

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

12663 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810

Mission Statement

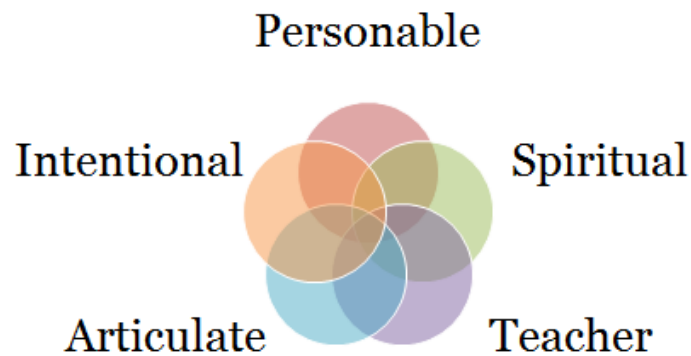
Seeking and Serving HIM, we are Renewed
to follow the call of Christ,
as we share the Gospel in our Community.

When one of us says, “I go to St. Margaret’s,” our eyes get a little brighter and our voices and faces lift. The person to whom we are speaking can tell that “going to St. Margaret’s” is something special, and that something special happens among the people there.



We are a small congregation in Baton Rouge, Louisiana currently searching for our eighth Rector. Over the next few pages we summarize our history, current status and plans for the future. We hope you find these pages informative, and perhaps you too might discover some of the same *specialness* that we find at St. Margaret's.

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We are seeking a person of knowledge and faith, with life experience



Our Current Ministry and Short-term Goals Include



Mentor Families



Develop Children's Program



Develop Newcomers Program



Listen – Love - Invite



St. Margaret's Story dates back to its founding in 1973, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It is a story of a small group of people founding a church in a developing urban area. We invite you to read an overview of those early years on our [website](#). Most of who we are today, however, has transpired in just the last several years.

Like many churches, St. Margaret's has enjoyed periods of growth and has suffered decline over the years, along with the ebb and flow of our local economy. Inadequacy of our physical plant and our growth during times of expansion, inhibited our ability to retain new members during times of decline. To resolve these problems, St. Margaret's committed to a major facility expansion at the beginning of the 21st

century.

With the approval and help of the Diocese, St. Margaret's hired architects, developed a financial plan and secured a bank loan to expand our space. We built a new kitchen, seven classrooms, restrooms and a new parish hall. This additional space allowed us to provide a room for our choir, children's Sunday School, a nursery and a place for adult education/meetings. We also had a parish hall to meet, greet, welcome and provide hospitality to our church family, newcomers and our neighbors. We also remodeled our Sanctuary, but were unable to fully complete the original vision we had for the space.

With the new facilities and friendly, accommodating people, the church grew to an average Sunday attendance of 85 in 2007. Unfortunately, shortly thereafter, dissension broke out following some controversial decisions by the Episcopal Church USA, and as a result, St. Margaret's lost about a third of its members. From that time until 2011, St. Margaret's struggled with 30-40 average Sunday attendance and several interim/supply priests. A full-time priest was hired, but he left us after only two years to join the Anglican Church.

