

Baylor University, the oldest university in Texas, was founded in 1845 through the work of farsighted pioneer missionaries. The vision of its founders and the ongoing commitment of generations of students and scholars are reflected in the University motto: Pro Ecclesia, Pro Texana — For Church, For Texas. Baylor has educated thousands of ministry leaders through its Department of Religion and George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

BAYLOR
UNIVERSITY

Baptist Standard
The Texas Baptist NewsJournal - www.baptiststandard.com

The *Baptist Standard* newspaper is affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas and has served Texas Baptists since 1888.

The *Standard's* mission is to inform, inspire, equip and empower people to follow Christ and expand the kingdom of God.

The Texas Baptist Ministry Awards have been jointly sponsored by the *Baptist Standard* and Baylor University since 2002. Past award recipients:

George W. Truett Award

2007 Cindy & Dennis Wiles
2006 Jimmy Dorrell
2005 Alejandro Camacho
2004 Ron Nolen
2003 Chris Seay
2002 Albert L. Reyes
1999 Browning W. Ware
1998 Maurice Vance Johnston
1997 Bruce McIver
1996 James H. Landes
1995 William Ray Parmer
1994 John F. Baugh
1993 Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler
1992 Randall H. Fields
1991 W. Winfred Moore
1990 W. Dewey Presley

W. Winfred Moore Award

2007 Elmin K. Howell Jr.
2006 Dick Maples
2005 A.J. "Jack" Green
2004 Charles Davenport
2003 Ron Durham
2002 Tillie Burgin
2001 Clyde Glazener
2001 William M. Pinson, Jr.
2001 Robert J. (Bob) Ray, Jr.
2000 E. Dwaine Greene
2000 Wilbert H. Long
2000 W. Winfred Moore

Marie Mathis Award

2007 Charles R. "Dick" Hurst
2006 Shirley Madden
2005 M.H. "Butch" Peters, Jr.
2004 Gaynor Yancey
2003 Micaela & Rudy Camacho
2002 Ophelia Humphrey

In 2000 and 2001 there were three W. Winfred Moore Award recipients and no George W. Truett Award recipients.

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**George W. Truett Award
FOR MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE**

Joel Pulis



The vision for what became the Well Community in the Oak Cliff neighborhood of Dallas was birthed in Joel Pulis' heart beginning in early 2001. Since then, he has led that ministry, which grew out of Cliff Temple Baptist Church, to become the only faith-based organization in Dallas working to bring recovery services to one of the city's neediest and most neglected groups—the mentally ill.

Pulis is founding pastor and executive director of the Well Community, a fellowship working to bring love and health to people experiencing severe mental illness. Now in its seventh year, the Well focuses on the core issues related to mental illness—isolation, hopelessness, poverty—by providing community members with a healthy environment and access to needed resources. Pulis has compared the Well to a ministry to orphans—psychiatric orphans who have been pushed away by family and spiritual orphans who have trouble fitting into a traditional congregation.

The Well is a church—a worshipping and witnessing community that is about 40 percent Anglo, 40 percent African-American and 15 percent Hispanic, with a sprinkling of Asian, American Indian and other ethnicities. It also is a community development organization, providing resources to neighbors in need—particularly people with bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and other brain dysfunctions.

Pulis knows the community well. He grew up in Oak Cliff, and several members of his family have suffered the effects of mental illness. Before he began the Well Community, he served on staff at Cliff Temple Baptist Church, where he was ordained in August 2000.

He holds an undergraduate degree in sociology from Baylor University, and he has pursued graduate studies at Dallas Baptist University, the Antioch Training School in Waco and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

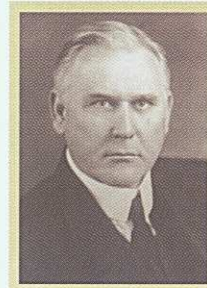
The Well received the statewide Genesis Award for Innovative Ministry from the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 2004. Last year, the ministry was featured in *People* magazine.

Both the ministry and its founder have been recognized by the Foundation for Community Empowerment and its Building Capacity/Building Communities program.

Pulis received the Community Support Award from the Dallas chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness in 2005.

He is married to Laura. They have one daughter, Grace.

George W. Truett



The George W. Truett Award for Ministerial Excellence recognizes a Texas Baptist minister, in any area of specialization, for a singular ministry achievement in the recent past. Achievements meriting consideration combine and exemplify imagination, leadership and effectiveness.

The award is named for the legendary pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, who was a driving force in Texas Baptist life in the first half of the 20th century.