FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB APPROVAL | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number: | 3235-0287 | | | | | | | | |
| Estimated average burden | | | | | | | | | |
| hours per response: | 0.5 | | | | | | | | |

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Schalliol Charles E</u> | | | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol FIRST MERCHANTS CORP [FRME] | | | | | | | | neck all a | ionship of Reporting F all applicable) Director | | Person(s) to Issuer | |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|--------|--|----|--------|---|---|---|---------------------|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 200 E JACKSON STREET | | | | | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/05/2016 | | | | | | | | | Off bel | cer (give title ow) | | Other (pelow) | (specify |
| (Street) MUNCIE IN 47305 (City) (State) (Zip) | | | | | 4. If | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | | e) X Fo | or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable m filed by One Reporting Person m filed by More than One Reporting son | | | |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transact Date (Month/Day | | | | | | Execution Date | | | Transaction Disposed Code (Instr. | | | ties Acquired (A) o l Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 | | | 5) Secu Bend Own | nount of Irities eficially ed Following orted | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership |
| | | | | | | | | | Code | v | Amount | (A) (D) | or | Price | Tran | saction(s) r. 3 and 4) | | | (Instr. 4) |
| Common Stock 02/05/2 | | | | | | | 2016 | | P | | 1,000 | A | 1 | \$22.5 | 19 4 | 44,006 ⁽¹⁾ | | | |
| | Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) Date Exercisable Expiration Date | | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. and 4) Amount or Numbe of Title Shares | | ount | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | | Owner Form: Direct or Indi (I) (Ins | (D) irect | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Includes Restricted Stock Awards totaling 8,273 shares

Remarks:

<u>Jennifer Mainord (Confirming</u> Statement on File)

02/08/2016

** Signature of Reporting Person

Date

 $Reminder: Report \ on \ a \ separate \ line \ for \ each \ class \ of \ securities \ beneficially \ owned \ directly.$

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.