

Boris – A Story of Restoration

In December of 2018, we noticed that two cats were living under the cover of the church BBQ. One was an adolescent kitten about six months old, and the other an adult cat. We named them Boris and Natasha (assuming the larger cat was the mom of Boris).

We started feeding the cats daily. (We are Presbyterians after all, and show love through hospitality and food!). Boris would approach us and hiss as we dished out food while Natasha would wait for us to be out of eyesight to come eat.

After a couple of months, we asked Chico Cat Coalition to trap the cats, spay/neuter them, give them rabies shots and return them to the church. We didn't want to have a burgeoning cat colony, and we want to be good neighbors to our downtown community. We found out that both Boris and Natasha were boys. So, we had Boris and renamed Natasha to Nat the Cat.

When we moved our offices closer to where Boris and Nat stayed. Nat left the church grounds. We are assuming that the smell of people was too much for his comfort. Boris, lonely without his buddy, started to meow outside the office. We got a toy to play with him, and then Boris, a completely feral cat, came tentatively forward and lowered his head to be petted. He really enjoyed being touched and petted by first one staff person and later the whole office staff and office visitors.

Today, Boris spends his days inside as an office cat visiting people and welcoming attention from everyone. At nights, he goes outside to catch mice and sleep in his plush bed under the BBQ.

It's a story of restoration: a feral cat's life changed by coming in (literally) out of the cold to understand what it means to know grace, love and kindness. Because of God's love for us, we understand how Boris must feel.

Colossians 1:19-21

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.



