



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FIRST FARMERS & MERCHANTS CORPORATION REPORTS  
STRONG GAINS IN LOANS, INCOME AND DEPOSITS.**

**COLUMBIA, Tenn.**, November 17, 2008 – First Farmers & Merchants Corporation, the parent of First Farmers & Merchants Bank, has released financial results through September 30, 2008. The bank reported continued healthy gains in assets, loans, income and deposits since December 31, 2007.

At September 30, 2008, the consolidated total assets of First Farmers and Merchants Corporation were \$883.9 million, which represents a 7.4 percent increase since December 31, 2007. Gross loans were \$557.7 million, representing an increase of \$57.6 million, or 11.5 percent, over last year's loans during the same period. Total deposits were \$719.2 million, increasing \$20.2 million compared to December 31, 2007. Total shareholders' equity stood at \$106.5 million.

Net income for the period was \$8.1 million, a 30.6 percent increase over the same period last year.

“These results, especially in the financially unsettling times in which we’re living, are a testament to our employees and the unwavering service they offer our customers,” said T. Randy Stevens, Chairman and CEO of F&M. “Additionally, it’s my belief that you’re seeing the result of our continued faith in the people of Tennessee, as well as our sensible management practices and philosophy, which have helped all of us grow and prosper, even in tough times. It’s just proof positive that if you take care of the community, the community will take care of you.”

First Farmers and Merchants Bank is one of the largest independent community banks in Middle Tennessee. F&M Bank has nineteen full-service banking offices in seven counties in southern Middle Tennessee. For more information, visit [www.fandmbank.com](http://www.fandmbank.com).

***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 \$884 million and deposits in excess of \$719 million. An additional \$2.7 billion in assets is held by its Trust & Financial Management Department. Headquartered in Columbia, Tenn., the bank operates 19 offices in a seven county area in Middle Tennessee that includes Maury, Lawrence, Marshall, Hickman, Giles, Dickson 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.*

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Frank Limpus C: 615/668-9938 E: [frank.limpus@jathinking.com](mailto:frank.limpus@jathinking.com)