

FIRST FARMERS & MERCHANTS CORP
Form DEF 14A
March 20, 2012

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14a-101)

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities

Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. _____)

Filed by the Registrant x

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant o

Check the appropriate box:

o Preliminary Proxy Statement

o Confidential, for use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

x Definitive Proxy Statement

- o Definitive Additional Materials
- o Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

FIRST FARMERS AND MERCHANTS CORPORATION
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

N/A
(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
 - o Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies: _____
 - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies: _____
 - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined): _____
 - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction: _____
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 - o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials. _____
 - o Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
 - (1) Amount Previously Paid: _____
 - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.: _____
 - (3) Filing Party: _____
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FIRST FARMERS AND MERCHANTS CORPORATION

COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE

March 23, 2012

Dear Shareholder:

The 2011 annual report to shareholders for First Farmers and Merchants Corporation and its bank subsidiary, First Farmers and Merchants Bank, is enclosed. Because this information will be discussed during the business session of our annual meeting, we encourage you to bring the annual report with you.

The official notice of the meeting of shareholders, proxy and proxy statement are enclosed. PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE PROXY CARD AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. If you attend the meeting, you will have the opportunity to withdraw your proxy and vote in person.

Please note that the annual meeting will be held on the **2nd Floor, in the First Farmers and Merchants Bank Northside Office, 901 Nashville Highway, Columbia, Tennessee, on April 17, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. Central Time.** Please indicate on your proxy if you will be attending the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

T. Randy Stevens

Chairman of the Board and

Chief Executive Officer

FIRST FARMERS AND MERCHANTS CORPORATION

816 South Garden Street, P.O. Box 1148, Columbia, Tennessee 38402-1148

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To Be Held on the 17th day of April, 2012

To the Shareholders of First Farmers and Merchants Corporation:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of First Farmers and Merchants Corporation (the Corporation) will be held **the 2nd Floor, in the First Farmers and Merchants Bank Northside Office, 901 Nashville Highway, Columbia, Tennessee, 38401 on April 17, 2012 at 11:30 a.m., Central Time**, for the following purposes:

1. Election of Directors: Election of the following 15 nominees as directors of the Corporation:

Kenneth A. Abercrombie	Thomas Napier Gordon	Patrick J. Riley	Kimberly D. Vella
James L. Bailey, Jr.	Dalton M. Mounger	Matthew M. Scoggins, Jr.	Dan C. Wheeler
M. Darlene Baxter	Timothy E. Pettus	T. Randy Stevens	Dr. David S. Williams
Jonathan M. Edwards	Dr. Joseph W. Remke, III	W. Lacy Upchurch	

2. To transact such other business as may properly be brought before the annual meeting or any adjournment thereof.

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Shareholders of record at the close of business on March 1, 2012 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

To assure that your shares are represented at the meeting, please mark, date, sign and promptly return the enclosed proxy card. The proxy is revocable and will not affect your right to vote in person in the event you are able to attend the meeting.

By order of the Board of Directors,

Martha M. McKennon
Secretary

March 23, 2012

FIRST FARMERS AND MERCHANTS CORPORATION

816 South Garden Street, P. O. Box 1148

Columbia, Tennessee 38402-1148

PROXY STATEMENT

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To Be Held on the 17th day of April, 2012

The accompanying proxy is solicited by and on behalf of the Board of Directors of First Farmers and Merchants Corporation (the Corporation) for use at the Thirtieth Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on April 17, 2012 and any adjournment thereof (the Annual Meeting). The time and place of the Annual Meeting are set forth in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders. All expenses of preparing, printing and mailing the proxy and all materials used in the solicitation thereof will be borne by the Corporation. In addition to the use of the mail, proxies may be solicited in person or by telephone by directors, officers and other personnel of the Corporation or its subsidiary, First Farmers and Merchants Bank (the Bank), none of whom will receive additional compensation for such services. The Corporation will also request custodians and nominees to forward soliciting materials to the beneficial owners of common stock of the Corporation, \$10.00 par value per share (Common Stock), held of record by them and will pay reasonable expenses of such persons for forwarding such material. The date on which this Proxy Statement and the accompanying proxy card are first being mailed to shareholders of the Corporation is March 25, 2012.

PURPOSES OF THE MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held for the purposes of (i) electing directors, and (ii) transacting whatever other business may properly be brought before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

QUORUM AND VOTING

At the close of business on March 1, 2012, the Corporation had 5,330,000 shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding. Only holders of record of Common Stock at the close of business on March 1, 2012 are entitled to notice of and to vote on matters that properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof. A shareholder is entitled to one vote in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting for each share of Common Stock held of record in his or her name.

The presence in person or by proxy of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Common Stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting is necessary to constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof. Abstentions and broker non-votes are included for purposes of determining if a quorum exists. Abstentions will not constitute a vote for or against any of the matters presented for shareholder approval at the annual meeting and will be disregarded in the calculation of a plurality or of votes cast for each of the matters presented. Broker non-votes occur when a broker or nominee returns a proxy but does not have discretionary authority to vote on a particular proposal because the proposal does not concern a routine matter and the broker has not received voting instructions from the beneficial holder. For purposes of determining the outcome of any matter as to which a broker or nominee has physically indicated on the proxy that it does not have discretionary authority to vote, those shares will be treated as not entitled to vote with respect to that matter.

If a quorum is not present at the time of the Annual Meeting, the Chairman of the meeting or a majority of shares entitled to vote, represented in person or by proxy, have the power to adjourn the Annual Meeting until a quorum shall be present or represented by proxy.

If the enclosed proxy is properly executed, returned and not revoked, it will be voted in accordance with the instructions, if any, given by the shareholder. Unless shares are held by a broker, if a proxy is executed and returned but no specification is made, the proxy will be voted **FOR** the election of all nominees as directors of the Corporation. If any other business is properly presented at the meeting, the proxy holders will vote your proxy in accordance with their discretion.

Any shareholder has the power to revoke his or her proxy at any time, prior to the vote being taken at the Annual Meeting, by written notice or subsequently dated proxy received by the Corporation, or by revocation by the shareholder in person at the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof. If you wish to attend the Annual Meeting and need directions to the First Farmers and Merchants Northside Branch, Columbia, Tennessee, please contact Martha McKennon, Secretary of the Corporation, at (931) 388-3145.

PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors has nominated the 15 individuals below for election as directors to serve until the annual meeting of shareholders in 2013 or until their successors are qualified and elected. Article III, Section 2 of the Corporation's Amended and Restated By-laws (the Bylaws) provide that there shall be no fewer than five directors. The Board of Directors believes it is in the best interest of the Corporation that there be 15 directors of the Corporation at this time. Proxies cannot be voted for a greater number of persons than the nominees named.

Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast by the shares of Common Stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, if a quorum is present. Neither abstentions nor broker non-votes will have the effect of voting for or in opposition to a director. The Corporation's charter does not provide for cumulative voting and, accordingly, shareholders do not have cumulative voting rights with respect to the election of directors. Consequently, each shareholder of record may only cast one vote per share of Common Stock for each nominee.

Unless a proxy specifies otherwise or there is a broker non-vote, the persons named in the proxy will vote the shares covered thereby **FOR** the nominees listed below. Should any nominee become unavailable for election, shares covered by a proxy will be voted for a substitute nominee selected by the current Board of Directors.

Fourteen of the 15 nominees are currently serving as directors and have served as a director since the 2011 annual meeting of shareholders. Directors are chosen based on their business skills, knowledge, experience, leadership skills and understanding of the Bank's business. William R. Walter, who is presently a member of the Board of Directors, has reached retirement age and, therefore, will not stand for re-election.

New Nominee for Election

The Board of Directors has nominated Kimberly D. Vella to serve on the Board of Directors and she has not previously served in such capacity. Ms. Vella has consented to be a candidate and to serve as a director if elected.

Kimberly D. Vella, age 45, joined Tractor Supply Company in January 1997 as Director, Human Resources and was promoted to Vice President, Human Resources in May 2001. She was named Senior Vice President, Human Resources in May 2007 and is a member of the Company's Executive Committee. In her current role, Kim leads the strategic human resources efforts to attract, develop, engage, reward, and align talent in support of the company's pursuit of talent generation and operating success. Prior to joining Tractor Supply Company, Ms. Vella held various human resources positions in retail, manufacturing and wholesale industries at Ferguson Enterprises, Genesco and the RTM Restaurant Group.

Ms. Vella holds her Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Relations from Trevecca University. She previously served as a Board Member of the YWCA and the United Way of Williamson County and was honored as a recipient of the 2009 Nashville Business Journal *Women of Influence*. Ms. Vella was nominated to be a member of the Board of Directors because of her leadership skills and years of experience as a director of Human Resources.

Incumbent Directors Standing for Re-election

The following information sets forth the name, age, length of service and a summary of specific experiences, qualifications, attributes or skills for each of the nominees for re-election as directors who are incumbent members of the Board of Directors. No director holds a directorship with any other public company or registered investment company.

Kenneth A. Abercrombie, age 69, has been a director of both the Corporation and the Bank since 1988. Mr. Abercrombie is a licensed funeral director and is presently associated with his son in a funeral home business. Mr. Abercrombie served as President and CEO of Loretto Casket Company from 1983 when he purchased the company until he sold the company in 2001. He continued to serve as plant manager for Loretto Casket Company until 2005. Mr. Abercrombie is a member of the Southeastern Law Enforcement Training Seminar Board of Directors, Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, Alabama Funeral Directors Association and Friends of Lawrenceburg. He is a past President and Member of the Tennessee Funeral Supply Sales Association, past member of the Lawrence County Board of Education and past Chairman, Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Abercrombie is a native of Lawrence County and a graduate of the University of North Alabama. Mr. Abercrombie was nominated to be a member of the Board of Directors because of his business skills and extensive experience as a director of the Corporation.

James L. Bailey, Jr., age 69, has been a director of the both the Corporation and the Bank since 1982. Mr. Bailey currently serves as Maury County Mayor. Mr. Bailey owned Bailey Drugs for several years. Mr. Bailey is a member of the South Central Tennessee Development District Board of Directors, Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Management of Maury County, Maury Alliance Board of Directors and Maury Alliance Economic Development Committee. He was appointed by the Governor to the State of Tennessee Collateral Pool. Mr. Bailey has been designated as a Certified Public Administrator by the University of Tennessee. He is a graduate of both the Columbia Military Academy and the University of Tennessee at Memphis College of Pharmacy. Mr. Bailey was nominated to be a member of the Board of Directors because of his leadership skills as County Mayor and a business owner and his extensive experience as a director of the Corporation.

M. Darlene Baxter, age 65, has been a director of both the Corporation and the Bank since 2007. Ms. Baxter is a native of Maury County, Tennessee and a retired Vice President of Maury Regional Medical Center. She served more than 25 years in the Maury Regional Health Care system. She was appointed Executive Director of the newly-created Maury Regional Healthcare Foundation. She was instrumental in Maury Regional Medical Center

being the first employer in the county to provide childcare services and worked on the development of the hospital into a healthcare system. She was involved in the operations of the Lewis Ambulatory Care Center, Wayne Medical Center and Marshall Medical Center. She represented Maury Regional Medical Center during General Motors transition to Spring Hill, at which time the hospital developed an agreement to provide on-site healthcare services to GM employees. Ms. Baxter is a member of the Columbia State Community College Foundation Board, Kiwanis Club, Martin Methodist College Alumni Association Board, and Boys and Girls Club of Columbia Board. In 2006, she served on the Bank's Maury County Advisory Board of Directors. Ms. Baxter was nominated to be a member of the Board of Directors because of her leadership skills and years of business experience as an executive officer of a regional hospital.

Jonathan M. Edwards, age 51, has served as a director of the Corporation and the Bank since 2010. Mr. Edwards has served as president and chief executive officer of the Edwards Group of Companies, including Edwards Oil Company of Lawrenceburg, Inc., Edwards Oil Company, Inc., South Tennessee Oil Company, Inc., Edwards Land Company L. P. and Edwards Real Estate, LLC since 1988. He is a Tennessee native and holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Alabama. Mr. Edwards' other affiliations include the following: immediate past president and three-term board member of the Tennessee Fuel and Convenience Association; Chairman of the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce (2006-2007); Columbia State Community College Foundation Board (2004-2007); First Farmers and Merchants Bank Advisory Board (2002 to 2010); Lawrence County Joint Community Industrial Development Board (1999 to present); Tennessee State Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Board (1996-2004); LifePoint Crockett Hospital Board (1999-2004); Texaco Orlando Regional Wholesale Council (1997-1999); Director of Alabama Oilmen's Association/Alabama Association of Convenience Stores (1996-1999); Bank of America Advisory Board (1993-2002); and Tennessee Grocers Association Director (1990-1993). Mr. Edwards was nominated to be a member of the Board of Directors because of his business management and leadership skills.

