

Of Junior Wardens (continued)

Junior warden Jim Harris clashed with two prominent women of the parish, both of whom are still very much with us and will remain anonymous, over the selection of the cabinetry. He believed that the cabinets they had chosen were budget-busters and unilaterally changed the order to a less costly alternative. Harris was told by one woman that he had acted “without authorization,” and she cancelled *his* order!

Fr. Gable, who may have provided flawed guidance to Harris, convened a meeting of the parties to the dispute. The women’s fiscal authority in the kitchen project was confirmed, and Harris was advised by one of them that he had approached the project “ass backwards.” The bloodied junior warden retreated from the meeting with the wish that “someone [would] explain to me what is going on in this church....”

The undercroft kitchen would soon become an irrelevancy with the building of the addition and its vastly superior culinary facilities. Still relevant is the key role in the material life of the parish played by the junior warden and the importance of interpersonal skills in playing it. -Jim Weingartner

P.S. Harris went on to Seabury-Western Theological Seminary and is now rector of St. Anne Episcopal Church in DeSoto, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. There, he combines his priestly calling with the role of triathlete, participating in numerous ironman competitions. Those challenges involve swimming 2.4 miles, followed by a 112-mile bike ride, topped off by a 26.2 mile marathon run, all within 16-17 hours. Tact is not required