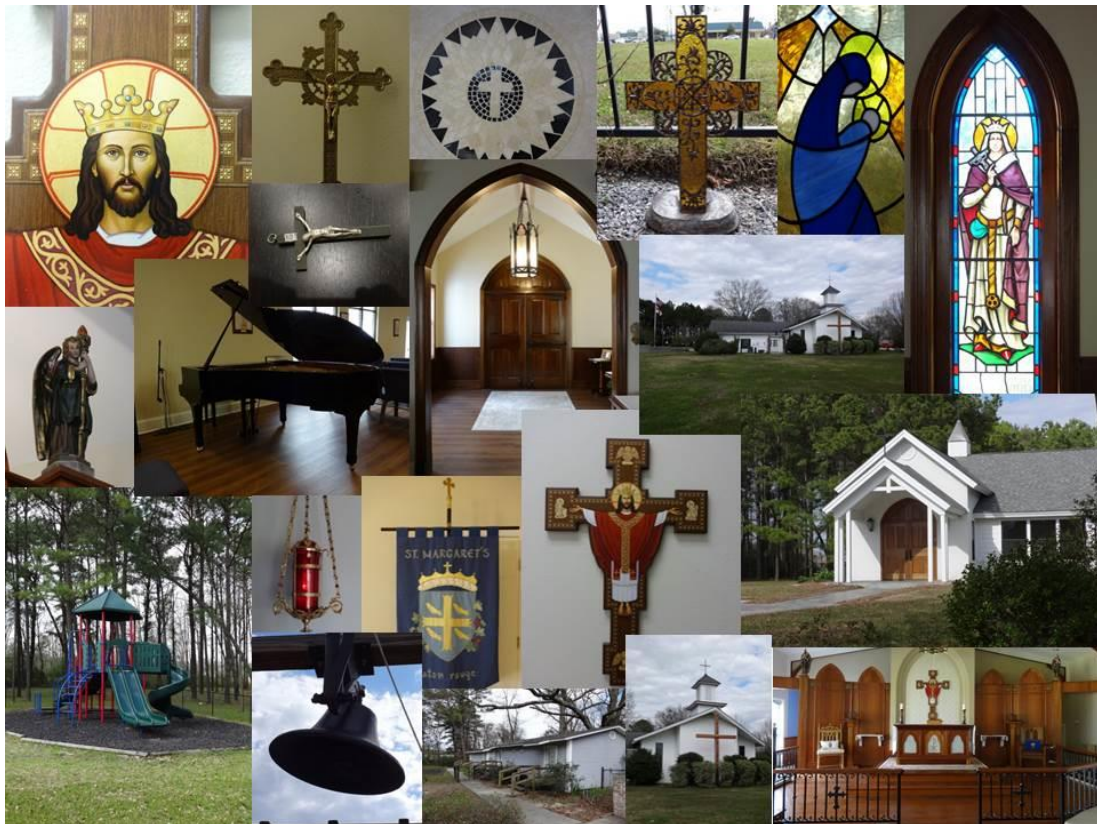
Bishop Morris Thompson, Jr., our current Bishop, introduced a Clergy and Congregation Development Program (CCDP) in 2011. Centered on the power of prayer, the program brought together five churches in need of Priests to match with seven candidates he had recruited to the task. The candidates visited every church, met the leadership and attended social functions. The church leadership and candidates each ranked their top three picks. St. Margaret's top pick was also our candidate's top pick. An agreement was made for the candidate to stay three years. He stayed for five.

As a direct result of following God's teaching -- *love one another as Christ loves us* -- during those five years, our wounds healed.

Under Father Edwards, our Sunday attendance doubled, new programs were started, and educational programs about the Episcopal Church and social issues were introduced and heartily welcomed by the congregation. Emblematic of our transformation, we finally built that new Sanctuary our founding members had only dreamed about. We did so without incurring debt. All costs of the new Sanctuary were totally subscribed by current contributions from our church family, as well as support from the Baton Rouge Deanery. We now have a worship space that actually looks like a church. It is complete with stained-glass windows, a chapel and seating for 140.

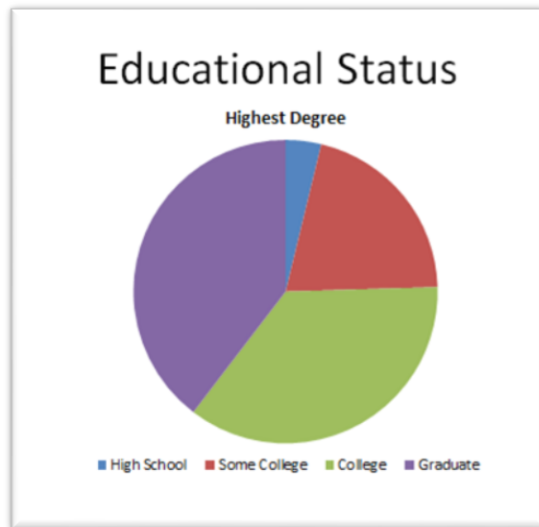


We know our journey does not end with a bit of construction. There are many more challenges before us. We are eager to take them on. We know that God will bless us with a new leader, who will toil with us in HIS vineyard that we call St. Margaret's, and together we will do the work that HE has given us to do.



About St. Margaret's, the area and people:

St. Margaret's is located in the southern part of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in a rapidly growing section of the city. The average household income for in the area is \$117,000, and the average home sells for about \$250,000.



We are a small, but healthy congregation with an average Sunday attendance of 84 souls. We have slightly more females than males, and 65% of us are between the ages of 50 and 70. About half have attended St. Margaret's for more than 10 years.

Although we come from a variety of religious backgrounds, only 10% of us have not yet been confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church. We tend to place a great deal of value on education. Some 70% of our parishioners hold college degrees, and more than 40% have advanced graduate or professional degrees.