Thomas Napier Gordon, age 60, has served as a director of both the Corporation and the Bank since 1986. Mr. Gordon is actively involved in real estate investments. His civic and community endeavors have included Business and Industry Chairman of the March of Dimes Annual Drive, Director of King's Daughters' School, and Zion Christian Academy and deacon at Zion Presbyterian Church. Mr. Gordon received his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from Vanderbilt University in 1976 and has practiced law in Columbia, Tennessee since that time. Mr. Gordon was nominated to be a member of the Board of Directors because of his experience as an attorney and businessman and his extensive experience as a director of the Corporation.

Dalton M. Mounger, age 61, has served as a director of the Corporation and the Bank since 2010. Mr. Mounger is an attorney in private practice in Columbia, Tennessee and is a certified public accountant. He holds a bachelor's and juris doctor degree from the University of Mississippi. Mr. Mounger has served on the boards of the Maury Alliance, Maury County YMCA, Columbia State Community College Foundation Board, Columbia Main Street, Maury County Public Education Foundation Board, First Farmers and Merchants Bank Advisory Board, Columbia Central High School Academic Boosters and Kiwanis Club of Columbia. Mr. Mounger was nominated to be a member of the Board of Directors because of his legal, accounting, and business management skills.

Timothy E. Pettus, age 60, is President and a director of the Corporation and the Bank. Mr. Pettus has been an officer of the Bank since July 2002. He served as the Vice Chairman of the Bank from April 2005 until his appointment as President of the Corporation and the Bank in January 2007. Mr. Pettus served as Regional President, Southern Region of the Bank, from July 2002 until becoming Vice Chairman of the Bank. From 1998 until July 2002,

he was a senior banking executive with Bank of America in Lawrence County, Tennessee. He was first elected as a director of the Corporation and the Bank in January 2008. Mr. Pettus was nominated to be a member of the Board of Directors because of his 37 years of experience in banking and his leadership skills and knowledge from serving as President of the Bank.

Dr. Joseph W. Remke, III, age 61, has served as a director of both the Corporation and the Bank since 1999. Dr. Remke has been in private optometric practice since 1976. Dr. Remke is a native of Lawrence County. He attended Austin Peay State University and received his doctorate in optometry from Southern College of Optometry. He is past president of the Tennessee Optometric Association and has been honored as Tennessee's Optometrist of the Year. Dr. Remke is past president of the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce and is past chairman of the City of Lawrenceburg Board of Public Utilities. He has served on the boards of the 21st Century Council, the Columbia State Community College Foundation, the Austin Peay State University Foundation and the Sacred Heart School Endowment. He is the president of Remke Eye Clinic, a multi-disciplinary eye clinic. Dr. Remke was nominated to be a member of the Board of Directors because of his leadership and management skills and his business experience.

Patrick J. Riley, age 64, has served as a director of both the Corporation and the Bank since 2011. Mr. Riley has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of RCR Building Corporation since 1985. He is a licensed general contractor in 18 states. Mr. Riley was employed with Frank Orr Architects as a contract administrator and draftsman from 1972 to 1973; with Bob Haley, Inc., general contractor, as Vice President from 1973 to 1976; and with Gregg Construction Company, Inc. as Vice President from 1976 to 1985. He attended Memphis State University where he studied Construction Technology, University of Tennessee where he studied Real Estate and Owen School of Management at Vanderbilt University where he studied various courses. Mr. Riley has served on the Board of Directors and as Chairman of Business Development for Associated Builders and Contractors, on the Board of Associated General Contractors, on the Advisory Boards of director for Kraft Bros, Eastman, Patton & Harrell CPAs and First Farmers and Merchants Bank for Williamson County, on the Board of Trustees of Father Ryan High School, as Past President of the local chapter of American Society of Professional Estimators, and a member of the Rutherford County Code Official Association, Construction Financial Management Association, Construction Management Association of America, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, Kidney Foundation of Middle Tennessee, the Easter Seal Society and the CEO Roundtable. Mr. Riley was nominated as a member of the Board of Directors based on his expertise and proven success in organizational management and developing innovative programs and strategies.

Matthew M. Scoggins, Jr., age 62, has served as a director of both the Corporation and the Bank since 2008. Mr. Scoggins has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Tennessee Farmers Insurance Companies (TFIC) since January 2004. He joined TFIC in 1978, and has served in numerous positions including agent, agency manager, regional manager, lobbyist, and chief operating officer for TFIC 's property & casualty division. Mr. Scoggins is a Tennessee native who holds a Bachelor 's degree from the University of Tennessee and an M.B.A. from Belmont University. Mr. Scoggins was nominated to be a member of the Board of Directors because of his leadership skills and his executive experience in the insurance industry.

T. Randy Stevens, age 60, is Chairman of the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer and a director of the Corporation and the Bank. He has been employed by the Bank since 1973 and was promoted to Commercial Bank Officer in 1974. He was appointed Assistant Vice President in 1976 and promoted to Vice President in 1979. Mr. Stevens was appointed Vice President and Trust Officer of the Bank in 1982 and promoted to First Vice President in 1984. He was promoted to Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of the Bank in 1990. Mr. Stevens was elected as a director of the Bank and the Corporation in 1991 and appointed Vice President of the Corporation in 1991. He was appointed President and Chief Operating Officer of the Bank, effective December 31, 1995, and President and Chief Operating Officer of the Corporation in April 1996. He was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Bank and the Corporation in June 2002. He has been Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Corporation and the Bank since April 2005. Mr. Stevens was nominated to be a member of the Board of Directors because of his 38 years of experience in banking, his position as CEO of the Corporation and the Bank and his leadership experience as a long-time director of the Bank, the Corporation and other organizations.

