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On July 25, 2006, 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 September 6, 2006. The cash dividend was distributed along with a letter to the stockholders on September 20, 2006. 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 September 20, 2006.

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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: September 20, 2006

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION  
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Mark K. Hardwick

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Mark K. Hardwick,  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial and  
Principal Accounting Officer)

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EXHIBIT INDEX  
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Exhibit No. -----	Description -----
99.1	Stockholder Letter dated September 20, 2006.

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First Merchants Corporation

Exhibit 99.1

Stockholder Letter, dated September 20, 2006

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September 20, 2006

Dear Shareholder:

The First Merchants Corporation Board of Directors has declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.23 per share to holders of record on September 6, 2006, payable September 20, 2006.

We were pleased to receive notification from NASDAQ that effective July 3, 2006, First Merchants Corporation was included in the new NASDAQ Global Select Market Index. To quote the notification, "This inclusion in NASDAQ's premier listing tier is a true reflection of your stature and achievement as a public company". This index can be accessed in most financial publications and via the Internet at [www.nasdaq.com/globalselect](http://www.nasdaq.com/globalselect).

Your 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 (Telephone: 800-262-4261, ext. 2-7278), or through direct e-mail link on our website, [www.firstmerchants.com](http://www.firstmerchants.com), and invite you to avail yourselves of this service.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Cox  
President and Chief Executive Officer

MLC/ch

Enclosure