We hold two Sunday worship services with Eucharist, and one weekday evening service with Eucharist. Our parishioners enjoy a mix of theological styles and special masses. We do not have a particular orientation for high- or low-church, but enjoy participating in an orderly liturgy. We encourage parishioners to serve in various roles supporting the services and to become personally involved in church activities. We currently have 68 assigned service roles each month, and 75% of our parishioners attend services three or more times each month. Importantly, 85% of our parishioners report that St. Margaret's has had a positive impact on their lives during the past year.

Education Activities & Program types

We enjoy the opportunity to expand our knowledge and spirituality through educational classes and forums, and we host a variety of offerings throughout the year. Our classes usually draw between 15 and 40 parishioners and non-affiliated visitors. Recent topics and offerings include:

Adult Forum: A classroom-style adult Sunday School for Bible and special topical studies held between services each Sunday. Usually drawing 15-25 adults

Wednesday Dialogues: An in-depth study of issues of topical importance encouraging open discussion and a greater understanding of scripture and the teachings of the Episcopal Church. Recent topics include "Racial Reconciliation and the Impact of Confederate Symbols," and "Marriage, Family and Same Sex Unions."

Confirmation: The rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.

Sacramental Symbols: A review and discussion of the symbols of our liturgy and elements of sacramental expression.

Hebrews: Classic Bible study of scripture with open discussion

Ministries and Organization

We operate a number of different ministries and programs to enhance our spiritual development and bring comfort to our community.

AA Meetings: The Twelve-Step Program created in 1935 by Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith that addresses addiction and changes lives through the real transformative power that is the core of the Gospel.

Altar Guild: Comprised of 17 members that work in teams of four that rotate to set up the altar and Lord's Table weekly. The Guild is responsible for decorating the church for Christmas and Easter. This special servant ministry is one of the ways newcomers are incorporated into the church family.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Age-appropriate scripture lessons and chapel during the adult service for young children.

Choir: Our music program significantly enhances the St. Margaret's worship experience. Led by Maria Curry, an LSU faculty member, the choir is frequently augmented with professional singers from the LSU School of Music.

Diocese Commissions & Committees: Parishioners serve on a variety of Diocesan committees and boards. Current assignments include The Executive Board, attendance and representation at Diocesan Convention and service on the Standing Committee.

Hope-Keepers: Hope-Keepers of Baton Rouge is a small group support program for anyone affected by chronic illness or pain, emotional or physical.

KAIROS is a prison ministry partially based on Cursillo. Our mission statement is "listen listen love love."

Landscape: Maintaining and planning church grounds and upkeep

LEM Visitors: Lay Eucharistic Minister Visitors take the sacraments of Communion, the Day's Readings and Prayers



to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration.

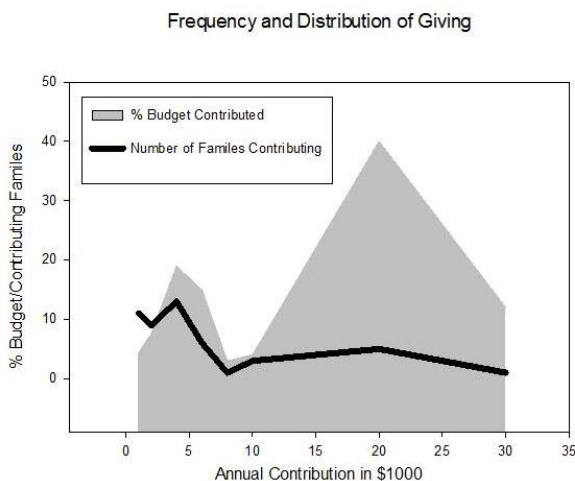
Men's Group: Through sharing a meal together once a month with Bible study or listening to an invited guest, to service projects, prayer and attending retreats, we remind ourselves that while we are waiting on God to work for us, He is waiting to work through us.

S.P.I.N: Serving People In Need is a community organization dedicated to outreach and care for the homeless and needy. St. Margaret's SPIN group delivered 840 meals in the downtown area on the 3rd Sunday of each month under the Mississippi River Bridge in 2015.



Stewardship

Like most churches, St. Margaret's holds an annual Stewardship drive each autumn, which accounts for the bulk of our financial resources for the next year. We usually focus this event around the feast day for St. Margaret, which is November 16. Most people give in routine installments. Stewardship is a yearlong activity, and we emphasize a lazy river approach where one can join anytime.