W. Lacy Upchurch, age 65, has served as a director of both the Corporation and the Bank since 2007. Mr. Upchurch is the seventh president of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, the nation's largest state Farm Bureau, and a full-time farmer. In addition to being one of Cumberland County's major beef producers, Mr. Upchurch has served as Chairman of the Tennessee Pork Producers and on the Board of the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association, the Governor's Economic Development Board, various committees for the University of Tennessee and numerous Farm Bureau committees at the state level. In 2006, he served on the Bank's Maury County Advisory Board. A Fentress County native, Mr. Upchurch received his undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Tennessee. Mr. Upchurch was nominated to be a member of the Board of Directors because of his leadership and business skills and his knowledge of the agriculture and insurance industry.

Dan C. Wheeler, age 69, has served as a director of both the Corporation and the Bank since 1993. Mr. Wheeler is a retired Director of the University of Tennessee Extension Center for Profitable Agriculture. Prior to assuming the Directorship of the Center, he served for over seven years as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture after having completing a 30 year career with the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, including 20 years as the Chief Staff Officer. He is a past member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Tennessee, the Tennessee Board of Regents and the Tennessee Economic Growth Board. Mr. Wheeler holds a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture from the University of Tennessee. Mr. Wheeler was nominated to be a member of the Board of Directors because of his leadership in agricultural business and his experience as chair of the Bank's Audit Committee.

Dr. David S. Williams, age 65, has served as a director of both the Corporation and the Bank since 2001. Dr. Williams has been in private orthodontic dental practice in Columbia since 1976. He is a past president of the St. Louis University Orthodontic Alumni Association, past president of the Southern Association of Orthodontists, board member from Tennessee for the Southern Association of Orthodontists and Board of Directors and Orthodontic Consultant to the Tennessee Board of Dentistry. He is president-elect of the Charles H. Tweed International Foundation for Education and Research, a faculty member with the graduate orthodontic department of St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, and an examiner for the American Board of Orthodontics Certification program. Dr. Williams is a native of St. Louis, Missouri, and received his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry and Masters of Science degree from St. Louis University Graduate Orthodontic Department. Dr. Williams was nominated to be a member of the Board of Directors because of his business and finance skills developed from owning a dental practice.

Required Vote

If a quorum is present, the election of directors requires a plurality of the votes cast in person or by proxy by the shares of Common Stock entitled to vote at the meeting.

The Board of Directors recommends that the shareholders vote FOR each of the nominees.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The table below sets forth certain information, as of January 1, 2012, with respect to the beneficial ownership of the Corporation's Common Stock by (i) each person known by us to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of the Corporation's Common Stock, (ii) each director and nominee, (iii) each of the Named Executive Officers and (iv) all of the Corporation's directors and executive officers as a group:

Name of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership ⁽¹⁾	Percent of Class
FAMCO ⁽²⁾	565,137	10.603%
Thomas Napier Gordon ⁽³⁾	136,648	2.564%
T. Randy Stevens ⁽⁴⁾	75,000	1.407%
Patrick J. Riley ⁽⁵⁾	37,029	*
James L. Bailey, Jr.	17,088	*
John P. Tomlinson, III ⁽⁶⁾	15,966	*
Dan C. Wheeler ⁽⁷⁾	15,668	*
N. Houston Parks ⁽⁸⁾	14,144	*
Timothy E. Pettus ⁽⁹⁾	13,398	*
Matthew M. Scoggins ⁽¹⁰⁾	7,574	*
Joseph W. Remke, III ⁽¹¹⁾	7,160	*
David S. Williams ⁽¹²⁾	6,800	*
Kenneth A. Ambercrombie	5,000	*
M. Darlene Baxter	2,500	*
Jonathan M. Edwards ⁽¹³⁾	1,600	*
Dalton M. Mounger ⁽¹⁴⁾	1,400	*
Kimberly D. Vella ⁽¹⁵⁾	1,000	*
Patricia P. Bearden ⁽¹⁶⁾	434	*
W. Lacy Upchurch	400	*
Directors and Executive Officers as a Group ⁽¹⁸⁾	358,809	6.732%

* Less than 1%

(1) Unless otherwise indicated, all shares are owned of record.

(2) These shares of Common Stock are held in a fiduciary capacity by a Tennessee general partnership (FAMCO) established solely for the purpose of holding legal title to securities and other property transferred to it by the Bank as trustee, agent or otherwise. Except for those shares held in the Bank's Profit Sharing Plan, the beneficial holders have the right to vote 100% of these shares. The shares voted by the Bank's Profit Sharing Benefit Committee on behalf of the beneficial holders under the Profit Sharing Plan will be voted in a manner consistent with the best interests of the beneficiaries as determined by the committee in its fiduciary capacity. FAMCO's address is 816 South Garden Street, Columbia, Tennessee 38401.

(3) Includes 18,120 shares held by Thomas Napier Gordon, Jr., Mr. Gordon's son, 18,120 shares held by Edward Bradshaw Gordon, Mr. Gordon's son and 800 shares held by Teri Hasenour Gordon, Mr. Gordon's wife.

(4) Includes 2,000 shares held by Leesa M. Stevens, Mr. Stevens' wife, 36,000 shares held by Leesa M. Stevens Family Partnership, L.P., a limited partnership of which Mr. Stevens is a limited partner, and 35,800 shares held by Thomas Randall Stevens Family Partnership, L.P., a limited partnership of which Mr. Stevens is a limited partner.

(5) Includes 2,000 shares held in a brokered account by Mr. Riley.

