



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FIRST FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK PROMOTES CHESSOR AND HINSON**

**CENTERVILLE, Tenn. – Feb. 19, 2008** – First Farmers & Merchants Bank today announced the promotions of two key team members. Long-time employee and banking industry veteran, Shela Chessor, is promoted to vice president, and Carla Hinson is promoted to senior banking executive and branch manager.

Chessor previously served as F&M's Hickman County senior banking executive and Centerville Office branch manager. She is now located in the bank's Main Office in Columbia.

Chessor has more than 25 years of banking experience and has been a part of the F&M team for the past 15 years. Previously, she held positions with NationsBank, Sovran Bank, and Security Bank and Trust Company.

A Centerville native, Chessor graduated from Hickman County High School in 1981. Her banking education includes completing programs at: American Banking Association's Tennessee School of Banking at Vanderbilt University; National Compliance School and National Graduate Compliance School at University of Oklahoma; American Banking Association's Tennessee Consumer School of Banking; American Banking Association's Tennessee Commercial School of Banking at Vanderbilt University; and Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University.

Her extensive community involvement includes: former board member of Hickman County Habitat for Humanity; board member of Hickman Community Hospital; board member of Hickman County Senior Citizens Center; committee member of First Wheels, a State of Tennessee program; former president and board member of Hickman County Chamber of

Commerce; former board member of Hickman County Economic and Community Development Agency; and former board member of United Way of Hickman County.

Hinson is also an industry veteran with more than 20 years of banking experience. She previously served as mortgage loan originator with F&M and held positions with Metropolitan Federal, Leader Federal, Commerce Union Bank, Nations Bank and Union Planters Bank.

She attended the University of Tennessee and graduated from Cumberland Institute for Wellness in Brentwood. Hinson moved to Centerville in 2003 to open a Curves Franchise, which held an annual food drive for the local food bank, raising more than 1,500 pounds of food for two years in a row. Her husband, Richard, is a Centerville native and they have two grown children.

#### **About First Farmers & Merchants Bank**

Founded in 1909, First Farmers & Merchants Bank (Member FDIC) is one of the most successful independent banks in Tennessee, with total assets of nearly \$800 million and an additional \$2.6 billion in assets held by its Trust & Financial Management Department. Headquartered in Columbia, Tenn., the bank operates 19 offices in a seven county area that includes Lawrence, Maury, Marshall, Hickman, Dickson, Giles and Williamson counties. It is distinguished by its commitment to traditional, personal banking relationships that incorporate state-of-the-art technology to provide the highest possible level of service. For additional information, visit [www.fandmbank.com](http://www.fandmbank.com) or call the main office at 931.388.3145.

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