Philosophically, we focus on the positive, and encourage people to get involved. We teach that we give through obedience to scripture, gratitude, and in the future. In 2015, we ended the year in budget surplus, and the number of pledging families increased from 40 to 49, with an average commitment of \$4,700. The distribution of giving is shown in the following table and chart. Beyond that, 98% of our parishioners recognize the need to contribute of their time and talents in support of St. Margaret's. One of our more notable accomplishments is building a new \$255,000 Sanctuary -- the cost of which was fully subscribed by our parishioners and paid for completely in the last two years.

Fellowship and Social Activities



In addition to service functions and the occasional church potluck dinner (we like crawfish), we have a few programs to promote fellowship among our members.

Kid Cam: A commercial childcare operation with whom we have partnered for summer and holiday camps, and to gain experience in a pre-school program. We saw more than 100 different children this past summer.

FOYERS: Modeled after the Foyers program from Coventry Cathedral, we have four groups of eight randomly-matched parishioners that gather in a member's home for dinner and fellowship once per month.

Popcorn Theology: A quarterly evening social event viewing select movies and discussion of the deeper meanings.

Facilities

We invite you to a [virtual tour](#) of St. Margaret's.

St. Margaret's campus is nestled on approximately three acres of beautiful land located in one of Baton Rouge's most central locations, the corner of Siegen Lane and Perkins Road (a main corridor of our city).

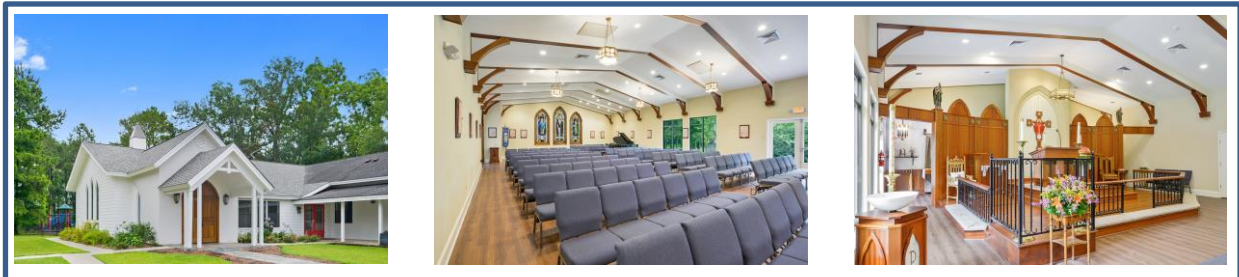
Today, St. Margaret's consists of connected buildings including the original 1978 building now serving as the large Parish Hall, which can be used for wedding receptions, luncheons, or any large gatherings with the ability to seat 100. There is a fully-equipped kitchen. These facilities are available to the public for hosting any type of small, medium or large events.

There are two large pastoral offices, fully equipped with high speed internet access, copy machines, shelving and desks. Adjacent to the Parish Hall, is the conference room, used for Sunday School worship. This room serves as the main meeting room for Church business and other civic and group activities. It seats approximately 30 people with multi-media presentation equipment. A large hallway leading to the new church building connects the administrative sector and Parish Hall. In between are public restrooms, four large classrooms for children's activities, 2 nurseries with private restrooms, a choir room, and storage.

The *new* Sanctuary opened its doors in 2014 with a beautiful Narthex adorned with a stained glass window of the patron Saint Margaret, welcoming all those who enter the double oak doors for worship. The church was built in the Anglican traditions, but also in keeping with Louisiana traditions. The new Sanctuary features soaring 30-foot ceilings with accent lighting and cross beams. The new Sanctuary includes three stained-glass windows from different parts of the country. These beautiful works are of Mother Mary, Jesus' Crucifixion and Mary Magdalene. Placed in the west wall these figures stand 18 feet tall, and illuminate with the setting sun.

The choir area in the rear of the church seats approximately 25 and features a Grand piano and organ. The hand-crafted altar made in Louisiana features an original relic of the Patron Saint Margaret from Scotland. The wall behind has the carvings of thistle which represent St. Margaret's Scottish heritage, an emblem cast from a mold from St. Giles Church in Edinburgh, Scotland. Hand-carved in the wood is the beautiful fleur-de-lis representing our French and Louisiana culture. The alter railings are made of decorative wrought iron also with fleur-de-lis accents. A small chapel (Saint Savior's) located just behind the altar was created as a private confessional and prayer area with soothing colors for meditation and reflection.