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- (6) Includes 100 shares held by Teresa J. Beck, Mr. Tomlinson's wife, and 2,000 shares held by FAMCO IRA John P. Tomlinson.
- (7) Includes 5,400 shares held by Mary Carol Wheeler, Mr. Wheeler's wife.
- (8) As equal tenants in common with spouse, Suzanne C. Parks.
- (9) Includes 2,100 shares held jointly by Timothy E. Pettus and Ellen Pettus, Mr. Pettus' mother, 200 shares held jointly in trucking company, and 5,578 shares held by FAMCO IRA Timothy E. Pettus.
- (10) Includes 1,274 shares held by FAMCO IRA Matthew M. Scoggins, Jr. and 869 shares held by FAMCO IRA Mary P. Scoggins, in custody of Mr. Scoggins' wife.
- (11) Includes 4,100 shares held by FAMCO IRA Dr. Joseph W. Remke, III.
- (12) Includes 2,000 shares held by David S. Williams in a brokered account.
- (13) Includes 800 shares held by Cynthia Leigh Edwards, Mr. Edward's wife.
- (14) Includes 1,000 shares held by Dalton M. Mounger Retirement Plan and 400 shares held by Dalton M. Mounger in a brokered account.
- (15) Includes 1,000 shares held by Kimberly D. Vella in a brokered account.
- (16) Includes 124 shares held by FAMCO Roth IRA Patricia P. Bearden.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The biographical information of the executive officers of the Corporation and the Bank, as of March 1, 2012, is presented below. None of these executive officers has a family relationship with any officer or employee of the Corporation or the Bank. The biographies of Messrs. Pettus and Stevens are provided in the section above entitled PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

John P. Tomlinson, III, age 61, is Chief Administrative Officer of the Bank. He has been employed by the Bank since 1973 and was promoted to Commercial Bank Officer in 1974. He was appointed Assistant Vice President of the Bank in 1976 and promoted to Vice President in 1979. Mr. Tomlinson was appointed Manager of Mortgage Lending in 1986 and promoted to Senior Vice President in 1990. He was appointed Executive Vice President of the Bank in 1995 and elected Secretary of the Corporation in April 1996. He was appointed Vice President of the Corporation in December 1996 and Senior Executive Vice President of the Bank in 1998. Mr. Tomlinson was appointed Senior Executive Vice President of the Corporation in 1999. He was appointed Chief Operating Officer in June 2002 and Regional President of the Bank in 2003. He served as President of the Corporation and the Bank from April 2005 to January 2007. In January 2007, he was named Chief Administrative Officer of the Bank. Mr. Tomlinson served as a director of the Corporation and the Bank from 2000 to 2008.

N. Houston Parks, age 62, is General Counsel of the Bank. He has been employed by the Bank since July 1997 and began as Senior Vice President and Senior Trust Officer. He was appointed Executive Vice President and Senior Trust Officer in 2002. In 2005, he was promoted to Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of the Bank and Treasurer of the Corporation. Mr. Parks was appointed General Counsel of the Bank in 2009. He served as Treasurer of the Corporation from 2005 to 2010.

Patricia P. Bearden, age 49, is Treasurer of the Corporation and Chief Financial Officer of the Bank. She has been employed by the Bank since 1998 and was promoted to Trust Officer in 2000. She was promoted to Vice President and Trust Officer in 2003. Ms. Bearden was appointed Chief Financial Officer of the Bank in 2005 and was appointed Assistant Treasurer of the Corporation in April 2005. In 2010, Ms. Bearden was appointed Treasurer of the Corporation.

Martha M. McKennon, age 67, is Secretary of the Corporation and Secretary, Vice President and Executive Assistant of the Bank. She has been employed by the Bank since 1974 and was promoted to Customer Service Representative in 1980. She was appointed Executive Assistant of the Bank in 1984 and Assistant Vice President, Executive Assistant in 1991. Ms. McKennon was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Corporation in December 1996 and appointed Vice President/Executive Assistant of the Bank in 1997. She was appointed Secretary of the Corporation in 1999 and Secretary to the Board of Directors of the Corporation and the Bank in 2000.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Director Qualifications

The Board of Directors has not established formal qualification guidelines for its members. The Board considers only potential nominees who have several years of relevant business experience. Non-management director nominees generally need to be independent, as defined by the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange. Any nominee must be willing to serve for the nominal director's compensation paid by the Corporation. In addition, the Board of Directors evaluates nominees with the goal of maintaining a diversity of background and experience that complements the other directors.

Any shareholder, by written notice submitted to the Corporate Secretary, can nominate candidates for election to the Board of Directors of the Corporation. The written notice should be provided in accordance with the process contained in the Bylaws as more fully described in the GENERAL INFORMATION Items of Business for 2013 Annual Meeting of Shareholders section of this Proxy Statement. Candidates nominated by shareholders are evaluated in the same manner as the candidates nominated by the Board of Directors.

Director Independence

The Board has determined that 13 of its 15 existing directors are independent in accordance with the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange. The two individuals who are not independent, Messrs. Stevens and Pettus, are both executive officers of the Corporation. In addition, the Board of Directors has determined that the new director nominee, Ms. Vella, is independent in accordance with the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange.

During 2011, there were no relationships or transactions that the Board of Directors discussed in making its independence determinations with respect to each director identified as independent and no relationships or transactions precluded any such directors from being independent. The Corporation is not aware of any family relationships among any of its directors and executive officers.

Board Leadership Structure and Role in Risk Oversight and Management

Mr. Stevens has served as both the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation since 2005. The Board believes that a unified chairman and chief executive officer position has provided clarity of leadership and operating efficiencies. Additionally, Mr. Stevens' management experience and close relationship with the other officers of the Corporation improves the Board's effectiveness in its role of monitoring the management of the Corporation. The Board does not have a lead independent director. The Board is actively involved in oversight of risks that could affect the Corporation. Although the full Board has retained responsibility for general oversight of risks, this oversight is conducted primarily through committees of the Board, as disclosed in the description of each of the committees below and in the charters of each of the committees. The Board receives full reports by each committee chair regarding the committee's considerations and actions, as well as regular reports directly from officers responsible for oversight of particular risks within the Corporation.

