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On October 11, 2005, the Board of Directors of First Merchants Corporation declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.23 per share on its outstanding common stock. The cash dividend was payable to stockholders of record on December 6, 2005. The cash dividend was distributed along with a letter to the stockholders on December 20, 2005. A copy of the stockholder letter is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this report and is furnished pursuant to Regulation FD.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

- (a) Not Applicable.
- (b) Not Applicable.
- (c) (99.1) Stockholder Letter dated December 20, 2005.

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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.

DATE: December 20, 2005

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION  
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Mark K. Hardwick

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Mark K. Hardwick,  
Executive Vice President

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EXHIBIT INDEX  
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Exhibit No. -----	Description -----
99.1	Stockholder Letter dated December 20, 2005.

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First Merchants Corporation

Exhibit 99.1

Stockholder Letter, dated December 20, 2005

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December 20, 2005

Dear Shareholder:

The First Merchants Corporation Board of Directors has declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$.23 per share to holders of record December 6, 2005, payable December 20, 2005.

We announced on November 3, 2005, that Michael C. Rechin would be joining our executive staff as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Mike has an extensive banking career spanning 22 years and most recently was Executive Vice President of Corporate Banking for National City Bank, managing its Indiana operations. In his role as Chief Operating Officer, he will oversee the activities of our nine banking affiliates located in Indiana and Ohio.

The Board of Directors is pleased to provide this dividend to you, and we are appreciative of your continued support of our Corporation. Should you have any questions regarding our Company, we welcome them through our internal Shareholder Relations Department (800/262-4261, ext. 7278), or through direct e-mail link on our Web site, and invite you to avail yourselves of this service.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Cox  
President and Chief Executive Officer

MLC/ch

Enclosure