



John C. Hooper
Secretary

John spent most of his adult life as a Montessori teacher — a "guide," as Montessorians call it — first with the youngest children, ages 2½ to 6, for fifteen years, then in elementary, including thirteen years teaching upper el (ages 9–12). Retired for six years now, he's found his garden is the better for it, along with his bonsai, his orchids, and his ongoing pursuit of a good sourdough loaf. A good part of his time is devoted to caring for his wife, Debbie, who has multiple sclerosis — "but that burden is easy."



WELCOME TABLE

He and Debbie found St. James Episcopal Church after a long search, and they have been active members since. John joined the Welcome Table board about four years ago — a commitment his retirement finally made room for. John offers, "I had a friend once who talked and wrote about celebrating the differences between people rather than sticking to your 'tribe.' Community, to me, means taking care of everyone and challenging yourself to do it when the people you care for are different and perhaps difficult. Since joining St. James, I have found a multitude of people who have done that very thing, so I'm blessed to be a part of that community."