Committees of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors conducts its business through its own meetings and through committees of the Bank's Board of Directors, which are described below. There are no standing committees of the Board of Directors of the Corporation because the principal business of the consolidated company is conducted by the Bank rather than the Corporation, which is a bank holding company. The Board of Directors of the Bank is identical to the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

The Corporation does not have a standing nominating committee. The entire Board of Directors of the Corporation fulfills the role of a nominating committee. Factors such as the Corporation's size and the nature of its business, the

consistently high rate of participation in meetings by each director, the fact that over half of the Corporation's directors are independent (as defined by the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange) and are individuals who come from diverse backgrounds, and the infrequent historical turnover in the membership of the Board of Directors contribute to the belief of the Board of Directors that a separate, independent nominating committee is not necessary. The entire Board of Directors serving as a nominating committee currently does not have a charter and, as noted above, not all of the directors are independent, as defined by the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange. Furthermore, the Board of Directors has not specifically adopted a policy regarding the consideration of shareholder nominees for directors, but its general policy is to welcome and consider any recommendations for future nominees. The Board of Directors will consider for nomination as director of the Corporation any director candidate recommended or nominated by shareholders in accordance with the process outlined under the section below entitled GENERAL INFORMATION Items of Business for 2013 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

The Bank's Board of Directors has five standing committees:

Audit/Compliance/CRA Committee;

Compensation Committee;

Executive Committee;

Oversight Committee; and

Trust Committee;

The following table sets forth the current members of the committees of the Board of Directors of the Bank:

Name	<u>Audit</u>	<u>Compensation</u>	<u>Executive</u>	<u>Oversight</u>	<u>Trust</u>
Kenneth A. Abercrombie		Chair	X	X	
James L. Bailey, Jr.	X		X		
M. Darlene Baxter		X		X	
Jonathan M. Edwards	X				
Thomas Napier Gordon		X	X		X
Dalton M. Mounger	X		X	X	
N. Houston Parks ⁽¹⁾					Chair
Timothy E. Pettus			X		
Dr. Joseph W. Remke, III	X			X	
Patrick J. Riley		X	X		
Matthew M. Scoggins, Jr. ⁽²⁾	X				X
T. Randy Stevens		X	Chair	Chair	X
W. Lacy Upchurch					X
William R. Walter		X	X		X
Dan C. Wheeler	Chair	X		X	
Dr. David S. Williams	X				

(1) Non-director member of Trust Committee.

(2) Audit Committee financial expert.

Audit/Compliance/Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Committee

Number of 2011 meetings: 10

The Bank has a separately designated standing Audit/Compliance/CRA Committee (the Audit Committee). This committee provides assistance to the Bank s Board of Directors in fulfilling its responsibilities related to internal control monitoring, accounting procedures, reporting practices, regulatory compliance and quality and integrity of the financial reports of the Bank. The charter of the Audit Committee was attached as an appendix to the Corporation s proxy statement for the 2010 annual meeting. The Audit Committee is composed solely of directors who are independent, based on the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange and are free of any relationship that, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, would interfere with their exercise of independent judgment as a committee member. Mr. Scoggins serves as the Audit Committee Financial Expert pursuant to Section 407 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 and the rules promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) thereunder.

The Audit Committee's primary responsibilities fall into three broad categories:

- Monitoring the preparation of quarterly and annual financial reports prepared by the management of the Corporation and the Bank, which includes discussing draft financial statements and accounting and reporting matters with management and the Corporation's independent registered public accounting firm.
- Responsibility for matters concerning the relationship between the Corporation and the Bank and the Corporation's independent auditors. This relationship includes:
 - ◆ recommending the appointment or removal of the Corporation's independent auditors;
 - ◆ reviewing the scope of their audit services and related fees, as well as any other services being provided; and
 - ◆ determining whether the Corporation's auditors are independent.
- Overseeing management's implementation of effective systems of internal controls, including the review of the activities and recommendations of the Bank's internal auditing program.

The Audit Committee has implemented procedures to ensure that during the course of each fiscal year it devotes the attention that it deems necessary or appropriate to each of the matters assigned to it under the committee's charter. The Audit Committee Charter is available on the Tools Annual Report page of the Corporation's website at www.myfirstfarmers.com.

Compensation Committee

Number of 2011 meetings: 6

The Compensation Committee's primary duties and responsibilities include establishing and monitoring compensation and benefit plan policies of the Bank and making recommendations regarding compensation and benefits for the officers of the Bank. The Compensation Committee has the authority to conduct or authorize investigations into any matters within the scope of its responsibilities and has the authority to retain such outside counsel, experts, and other advisors as it deems appropriate to assist it in conducting of any such investigation. This committee recommends to the Board of Directors of the Corporation and the Bank fees for board and committee meetings. The Compensation Committee reviews, evaluates and recommends to the Board of Directors of the Bank the officers' compensation program and deferred profit-sharing contributions for all eligible employees. The charter of the Compensation Committee is available on the Tools Annual Report page of the Corporation's website at www.myfirstfarmers.com.

Executive Committee

Number of 2011 meetings: 40

The Executive Committee reviews and recommends to the Bank's Board of Directors for its approval selected actions with regard to the general direction and conduct of the Corporation and the Bank. This committee acts on loan applications and reviews overdrafts, cash items, loans, lines of credit and loan reviews in accordance with the Bank's policies that have been approved by the Board of Directors.

Oversight Committee

Number of 2011 meetings: 4

The Oversight Committee ensures prompt action by the Bank in response to recommendations from, and reviews the results of examinations performed by, the Bank's regulatory agencies. It also reviews management's response to reports

of examination and periodically monitors the action taken by management in response to examination findings.

Trust Committee

Number of 2011 meetings: 12

The Trust Committee supervises the operations of the Trust and Financial Management Department of the Bank to ensure proper exercise of the fiduciary powers of the Bank.

Directors Attendance at Meetings

The Board of Directors of the Corporation met five times during 2011. Each member of the Board of Directors of the Bank and the Corporation attended at least 75% of the aggregate meetings of the Board of Directors and committees of which he or she was a member.

The Corporation does not have a policy regarding director attendance at annual meetings of shareholders because of the willingness of each director to be present at all annual meetings and the historical attendance of each director. All directors attended the 2011 annual meeting of shareholders.

Shareholder Communication with the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Corporation has adopted a process to facilitate written communications by shareholders or other interested parties to the Board of Directors. Persons wishing to write to the Board of Directors of the Corporation or a specified director or committee of the Bank Board of Directors should send correspondence to the Corporate Secretary at First Farmers and Merchants Corporation, P.O. Box 1148, Columbia, Tennessee, 38402-1148.

All communications properly received from shareholders or other interested parties will be forwarded to the members of the Board of Directors, or to a specific director or committee if so designated by such person. Any shareholder who wishes to communicate with a specific Board member should send instructions asking that the material be forwarded to the director. Solicitations, junk mail and frivolous communications will not be forwarded but will be made available to any director who wishes to review them.

