time; do not overbeat. (Batter will not be heavy at all, but like a thin pancake batter). Butter muffin tins and fill no more than 2/3-3/4 full. Bake immediately. After 15 minutes, lower heat to 350° and bake for 20 minutes longer. Serve right away with butter and honey for a homey treat. Makes 12 popovers.

*There are few hours more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea.*

Henry James



### Edible Flowers for Decoration:

Spring bears many edible flowers that can be used for decorating cakes, cupcakes or salads. These make the perfect treats for May Day! For cakes and cupcakes the flowers can be sugared for a special effect. Sugaring the petals and leaves gives the flowers a glittering, frosty appearance that is truly beautiful.

Whether flowers are used only for decoration or actually eaten, any used on or around food should be of the edible varieties. To learn about edible flowers and their uses, find a book at your library. If you cannot locate a book specifically on edible flowers, be

# Labor Day

## Quotes:

*Honest labor bears a lovely face.*  
Thomas Dekker

*There is no real wealth but the labor of man.*  
Percy Bysshe Shelley

*Work is glory.  
Work is sweat in harvest fields—  
The royal right to ask for bread.  
Work teaches sleep to slumber undisturbed,  
And scorns to beg or steal...*  
“A Requiem for Love”  
Calvin Miller

The first Labor Day was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in New York City. The founder of this holiday is still disputed. Some believe it was Peter J. McGuire, one of 10 children born in New York City in 1852. Peter’s family was very poor and required the children to work in order to put food on the table. By the time he was 11, Peter was working long days in a furniture factory. As an adult, Peter McGuire became a carpenter and founded one of the first labor unions. It was during this time people believe he came up with the idea for a holiday to honor the laborers and workers of America. He felt the people who work the very hardest are often forgotten and ignored. He chose the first Monday in September and in 1882 the first Labor Day was celebrated with 10,000 workers marching in a large parade with a brass band and balloons.

Another faction of experts maintains that the founder of Labor Day was a man named Matthew Maguire. Matthew was a machinist in New York City and later became the secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. (As a reminder, unions are organized groups formed to help protect the rights and working conditions of laborers.)

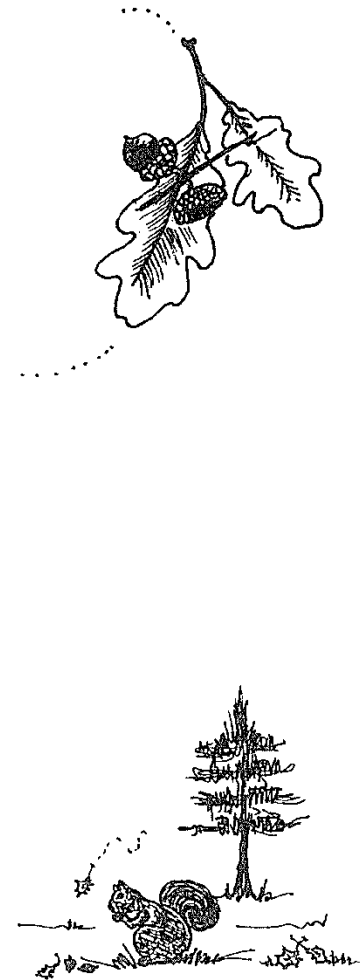
Although the founder is not clear, Labor Day became an important event in New York City and later in the nation. It became a national holiday in 1894. Congress passed an act that year confirming our need as a nation to honor the American worker.

Labor Day poses a wonderful opportunity to discuss with your family how much laborers do for us on a daily basis—the carpenters who built your home, your plumber, the electrician, the street crews who spread salt and sand during winter storms, the butcher, and the many other workers who help our lives run smoothly and comfortably. Perhaps your son or daughter is already exhibiting interest in a specific career. Labor Day is a wonderful time to explore this career idea and learn more about that job. A trip with a parent to their place of work would be a great learning opportunity as well.

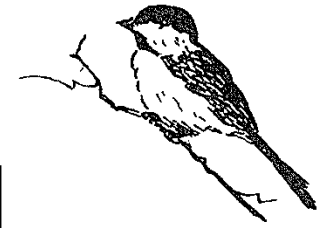
Labor Day reminds us of how much we have to be thankful for in America. We live in a country built on hard work by the hands of great laborers.

You might have an interesting time using a good concordance to look up references about work in the Bible. Then, let these verses prove excellent subject matter for discussion or memorization.

Discussion idea: You could spend some time on this holiday thanking the Lord for the work you



*Year at a Glance Holiday Calendar*



<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>

Photocopy and write in Holidays as they appear for each year.  
Add Holidays which are particularly important to your family.



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