We also celebrate...

- The setting of appointments, which may be found at www.awfumc.org/apt2018
- Several award winners:
  - **Francis Asbury Award**: Rev. Lisa Pierce of Alabama Rural Ministry
  - **Alice Lee Award**: Dr. Shirley Woodie of Ozark FUMC
  - **Harry Denman Evangelism Award**: Dr. Matt Mobley (clergy) and Merrily York of Gulf Breeze UMC (lay)
  - **One Matters Award**: Guy’s Chapel UMC and Red Hill UMC
  - **United Methodist Federal Credit Union Scholarship**: Atkins Webb of Marion UMC
  - **Susanna Wesley Leadership Award**: Dr. Shirley Woodie of Ozark FUMC
  - **Scouting Cross & Flame Award**: Mr. Roger Mixson and Mr. Charles Phillips
  - **Bishop’s Scouting Award of Excellence**: Headland UMC
  - **Local Church Heritage Award**: Milton FUMC
- The approval of four resolutions and voted on one general conference constitutional amendment
- The collection of hundreds of UMCOR kits and countless supplies
- A $10,673,705 million budget for mission and ministry for 2019
- A .12% increase in missional giving over 2016, the highest in 20 years
- Over 133,000 members in our conference
- The 2019 session will be held June 2-5, 2019 at Frazer Memorial UMC

For complete coverage of the 2018 Annual Conference session, visit www.awfumc.org/ac2018
The 2018 Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference was held June 3-6 in Montgomery, AL, with the theme, “Imagine a Church That’s the Hope of the World.” Bishop David Graves, presiding over his second annual conference session since becoming the resident bishop, welcomed clergy and lay members to Frazer Memorial UMC in Montgomery.

A capacity crowd attended the Opening Worship Service on Sunday evening, June 3. The service began with a Call to Worship led by Beverly Maddox, conference lay leader. A mass choir from around the conference, and led by Wayne Sigler of Frazer, provided inspiring music for the service. Bishop James Swanson of the Mississippi Episcopal Area preached the sermon, “The Sea is No More” based on Revelation 21:1-5. Ephesians 3:20 was the sending forth and was read in four languages: English, Spanish, Shona, and Korean.

Communities of Transformation was the beneficiary of the 2018 missional offering. COT is an innovative initiative that partners low-income families with community volunteers. Over $56,000 was collected for this ministry. Thank you for your generosity!

Thirty-one clergy and clergy spouses who passed since the 2017 AWF Annual Conference session were remembered Monday during the Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion. Bishop David Graves offered the opening prayer and Rev. June Jernigan, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Ministerial Services, delivered the inspiring and uplifting sermon entitled, “Thankful for God’s Call” based on 1 Samuel 3:1-18, which was read by Rev. Richard Williams of Aldersgate UMC. Surviving family members were hosted at a special luncheon by the AWF Commission on Archives and History.

The Service of Commissioning and Ordination was held Monday evening in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church in Montgomery. The congregation represented family members and special friends of those being commissioned and ordained. The service included the commissioning of two provisional deacons and one provisional elder and the ordination of one deacon in full connection and four elders in full connection. Bishop David Graves preached a sermon entitled, “Let Them Know You Love Them,” based on John 15:9-17.

Eighteen clergy were recognized upon their retirement by Rev. Kathy Knight of Milton FUMC during Monday’s order of the day. Rev. Joe Reams spoke on behalf of the retiring class. Back by popular demand was the “passing of the torch.” Rev. Sung Kuk Hong, who was ordained an elder in full connection Monday evening, spoke on behalf of the newly ordained class, signifying new leadership in the conference. Together, the retiring clergy have 487 years of service in our conference.

Presiding over his second AWF Annual Conference, Bishop David Graves took intentional time to diligently thank those who were an integral part of annual conference and stated that he would post his Episcopal Address online at a later date due to time. Dr. David Saliba of Perdido Bay UMC was honored for his service as the outgoing Annual Conference Secretary.

The conference was honored by the outstanding leadership of several guests. Bishop James Swanson of the Mississippi Episcopal Area preached the opening worship service. Julia Kuhn Wallace led the Tuesday teaching session and small group discernment time. We welcomed President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith from Birmingham-Southern College and President Cam West from Huntingdon College, as well as Blake Horne, director of the United Methodist Children’s Home and Christopher Tomlin from the Methodist Homes for the Aging. Mrs. Nancy Graves gave the Mary Ellen Bullard Leadership Address at this year’s laity banquet and Mrs. Casey Graves Johnson spoke at the spouse’s luncheon.

Back by popular demand was the addition of morning worship services on Monday through Wednesday. These worship services, under the direction of Rev. Jay Cooper of Bay Minette UMC, incorporated people from around the conference. A special emphasis was made to involve people representing the various stages of ministry, which included seminary students, local pastors, deacons, elders, laity, clergy spouses, and conference staff. Also returning to conference this year was the availability of translating devices for Hispanic clergy and lay during business sessions.