The Memorial Garden on the front lawn was designed by the builder with the American and Episcopal flags in the middle of a brick and stucco curved wall with wrought-iron cross set in the center. The garden features slate stone in the shape of the Celtic cross with spaces for flowers. There are benches and the garden is surrounded by boxwood. An altar is there for outdoor ceremonies, and is used for Palm Sunday processions. Also on the grounds are two out buildings located behind the new church, for classrooms and children's activities. There is a playground just off a large patio.



All about Baton Rouge

First, Baton Rouge is French for “red stick.” French trappers observed a large red pole along the Mississippi River that divided Indian hunting grounds and marked it as a trading post. Baton Rouge is the capital of Louisiana, and the seat of East Baton Rouge Parish. Louisiana has *parishes* instead of *counties*. The city is located on the eastern bank of the Mississippi River. As the Capital City, Baton

Rouge is the political hub for Louisiana and is the second-largest city in the state. The metropolitan area hosts a population of 820,159 people (2013).

Education

Baton Rouge affords a variety of educational options with a number of well-developed public, private and parochial schools in the area. The East Baton Rouge Parish Public School System operates primary and secondary schools around the Parish. The City of Baton Rouge is also home to 15 charter schools with a total enrollment of 3,800 pupils. The EBR System is the second largest public school system in the state and contains nine U.S. Blue Ribbon Schools and a nationally renowned Magnet Program. It serves more than 42,850 students, and with the help of 6,250 teachers and faculty, the district has shown growth and increase in its District Performance Score (DPS). They operate 90 schools with 56 elementary schools, 16 middle schools and 18 high schools. Notably, Baton Rouge also offers a self-contained Gifted and Talented Program for grades K-12. This program is extremely popular for high-achieving students and offers an accelerated and differentiated educational curriculum.

There is also a well-developed Episcopal school system in Baton Rouge. The Episcopal School offers Pre-K thru Grade 12 with an approximate enrollment of 943 and is recognized as one of the best schools in Louisiana. St. Luke's also offers Pre-K thru Grade 8 with an approximate enrollment of 352. Trinity has Pre-K thru Grade 5 with an enrollment of 192, and St. James has Pre-K thru Grade 5 with an approximate enrollment of 273. St. Margaret's also hopes to establish a preschool that will funnel students to the other Episcopal schools within the next three years.

The Baton Rouge area has a bounty of Higher Education opportunities. The largest of these is Louisiana State University, the flagship institution for the state. A *U.S. News & World Report* top-tier university for five years running, LSU offers a world-class education at an affordable price. Its \$675,833,415 annual budget also makes it a major economic force in the region and supports student success including instruction, research, academic support, scholarships, and student services. LSU has more than 1,300 full-time faculty operating 69 Bachelor's degree programs, as well as, 76 Master's, and 48 doctoral programs. There are nearly 30,000 students (52% female, 27% non-white, 20% from out of state, 5% international) and more than 375 active student organizations, 20 athletic teams and 47 National Championships.

The LSU campus is a great place to visit with such outstanding landmarks as the 5,000-year-old Indian Mounds, Mike's Habitat, the Parade Ground, its own Dairy Store, Tiger Stadium, and the numerous museums and exhibits that populate the halls. These hidden treasures, along with state-of-the-art classrooms, some of today's most advanced supercomputers, and top-notch lab space provide the foundation that makes LSU not just a destination, but an experience.

Southern University, located in Baton Rouge, is part of the only historically black land-grant university system in the United States. Southern became a land-grant school in 1890, and an

Agricultural and Mechanical department was established. The university is the largest HBCU in Louisiana.

Smaller higher education offerings include: Virginia College for technical training in areas like Cosmetology, Business, Health and Medical Billing. Our Lady of the Lake College, an independent Catholic institution in the Baton Rouge medical district that has programs in nursing, health sciences, humanities, behavioral sciences, and arts and sciences. It has an associated hospital, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center. Southeastern Louisiana University School of Nursing, offering traditional baccalaureate and master's degree programs as well as LPN and RN to BSN articulation. Baton Rouge Community College, a two-year post-secondary public community college, has an enrollment of more than 8,000 students. Plus there is The University of Phoenix, The Pennington Biomedical Research Center specializing in nutrition research, the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

Culture and Recreation

From a diverse culinary scene to live music, Baton Rouge offers a unique Louisiana experience. Politics is deeply entwined in the culture of Baton Rouge; it can be found both in the storied past of local dealmakers, showcased at the Old Louisiana State Capitol, and in the political history that is being written now inside the art deco skyscraper that serves as the current capitol.

