

Dear [NAME],

My church, St. Joe's in Durham, runs an amazing Community Breakfast program that feeds homeless people in our neighborhood every weekday. I'm writing to ask if you would sponsor a day of food for this incredible community. The Breakfast Minister's Letter below has more information.

*Lent, 2025*

*Dear Neighbor,*

*Five mornings a week, St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in Durham, North Carolina, serves a hearty breakfast to anyone who turns up. Housing insecure people from our neighborhood and the broader Triangle region sit down to a complete breakfast of eggs, bacon, casseroles, pastries, cereal, quiche, fruit, coffee and juice, all prepared by a dedicated team of volunteers. St. Joe's, I've heard it said, is the best breakfast in Durham, and it's absolutely free.*

*While our Breakfast Community has been meeting for many years now, it grew substantially in 2024. We went from serving breakfast three days a week to every weekday. Attendance at each breakfast also increased. When we last wrote this letter, we predicted that we would serve 4,800 breakfasts over the course of the year. In reality, we served over 10,000 meals. If the current attendance patterns continue, we will serve nearly 18,000 meals in 2025.*

*I am fond of saying that Community Breakfast is a dignity ministry, not a food ministry. People come to Breakfast for the meal, but they find so much more. "Breakfasters" find tables set with flowers, tablecloths, real plates and silverware. We find new friends and abundant laughter. We find a sense of dignity we might have forgotten. As one breakfaster told me recently, "on the street, I don't feel like a person. Here, I feel like a person." Breakfast is a lifeline to community, connection, and a renewed sense of dignity for guests and volunteers alike.*

*We are grateful for the support we received in 2024 that made expanding breakfast possible. We hope you will join us in making a gift to meet increasing need in our community in 2025.*

*We need your help to meet the demands of this growth. Would you consider making a donation to support our breakfast Community? A gift of \$193 – about \$3 per guest -- will support one morning of breakfast. It buys bacon (we cook 7 pounds a day), grits (we measure in gallons), coffee (120 cups),*

*and butter (you don't want to know). It buys toilet paper, Lysol, and hand sanitizer. It does not pay my salary or any of our administrative overhead, which are provided for by private funding and the church's budget.*

*In other words, your donation goes a long way and directly benefits the dozens of food insecure people who come to Community Breakfast each morning.*

*We hope you will consider sponsoring, or joining with your friends to sponsor, a day of breakfast is 2025. You can make a gift online, by check, or Venmo- please find more information about how to donate on the back of this letter.*

*Your Friend at the Table,*

*The Rev. Lachlan Hassman*

*Associate Vicar and Breakfast Minister*

#### *Ways to Donate*

*Online, at [bit.ly/StJoesCommunityBreakfast](https://bit.ly/StJoesCommunityBreakfast) or via the QR code below:*



*Through Venmo, using our account @Stjosephsdurham*

*Be sure to send us your email – as a comment on the transaction or to [breakfast@stjosephsdurham.org](mailto:breakfast@stjosephsdurham.org) – if you would like a receipt for tax purposes.*

*By sending a check:*

*St. Joseph's Episcopal Church*

*1902 W. Main St.*

*Durham, NC, 27705*

*Be sure to note "Community Breakfast" in the memo line, and include your email if you'd like a receipt.*

*Questions?*

*Reach out to Fr. Lachlan by sending an email to [breakfast@stjosephsdurham.org](mailto:breakfast@stjosephsdurham.org).*

*Or leave a voicemail at our office – 919.286.1064*