

Gustafson: He was part of the first graduating class from the college's preservation program

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the church. The hall has more than 50 windows, which Gustafson is restoring through next summer. He visits, takes out three or four windows at a time, and heads back to his Albany workshop in a former evaporated milk warehouse.

"You don't want it to look shiny and brand new," he said. "That's not the point of historic restoration."

Gustafson, who said he has never replaced a window in his career, mainly focuses on repairing wood rot and other weather damage around the windows, most visible on the south and west sides of the building continually pounded by wind and rain. His process to repair the windows is a mix of high-tech, organic and antique technology. He takes off paint and glazing putty using an infrared heater, paints using organic linseed oil from Sweden and fabricates new parts for the window using pre-World War II woodworking tools.

Making it

When he started college in 2009, Gustafson, his wife Marcia and their 1-year-old son, Donevan, lived largely through the charity of the community. They stayed at his family's farm outside Astoria, trading handiwork for room and board, before moving into Astoria to be closer to his schooling.

They ate off food stamps and distressed vegetables from the Astoria Co-op Grocery, Gustafson said, while he rode his bike everywhere because they couldn't afford gas. His wife was the main breadwinner of the family, he said, while he played Mr. Mom and went to school, arriving two weeks late to start the year.

"He was a terrible student, a pain in the ass," joked Luc-



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Chris Gustafson's company, Vintage Window Restoration, is restoring the windows around Fellowship Hall at the First Presbyterian Church of Astoria. Pictured, from left, are daughter Jennarose, wife and company co-owner Marcia, son Donevan and Gustafson.

ien Swerdloff, director of the college's 6-year-old historic preservation program, in which Gustafson was one of the first students.

Gustafson, Swerdloff said, was the kind of student who became really engaged, took every possible workshop and had internships with local craftspeople. Most students decide where they want to focus by their second year, said Swerdloff, but Gustafson didn't reach that point until shortly before graduation.

In his second year, Gustafson said he siphoned off gas from vehicles around the family farm to fill his tank and drive to a window restoration project at Fort Worden in Port Townsend, Wash. The project ended up cementing his interest in windows.

Gustafson was part of the first graduating class from the college's historic preservation program, which has about 30 graduates. About three-quarters of those graduates are working in historic restoration



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Linda Oldenkamp shows one of the restored windows inside the First Presbyterian Church of Astoria Tuesday.

or related fields. Gustafson said he might be the only one doing windows professionally.

He and his family moved to Corvallis, where he studied recreation and resource management for a year, while fixing windows to help pay for his education. While his interest in earning the bachelor's degree quickly waned, his side job quickly turned into his life's passion. "I told

people I could fix a window, and I was in business."

Paying it forward

"That program has given me such a freaking awesome quality of life," Gustafson said of the college's historic restoration program, adding he tries to pay it forward whenever he can.

Running the company with his wife and a bookkeeper, Gustafson teaches workshops for

First Presbyterian Church dresses up

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Last year, the First Presbyterian Church of Astoria embarked on a three-year campaign called "Let's Get Dressed Up" to restore its now 112-year-old sanctuary and nearly 80-year-old Fellowship Hall.

The church has reached the midpoint of the three-phase project, hiring Astoria native Chris Gustafson this summer to restore more than 50 windows on Fellowship Hall.

"The first priority was the painting of the sanctuary, which happened last summer," said Linda Oldenkamp, a clerk for the church's elected body of elders. "The second priority was Fellowship Hall's windows."

Oldenkamp said the painting of the yellow, cream and brown of the sanctuary last summer cost more than \$50,000. Once finished, the church went out for bids on the Fellowship Hall windows and received three or four offers. In May, the "Let's Get Dressed Up" committee selected Gustafson, a graduate of Clatsop Community College's historic preservation and restoration program.

"We didn't take his bid because he was local or because he had gone through

the college's program," Oldenkamp said, adding Gustafson's bid was far and away the most professional.

Fellowship Hall has more than 50 windows needing restoration, she said. This summer, Gustafson is working on the south and west facades, long battered by wind and rain, moving on to the east and west next year.

Oldenkamp estimated it will take more than \$60,000 to restore the windows. The church has been raising money from its congregation of about 60, families with a connection to the church and the community at large.

