

FIRST MERCHANTS CORP
 Form 4
 February 11, 2005

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 COX MICHAEL L

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 FIRST MERCHANTS CORP
 [FRME]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 200 E JACKSON ST, PO BOX 792
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 02/10/2005

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
 President / Chief Executive Officer

MUNCIE, IN 47308-0792

(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 02/10/2005 | | M | V | 4,980 | \$ 12.43 | 34,852 | D |
| Common Stock | 02/10/2005 | | M | V | 8,043 | \$ 12.43 | 42,895 | D |
| Common Stock | 02/10/2005 | | M | V | 4,297 | \$ 14.3 | 47,192 | D |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Deferred stock units owned by reporting person equals 877.38.
- (2) Common stock owned by reporting person in 401(K) account - 409.2768 shares.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.
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