The city buzzes with the energy of youth while holding fast to its traditions in Southern lifestyle and historic sites. LSU's home football games dominate the fall social calendar, and the fans have perfected the art of tailgating before filling the immense Tiger Stadium. A revival is underway in the city center where attractions range from a riverfront casino to the USS Kidd floating museum to the ultra-contemporary Shaw Center for the Arts, which clusters an art museum, gallery spaces, theaters and restaurants in the heart of downtown.

Tourism

Downtown Baton Rouge is just minutes from LSU and is a vibrant hot spot where you can attend an art exhibition or a concert or eat sushi while you watch the sun set over the Mississippi River. Local attractions include the LSU Museum of Art; the Louisiana Art and Science Museum; the Shaw Center for the Arts; the Baton Rouge Zoo; and an array of festivals, including international, book, animation and blues. The city is quickly becoming known as the “Hollywood of the South,” with major studio films like the *Twilight* series, *Pitch Perfect*, and others being filmed in Baton Rouge. Go to visitbatonrouge.com to learn more about the city.

Recreation

BREC operates public park and recreation facilities and programs throughout East Baton Rouge Parish. This award-winning agency is a member of NRPA (The National Recreation and Park

Association) and has been nationally accredited and recognized as one of America's premier recreation and park departments. BREC maintains more than 180 parks that feature a wide variety of quality facilities with family-oriented leisure activities for all ages and population groups. BREC's mission is to contribute to a healthier, more vibrant community by providing exceptional parks, open spaces and recreational experiences for all of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Shopping, Business and Economics

Although food is always a favorite in Baton Rouge, shopping is not far behind. With two malls, an outlet mall, boutiques for women, men and children and antique malls, you are sure to find what you are looking for. A wide variety of shopping venues in Baton Rouge include upscale shopping at the Mall of Louisiana, Towne Center, Bocage Village and Perkins Rowe. Also, spend a day perusing the unique stores in the eclectic Mid-City area with thrift stores, antiques, art galleries and more. The Baton Rouge Arts Market has become a local tradition held every first Saturday of the month in the city's historic downtown district. Festive, friendly and good natured, this event holds court with the Red Stick Farmer's Market, another institution in the city. Featuring an array of fresh produce and Louisiana food products, shoppers can also sip on a java, visit with artisans, purchase gifts and enjoy the fresh air.

Economy

Baton Rouge is a major industrial, petrochemical, medical, research, motion picture, and growing technology center of the South. The Port of Greater Baton Rouge is the tenth largest in the United States in terms of tonnage shipped. The city enjoys a strong economy that has helped the city be ranked as one of the Top 10 Places for Young Adults in 2010 by *Portfolio Magazine* and one of the top 20 cities in North America for economic strength by Brookings. In 2009, the city was ranked as the 9th best place in the country to start a new business by CNN.

One of the largest single employers in Baton Rouge is the state government. The research hospitals Our Lady of the Lake, Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital (affiliated with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital), Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center, helped by an emerging medical corridor at Essen Lane/Summa Avenue/Bluebonnet Boulevard, are positioning Baton Rouge to eventually support a medical district similar to the Texas Medical Center. Southeastern Louisiana University and Our Lady of the Lake College both have nursing schools in the medical district off Essen Lane. Louisiana State University's Pennington Biomedical Research Center, which conducts clinical and biological research, also contributes to research-related employment in the area around the Baton Rouge medical district.

The film industry in Louisiana has increased dramatically in the last decade, in response to generous tax incentives adopted by the state in 2002. In September 2013 the Baton Rouge Film Commission reported that the industry had brought more than \$90 million into the local economy.

St. Margaret's Church Organization and Administration

Staff

Meisie Beauvais - Office Coordinator
Maria Curry - Music Director
Jordon Weber - Nursery Worker
Sara Cox - Nursery Worker

Wardens, Officers, Vestry/*Search Committee

Senior Warden- Dave Foster
Junior Warden- Mike Boies
Secretary – David Cassidy
Treasurer- Debby Boies
Vestry: Paul Allman, Linda Brown, Keith Duplechain, Charles Huggins, Susan Raines,
Dick Truman
Search Committee - Chip Blair, Debby Boies, Joe Bonsignore, Tiffany Ellis, Dick Truman

For more information, Contact:

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www.saintmargarets.com
www.edola.org

Applications accepted till position is filled