



**ITEM 8.01 OTHER EVENTS**

On October 30, 2009, First Merchants Corporation issued a press release announcing the declaration of a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.08 per share. The cash dividend is payable on December 18, 2009 to stockholders of record as of December 4, 2009. A copy of the press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

The information in this Form 8-K and the attached exhibit shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing.

**ITEM 9.01 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS.**

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Exhibits.

Exhibit 99.1 Press Release, dated October 30, 2009, issued by First Merchants Corporation

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## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

First Merchants Corporation  
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Mark K. Hardwick  
Mark K. Hardwick  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial and Principal Accounting Officer)

Dated: October 30, 2009

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.

99.1

Description

Press Release, dated October 30, 2009, issued by First Merchants Corporation

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October 30, 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information, contact:

Mark K. Hardwick, Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, 765-751-1857

<http://www.firstmerchants.com>

SOURCE: First Merchants Corporation (Nasdaq: FRME), Muncie, Indiana

**FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION ANNOUNCES QUARTERLY CASH DIVIDEND**

At its meeting held on October 28, 2009, the Board of Directors of First Merchants Corporation declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.08 per share on its common stock.

The cash dividend is payable December 18, 2009, to stockholders of record December 4, 2009. For purposes of broker trading, the ex-date of the cash dividend is December 2, 2009.

**About First Merchants Corporation**

First Merchants Corporation is a financial holding company headquartered in Muncie, Indiana. The Corporation is comprised of First Merchants Bank, N.A., which also operates as Lafayette Bank & Trust, A Division of First Merchants Bank, N.A., Commerce National Bank, A Division of First Merchants Bank, N.A., as well as First Merchants Trust Company, N.A., and First Merchants Insurance Services, a full-service property casualty, personal lines, and healthcare insurance agency.

First Merchants Corporation's common stock is traded over-the-counter on the NASDAQ National Market System under the symbol FRME. Quotations are carried in daily newspapers and can be found on the company's Internet web page (<http://www.firstmerchants.com>).

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