The church, which estimated about \$1,200 for restoring each of the windows, recently started an adopt-a-window program, complete with funky, hymn- and window-themed donation levels like "Hallelujah Cornice" (\$1,200), "Amazing Glaze" (\$600), "Just a Closer Caulk with Thee" (\$300), "Be Still My Soul" (\$100) and "Just As I Jamb," open for any donation level.

The final phase of the restoration, Oldenkamp said, will be repairing a porch on the northeast side of the church.

To follow the "Let's Get Dressed Up" restoration project, visit www.firstpresbyterianastoria.org

Cape D: Ports of Chinook and Ilwaco say they're busier than ever

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The ports of Chinook and Ilwaco say they are busier than ever. Trucks and boat trailers line the streets of Chinook. Port Manager Ashley Davis said they enlisted the help of state patrol to help manage traffic so that the people lined up in their vehicles, waiting to launch their boats, didn't completely shut down the road through town. In Cape Disappointment, near the public boat launch, on a recent afternoon, the main and overflow parking lots were filled with vehicles and boat trailers; some were even parked in a grassy area at the center of a roundabout at the far end of the main parking lot. The fish cleaning stations have been getting constant use all summer long, park rangers say. With the facilities are no longer available, there have been complaints.

The nearest public fish-cleaning station now is the one installed only this year at the Port of Chinook. The Port of Ilwaco passed a "zero tolerance" ordinance forbidding

fish cleaning in the marina this year and has no plans to install a public fish-cleaning station.

A work of art

State Parks is considering what to do with Lin's 10-year-old installation, a large block of basalt that was recently re-engraved with words from the Chinook Indian creation story. Painter said it may be relocated to some other site inside the park where it can be appreciated as an object.

"Artwork is something we really value," Painter said.

Signs and wooden gates now block access to the facilities.

Painter said concerns about the park's cleaning stations "came from so many different places." The closure was not the result of a specific threat of litigation or intervention from the Washington State Department of Ecology or others, she said.

Leaders at the Port of Ilwaco were worried that fish parts dumped into the water could attract sea lions to the area — record numbers of the pinni-

peds hit marinas in Astoria this spring. Ilwaco Port Manager Guy Glenn Jr., said the port voiced its concerns to the Department of Ecology in March.

Currently, there is no existing mechanism at the site to contain and treat solid fish waste and no permit has ever been issued to allow this waste to be disposed of in Baker Bay.

"I certainly understand the concern," said Colin Fogarty executive director of the Confluence Project, a multi-location interpretive art project which includes the fish-cleaning station at Cape Disappointment.

But, he added, there has not been any evidence of sea lion problems or pollution issues since the artwork was installed 10 years ago. There have been fish-cleaning facilities in the same general area since the mid-20th century in association with the nearby public boat launch. He believed the tidal flow in and out of the bay is adequate to flush any fish waste away.

"The frustrating thing for us



Natalie St. John/EO Media Group

On a busy Saturday afternoon, plenty of people were fishing, but no one was using the Confluence cleaning station but seagulls.

is that it does not seem to be a problem ... we're not talking about toxic waste; we're talking about fish."

"Certainly (fish waste) is not the most foreign thing to go back into the water, but it does create some water quality concerns," agreed Chase Gallagher, southwest regions communications manager for the DOE, who said the level of use there

has never been high enough to require a permit. But, in recent years, the facilities have seen heavier use than State Parks ever expected when it agreed to the installation of Lin's cleaning table, Painter said.

"So as the usage increased, it probably still isn't at the permit requirement level, but it is an area of concern," Gallagher said.

Fishing surprise

The news of the closure caught Fogarty by surprise.

"We're on the side of the fishermen," he said, while questioning the advisability of closing it "at the height of the fishing season, using that work of art as it was intended to be used."

He said the organization is working with State Parks, the Department of Ecology and the Port of Ilwaco to come up with a solution. He said the Confluence Project has no issue with State Parks, which has been a "very good partner" in making the project a success.

Ultimately, it may be desirable to construct a recreational fish-cleaning facility with appropriate wastewater treatment in the park, but that would "probably be an expensive and complicated thing," Painter said.

On a recent afternoon, days after the facilities at Cape Disappointment were closed, sport fishermen drifted by, cleaning fish and dumping the waste over the side. A small flock of gulls followed close behind.

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