

MERCHANTS BANCSHARES INC  
Form SC 13G  
February 11, 2011

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**  
**SCHEDULE 13G**  
**Under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934**  
**Merchants Bancshares, Inc.**

(Name of Issuer)  
Common Stock

(Title of Class of Securities)  
588448100

(CUSIP Number)  
December 31, 2010

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

This Schedule is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b)

The information required in the remainder of this cover page (except any items to which the form provides a cross-reference) shall not be deemed to be filed for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ( Act ) or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act.

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CUSIP No. 588448100

NAME OF REPORTING PERSON  
Ameriprise Financial, Inc.

**1** S.S. or I.R.S. Identification  
IRS No. 13-3180631

No. of Above Person

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

**2**  
(a)   
(b) \*

**3** SEC USE ONLY

**4** CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  
Delaware

**5** SOLE VOTING POWER  
NUMBER OF -0-

**6** SHARED VOTING POWER  
SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY 408,529

**7** SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER  
EACH REPORTING PERSON -0-

**8** SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  
WITH 408,529

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

**9**

408,529

CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

**10**

Not Applicable

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

**11**

6.61%

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

**12**

CO

\* This filing describes the reporting person's relationship with other persons, but the reporting person does not affirm the existence of a group.

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CUSIP No. 588448100

NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

Columbia Management  
Investment Advisers, LLC

**1** S.S. or I.R.S. Identification  
IRS No. 41-1533211

No. of Above Person

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

**2** (a)   
(b)

**3** SEC USE ONLY

**4** CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  
Minnesota

|                       |          |                          |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------------------|
|                       | <b>5</b> | SOLE VOTING POWER        |
| NUMBER OF             |          | -0-                      |
| SHARES                | <b>6</b> | SHARED VOTING POWER      |
| BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY |          | 408,529                  |
| EACH                  | <b>7</b> | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER   |
| REPORTING PERSON      |          | -0-                      |
| WITH                  | <b>8</b> | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER |
|                       |          | 408,529                  |

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

**9**

408,529

CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

**10**

Not Applicable

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

**11**

6.61%

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

**12**

IA

\* This filing describes the reporting person's relationship with other persons, but the reporting person does not affirm the existence of a group.

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- 1(a) Name of Issuer: Merchants Bancshares, Inc.
- 1(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices: 275 Kennedy Dr.  
South Burlington, VT 05403
- 2(a) Name of Person Filing: (a) Ameriprise Financial, Inc. ( AFI )  
(b) Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC ( CMIA )
- 2(b) Address of Principal Business Office: (a) Ameriprise Financial, Inc.  
145 Ameriprise Financial Center  
Minneapolis, MN 55474  
(b) 100 Federal St.  
Boston, MA 02110
- 2(c) Citizenship: (a) Delaware  
(b) Minnesota
- 2(d) Title of Class of Securities: Common Stock
- 2(e) Cusip Number: 588448100

3 Information if statement is filed pursuant to Rules 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b):

(a) Ameriprise Financial, Inc.

A parent holding company in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G). (Note: See Item 7)

(b) Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC

An investment adviser in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E)

4 Incorporated by reference to Items (5)-(9) and (11) of the cover page pertaining to each reporting person.

AFI, as the parent company of CMIA, may be deemed to beneficially own the shares reported herein by CMIA. Accordingly, the shares reported herein by AFI include those shares separately reported herein by CMIA.

Each of AFI and CMIA disclaims beneficial ownership of any shares reported on this Schedule.

5 Ownership of 5% or Less of a Class:

If this statement is being filed to report the fact as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following ( ).

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6 Ownership of more than 5% on Behalf of Another Person: Not Applicable

7 Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company:

AFI: See Exhibit I

8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:

Not Applicable

9 Notice of Dissolution of Group:

Not Applicable

10 Certification:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purposes or effect.

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Signature

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: February 11, 2011

Ameriprise Financial, Inc.

By: /s/ Wade M. Voigt

Name: Wade M. Voigt

Title: Director Fund Administration

Columbia Management Investment  
Advisers, LLC

By: /s/ Amy Johnson

Name: Amy Johnson

Title: Chief Operating Officer

Contact Information

Wade M. Voigt

Director Fund Administration

Telephone: (612) 671-5682

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Exhibit Index

- Exhibit I Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company.
- Exhibit II Joint Filing Agreement