Code of Ethics

The Board of Directors of the Corporation has not adopted a Code of Ethics, as defined by the rules and regulations of the SEC, because the principal business of the consolidated company is conducted by the Bank rather than the Corporation, which is a bank holding company. The Board of Directors of the Bank, however, has adopted a Code of Ethics for all employees of the Bank. A copy of this Code of Ethics can be obtained without charge by a written request to Human Resources Director, First Farmers and Merchants Bank, P.O. Box 1148, Columbia, Tennessee, 38402-1148.

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The executive officers of the Corporation do not receive compensation for service as executive officers of the Corporation but instead receive compensation from the Bank for service as executive officers of the Bank. The Compensation Committee of the Bank designs and implements compensation programs to attract, retain and motivate officers, employees and directors by offering attractive and competitive compensation elements and amounts. These goals are balanced against the need to control expenses for the benefit of the shareholders of the Corporation. The compensation programs are designed to reward production and foster loyalty to the Bank and the Corporation. To be competitive, the Bank seeks to provide salaries and benefits comparable to the median of those provided by other banking companies of similar asset size in the Bank's peer group. The Bank strives to be competitive using peer benchmark analysis of current market levels of compensation. The Compensation Committee believes that, in large part because of the Bank's compensation system, it has been able to assemble a team of effective and productive officers and employees.

General Compensation Philosophy

Decisions with respect to the compensation of the Bank's executive officers, including the Named Executive Officers, are made by the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee believes that the actions of each executive officer have the potential to impact the short-term and long-term profitability of the Corporation and the Bank. Consequently, the Compensation Committee places considerable importance on its task of designing and administering an executive compensation program.

The Bank has an executive compensation program that considers factors such as shareholder value and the overall performance of the Corporation and the Bank, as further described below under Cash Bonus Plan. The main components of the executive compensation program are base salary, cash bonus plan, employee benefits and perquisites. The Corporation and the Bank currently do not have an equity incentive compensation program. The Compensation Committee believes that an equity incentive program is not currently in the best interest of the Corporation or the Bank.

In determining the aggregate amount of base salary and cash bonus for the Named Executive Officers, the Compensation Committee considers compensation levels for the chief executive officer, the chief financial officer and other executive officer positions of peer financial institutions as published in annual compensation and benefits surveys conducted by the Tennessee Bankers Association. These surveys do not identify the specific banks or bank holding companies that participated in the survey, but do provide data for the participating institutions grouped according to asset size and geographic region. In its review of the aggregate amount of base salary and incentive bonus for the Named Executive Officers for 2011, the Compensation Committee primarily focused on data in these surveys for financial institutions with an asset size of \$500 million to \$1 billion. The aggregate base salaries of \$1,012,700 of the Named Executive Officers in 2011 generally were within the range of the median compensation levels of the peer group.

As required by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 and related SEC rules, in connection with the 2011 annual meeting of shareholders, the Corporation solicited advisory votes by shareholders on executive compensation and on the frequency with which the advisory vote on executive compensation would be solicited. The Corporation's Board of Directors recommended that the advisory vote on executive compensation be solicited every three years, and this frequency of shareholder vote received the greatest number of votes from shareholders. The Board of Directors has determined that the Company will hold an advisory vote on the compensation of the Named Executive Officers every three years until the next shareholder advisory vote on this matter, which will occur at the annual meeting of shareholders in 2017.

In establishing and recommending 2011 compensation for Mr. Stevens and the other Named Executive Officers, the Compensation Committee considered the advisory vote on executive compensation from the 2011 annual meeting of shareholders. Over 90% of the shares represented and voting at the 2011 annual meeting (excluding abstentions and broker non-votes) were voted in favor of the Named Executive Officer compensation for the three-year period ending December 31, 2010, as described in the proxy statement related to that meeting.

Components of Compensation

Base Salary

Base salary represents a fixed labor cost and is designed so that the executive officers receive acceptable salaries, helping the Bank keep talent needed to meet the challenges in the financial service industry. Many factors are included in determining base salaries such as job responsibilities, the scope of the position, length of service with the Bank, individual performance and compensation for similar positions in the Bank's peer group. All base salaries are reviewed annually. In August 2007, the Bank adopted a new salary administration program for determining base salary. In this system, all positions are assigned a position level and each position level has a salary range that is defined by a minimum, mid-point and maximum salary. The minimum of each salary range is typically 75% of the mid-point of the applicable salary range and the maximum of each salary range is typically 125% of the mid-point. The Bank hired Koker Goodwin and Associates (now HRN Management Group) in 2007 to produce the salary ranges for each position level and the Compensation Committee plans to update the ranges annually in October of each year with respect to the following year based on several salary surveys. The salary ranges are adjusted for the Bank according to its asset size and geographic location. The salary ranges have been and will be used only as a guide for setting base salaries and will not reflect any incentive pay, benefits or other executive perquisites. All base salaries can be expressed as a percentage of the mid-point of the salary range applicable to each position level (the Compa-Ratio). In 2011, each of the Named Executive Officers received a base salary increase compared to 2010 base salary as follows, based on a combination of the above-mentioned factors:

Name	Salary Increase
T. Randy Stevens	4.11%
Patricia P. Bearden	4.00%
Timothy E. Pettus	4.55%
John P. Tomlinson, III	2.33%
N. Houston Parks	2.33%

For 2012, the base salary of each of the Named Executive Officers had the following Compa-Ratio:

Name	Compa-Ratio
T. Randy Stevens	80.3%

Patricia P. Bearden	82.0%
Timothy E. Pettus	92.6%
John P. Tomlinson, III	94.4%
N. Houston Parks	94.4%

The Compensation Committee has set the base salary for each of the Named Executive Officers for 2012 as follows:

Name	2012 Base Salary	Increase from 2011
T. Randy Stevens	\$320,697	6.65%
Patricia P. Bearden	135,000	3.85%
Timothy E. Pettus	242,000	5.22%
John P. Tomlinson, III	181,000	2.84%
N. Houston Parks	181,000	2.84%

Cash Bonus Plan

The second component in the executive compensation program is a cash bonus plan. The cash bonus plan is used as a short-term incentive to drive achievement of annual Bank performance goals. This plan determines the bonuses for all eligible employees including officers as a percentage of their salary and is based on an evaluation of each executive's performance as well as the Bank's performance in various categories, including the following that were used in 2011:

- Return on assets;
- Delinquencies and non-accruals;
- Gross loan growth;
- Net deposit growth; and
- Net income.

