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 7:30 a.m.–6 p.m.
 Enjoy coffee and pastries, take home a gift, and learn about Emerald PUD and our programs.

Thursday, October 8, 6–8 p.m. at EPUD
 FREE carnival games, prizes, entertainment, and fun for all ages! Get a hot dog meal for **only \$1**, and all proceeds will go to Helping Hands, Emerald's assistance program for local families in need.
Please join us!

Harvest Celebration

EPUD 541-746-1583
www.epud.org

Board: Ron Davis, Katherine Schacht, Penny Jordan, Kevin Parrish, Lee Kelley

Pet Tips 'n' Tales
 by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

*A Duck's Tale by
 Larry, Moe and
 Curly*

"On our wedding anniversary, we were in the farm and feed store," explains Kim, "admiring three cute Pekin ducklings. Curt spontaneously decided to buy the babies, Larry, Moe and Curly (named after The Three Stooges), so we could provide our friend's autistic son, who can't eat chicken eggs, with duck eggs.

We had no clue how to tell which duckling was female or male — they look exactly alike from head to tail...and under. When the three Stooges began laying eggs (male ducks don't) we finally knew their gender; thwarting Curt's plans to incubate eggs and raise babies. He wasn't going to stop his dream of having the biggest duck herd in our neighborhood! That's when his next 'feather brain' idea formed. 'Why don't we get 20 more ducklings,' he declared. My disapproval of increasing our flock of three fell off him like 'water off a duck's back'.

When the babies arrived, I introduced one fluff ball to the Stooges, but the ducks would have none of that! I thought that since the Stooges were laying eggs they would look at the duckling and think, 'Hey! Look! We made a baby! Let's take care of it!' — but no. They waddled away honking, 'Get that 'ugly duckling' away from us!'

The other 19 itty-bitty fluffies in unison stopped chirping at the duck ruckus and looked in the Stooge's direction at their out-of-proportion alarm.

One would think that 'birds of a feather, flock together,' but apparently ducklings and ducks have a 'pecking order.'

When our babies escape their fenced area, the elder ducks sound the 'duck alarm' with a lot of crazy-loud honking. Maybe the older ducks are worried



Courtesy Photo

Duck duck? Goose goose? Meet Kim and Curt's flock of fluffy, puffy yellow Pekin ducks. The couple potentially created a 'fowl' nightmare with their 'ducky' wedding anniversary gift!

about a deadly small, fluffy yellow flock attack?!

They say, 'If it looks like a duck, quacks like a duck and swims like a duck, then it probably is a duck!' But, the Stooges are such 'bird brains'! They haven't figured out that the now two-month old ducklings, which morphed into white ducks, are ducks like them, so they keep their distance.

Ducks play in the water and it gets everywhere. They are sloppy but keep themselves relatively clean. Their water and food areas are worse than a two-year-old's bedroom — with a mud floor!

Pekins are friendly domesticated, egg-laying ducks that weigh 8-11 pounds. They eat A LOT — so you can guess the rest! You don't want them on your back porch because they, ummm, have poor and squishy bathroom results from their tasty 'eat a slug and see what happens' menu!

An interesting thing is that the Stooges rest under our vehicles and only venture out where there are other roof-type shelters or when we are close. Their behavior of 'duck and cover' is life saving! Occasionally, a Stooge tilts her head and looks up. When I follow her gaze an eagle or hawk is circling, soaring up high, scoping out our yard. It's a puzzle how ducks

can hear predator birds from such a distance.

Pekins are known to follow their owners like dogs, and our loud Stooges make great watchdogs, err, watch ducks. One morning we heard frantic honking. We ran to the window and saw a bear cub the size of a very large dog. Curt loudly clapped his hands and it ran away. I bet the Stooges 'honked' that adventure up in the barnyard, telling the other animals that they should 'add it our bill' for security help!

The expression to 'get your ducks in a row' is true. It is the cutest thing watching the young flock when one duckling decides to go someplace and the rest follow its lead, waddling in tandem. It makes me want to break out into a song, 'Waddle while you work'.

What 'quacks us up' is when the ducklings do what sounds like 'Disney duck laughing'! We hear one start, then soon it sounds like they are telling each other something super humorous. Then, they all erupt into Donald Ducks laughing. We say, 'I wonder which 'bird brain' is telling funny duck jokes again!'"

Just Ducky Tips

"The website backyardchickens.com is 'just ducky,'" said Kim, "as a resource of other people's duck experiences. I learned to keep the ducklings' shelter, water and food dishes clean, often changing them several times a day.

Curt, not one 'to duck his responsibilities', used free wood pallets to build the Stooges' shelter. He expanded the shelter, for the babies, into a large laying house and warm-winter shelter. Also their fenced area grew larger as they did.

We buy children's wading pools which the flock all try to climb into at once - truly 'taking to water like ducks'!

Our ducks taught us to read ingredients so that our dog's food is healthy for dogs not ducks! We were confused when they ate the dog's food because wild ducks don't kill cows for beef! Curious, I looked at the ingredients; the first was what ducks love -CORN - the rest were mostly fillers! What! Where's the beef?!

'Top Worst and Best Dog Food' webpage explains why our ducks discovered the truth!" <http://recipes4gourmetdogs.com/worst-dog-food-brands/>

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JOYCE

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choice. We can "rely on our own insight and understanding"—endlessly thinking about our problems, trying to figure everything out ourselves. Or we can choose to adopt a trusting attitude that says, "God, I don't know what to do about this situation, but I can't fix it on my own. If You want me to do something, I ask You to show me. Meanwhile, I'm going to trust You and enjoy my life while You work on my problems."

I used to be a professional worrier—I was good at it. Years ago, when my children were young, I would sit at our kitchen

table and spend hours looking at our bills, worrying how we would pay them. Dave, on the other hand, would be sitting on the floor in the TV room, letting the kids put curlers in his hair.

I would say, "Dave how can you have fun at a time like this?" And he would answer, "Joyce, we've prayed about it, and we're doing everything we know to do. I refuse to be miserable with you."

It made me so mad! But Dave was right. I was allowing myself to get upset and waste time I could have been spending with my children.

In John 14:27 Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; My

[own] peace I now give and bequeath to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. [Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimidated and cowardly and unsettled.]"

I love this! God is saying, "I am giving you My peace, but the choice is up to you!"

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus offers us a new way of living; however, a new way of thinking will always precede this new way of living.

Romans 12:2 says, "...Be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God..."

This scripture is so important!

God has a good, acceptable, and perfect plan for you and me, and the way we can experience it is not to think like the world thinks, but to be changed by learning to renew our mind and think the way God thinks.

So, when life throws you a curve and you're tempted to get stressed-out, I encourage you to choose positive, faith-filled thoughts from God's Word. You can think, The Lord is going to take care of this. It doesn't matter what it looks like—I believe God is working!

The truth is God knew about your problem before you ever got it, and He already has a plan for your solution. In the meantime, you can choose to enjoy your life while you wait. He has equipped you with the "mind of Christ" (see I Corinthians 2:16) and with His help, you can trust more and stress less.

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