**Winners of Young Adult Women’s Essay Contest Announced**

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 11/9/15)—**Judson Press and American Baptist Women’s Ministries are pleased to announce the winners of the “Sisters of Scripture” national essay contest for American Baptist young adult women. The contest invited entrants from ages 17-35 to submit essays inspired by *Sisters of Scripture: Mentors in Womanhood* by Billie Montgomery Cook. The essay theme “Who is the Ruth or Deborah in Your Life” reflected the book’s focus on biblical women who can serve as mentors to today’s young adult women. Essays were judged by a team representing American Baptist Women’s Ministries and American Baptist Home Mission Societies, as well as author Billie Montgomery Cook.

“I was pleased with Judson Press’s invitation for American Baptist Women’s Ministries to partner in this essay contest that has empowered young adult women to give voice to the topic of mentors. Their essays are an inspiration to all of us to reflect with gratitude about those who have mentored us in our faith and leadership,” said American Baptist Women’s Ministries Executive Director Virginia Holmstrom.

**Congratulations to the winners:**

First place: Tiffany Saunders, Floral Park, NY

Runner-up: Michelle Payne, Bronx, NY

The first place winner receives the Elva S. Riggins scholarship for $1,000 in honor of the mother of former Judson Press CEO, Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins III. The runner-up receives a $500 scholarship.

*Sisters of Scripture: Mentors in Womanhood* ushers young women into a warm and welcoming relationship with the women of the Bible through the stories of women such as Eve, Sarah, and Vashti, encountering relationship, trust and self-respect issues that many young women of today face. Inspiring, enlightening, and empowering, young women will see themselves in these stories and find hope, love and faith.

*Sisters of Scripture: Mentors in Womanhood* retails for $14.99 and is available from Judson Press by calling 800-458-3766 or ordering online at www.judsonpress.com.

*Founded in 1824, Judson Press is a publishing ministry of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, American Baptist Churches USA. It is committed to producing Christ-centered leadership resources for the transformation of individuals, congregations, communities, and cultures.*

*American Baptist Women’s Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God. www.abwministries.org.*

*American Baptist Churches is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with over 5,200 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members, across the United States and Puerto Rico, all engaged in God’s mission around the world.*