The cash bonus plan is used as a short-term incentive to drive achievement of annual Bank performance goals. During 2011, the Compensation Committee established performance goals under the cash bonus plan. The maximum performance goal multiplier under each performance goal was 20%. The sum of the performance goal multipliers (which equals 100% if the maximum target level for each performance goal is achieved) was 24% 2011. Performance goal multipliers ranging from 4% to 20% were assigned to varying target levels for each performance goal as follows (dollars in millions):

<u>Performance Goal</u>	Performance Goal Multiplier Based on 2011 Target Levels					2011 Actual Performance
	4%*	8%	12%	16%	20%	
Return on assets	≥ 1.00%	≥ 1.05%	≥ 1.08%	≥ 1.10%	≥ 1.15%	0.84%
Delinquencies and non-accruals	≤ 1.90%	≤ 1.80%	≤ 1.70%	≤ 1.60%	≤ 1.50%	3.64%
Gross loan growth	≥ 1.00%	≥ 2.00%	≥ 3.00%	≥ 4.00%	≥ 5.00%	-4.90%
Net deposit growth	≥ 1.00%	≥ 2.00%	≥ 3.00%	≥ 4.00%	≥ 5.00%	5.50%
Net income	≥ \$8.00	≥ \$8.30	≥ \$8.60	≥ \$8.90	≥ \$9.10	\$8.20

* If the minimum target level was not achieved for a performance goal, then 0% was allocated to that performance goal multiplier.

The Compensation Committee also established maximum bonus percentages based on the position of each Named Executive Officer in accordance with four different levels, which maximum bonus percentage was higher for positions with more responsibility: Chief Executive Officer (70%); President (50%); Senior Executive (35%); and Chief Financial Officer (25%). The sum of the performance goal multipliers (24% for 2011) was multiplied by the

maximum bonus percentage resulting in the aggregate bonus multiplier. The aggregate bonus multiplier was then multiplied by the respective base salary for each Named Executive Officer and the product was the Named Executive Officer's bonus for 2011.

The following bonuses were paid to the Named Executive Officers based on achievement of the performance goals for 2011:

<i>Name</i>	Bonus	Actual Bonus as Percentage of Base Salary	Maximum Potential Bonus (Percentage of Base Salary)
T. Randy Stevens	\$54,973	18.3%	70%
Patricia P. Bearden	7,800	6.0%	25%
Timothy E. Pettus	27,600	12.0%	50%
John P. Tomlinson, III	14,784	8.4%	35%
N. Houston Parks	14,784	8.4%	35%

All of these bonuses were in the same range as the bonus levels of the Bank's peer group for executives with similar positions.

Employee Benefits

The Bank provides the following benefits for all employees of the Bank, including the Named Executive Officers:

- In 1996, the Bank established an officer group term replacement/split-dollar plan to provide life insurance benefits that continue after retirement. A single premium universal life insurance policy was purchased to fund the plan and a split-dollar agreement was made with an irrevocable trust that specified the portion of the insurance proceeds that would become part of the trust. For additional information, see the section below entitled *Split-Dollar Arrangements and Deferred Compensation Agreements*.
- The Bank offers health insurance, life insurance and disability insurance at a minimal cost to full-time employees and makes available health insurance for each employee's family, the premiums for which are shared by the employee and the Bank. Each employee receives personal copies of these insurance plans detailing the coverage provided. Any eligible employee who becomes disabled can continue coverage under the Bank's health insurance and life insurance plans. The disabled employee must pay the same premiums as employees who have the same coverage and who are actively at work. This coverage will continue to be provided by the Bank for the entire period of time that the employee is eligible and receives compensation under the Bank's group long-term disability insurance policy.
- The Bank has adopted the Deferred Profit Sharing Plan, which is a tax-qualified profit sharing retirement plan that has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service. All employees of the Bank are eligible to participate who are at least 20 years old and who have completed one year of service with the Bank. An individual account is maintained for participants to record contributions by the Bank on their behalf and adjustments for gains and losses on investments. Participant accounts are subject to forfeiture upon termination of employment prior to vesting. Accounts become vested over a period of six years, with 25% vested after two years of service, an additional 15% after the third year of service and 20% each year thereafter until the benefit is 100% vested at the end of sixth year. The Bank's contribution to the plan is determined by the annual performance of the Bank and is subject to annual approval by the Board of Directors of the Bank. Contributions are allocated to participant accounts pro rata to their compensation each year. The aggregate amount the Bank contributed to the Deferred Profit Sharing Plan for the 275 participants during 2011 was

\$873,378.

- The Bank provides dental insurance coverage for all eligible employees and makes dental insurance available for eligible dependents at the employee's expense.
- The Bank pays for one physical examination each year for all officers of the Bank, including the Named Executive Officers. The Bank pays for flu immunizations annually for all officers and employees. Payment is made upon the presentation of an itemized statement from the physician providing the services.

- The Bank provides long-term disability insurance to eligible employees at no cost to the employee.
- The Bank offers a Cafeteria Plan under Internal Revenue Code Section 125 that gives employees the opportunity to pay for certain benefits on a pre-tax basis rather than on an after-tax basis. Expenses that are eligible for the Section 125 Plan include certain insurance premiums, certain out-of-pocket medical expenses and dependent care expenses. Money spent for these items included in the Section 125 Plan is not subject to Social Security or federal income taxes.

Perquisites

In addition to salaries, bonus opportunities and employee benefits, the Bank provides to certain executive officers, including four of the Named Executive Officers, certain perquisites so that the Bank remains competitive in its ability to hire and retain talented employees. These perquisites include the use of a company vehicle or a vehicle allowance, certain club memberships and the payment of dues for those clubs. The Bank currently provides these perquisites to all of the Named Executive Officers except Ms. Bearden. The Bank's policy for providing perquisites is based on the number of years of experience within the banking industry and the executive's position with the Bank.