



First Bankers Trustshares, Inc.

1201 Broadway
P.O. Box 3566
Quincy, IL 62305-3566

January 30, 2009

Fourth Quarter 2008 Financial Highlights

Investor Information

Stock Transfer Agent:

Illinois Stock Transfer Company
209 West Jackson Blvd, Ste 903
Chicago, IL 60606-6905
(800.757.5755)

Market Makers:

Howe Barnes Hoefler & Arnett
225 S. Riverside Plaza 7th Flr
Chicago, IL 60606
(800.800.4693)

Wachovia Securities

510 Maine 9th Floor
Quincy, IL 62301
(800.223.1037)

Stifel Nicolas & Co., Inc.

227 W. Monroe, Suite 1850
Chicago, IL 60606
(800.745.7110)

Monroe Securities, Inc

100 North Riverside Plaza,
Ste 1620
Chicago, IL 60606
(312.327.2530)

Corporate Information:

First Bankers Trustshares, Inc.
Phone: (217.228.8000)
Fax: (217.228.8091)
Email: fbt@firstbankers.com

Corporate Officers:

Chairman of the Board of Directors

Donald K. Gnuse
President/Chief Executive Officer

Arthur E. Greenbank

Treasurer

Brian Ippensen

Secretary

Steven E. Siebers

Directors:

Carl Adams Jr.
William D. Daniels
Mark E. Freiburg
Donald K. Gnuse
Arthur E. Greenbank
Phyllis J. Hofmeister
Steven E. Siebers
Dennis R. Williams
Chairman Emeritus
David E. Connor

Dear Shareholders,

I am very happy to report that our company achieved record earnings and growth for the year ended 12/31/08. Per share earnings for the full year advanced to \$2.31 versus \$2.07 for the prior year. This represents almost a 12% increase over 2007's record year. Both the Trust Company (First Bankers Trust Services, Inc.) and the Bank (First Bankers Trust Company, N.A.) participated in these record results.

In addition to record earnings, our company's growth in assets and deposits also set records. Assets increased to \$498 million, while deposits increased to over \$400 million, increases of 13.5% and 11.6% respectively. The introduction of our high yield "First Rate" checking account was well received in all of our markets and allowed us to introduce bank services to many new customers. Our excellent employees have kept these new customers and further expanded these new relationships.

This record performance was achieved in one of the most difficult economic environments in our lifetimes. Many of the largest financial institutions either failed in 2008 or have been significantly weakened. The much anticipated recession has arrived, and appears to be a long and deep one. I expect 2009 to be as challenging as 2008.

Recently our company was named by "U.S. Banker" magazine as one of the Top 200 Community Banks in the country as measured by a 3 year average return on equity of 14.43%. "U.S. Banker" magazine is a widely read and respected periodical in our industry which currently exceeds a universe of over 7000 banks. This performance was measured for the 3 years ended 12/31/07. Our results for 2008 should not detract from that measurement.

In November, First Bankers Trustshares, Inc was invited as one of the healthy community banks in the

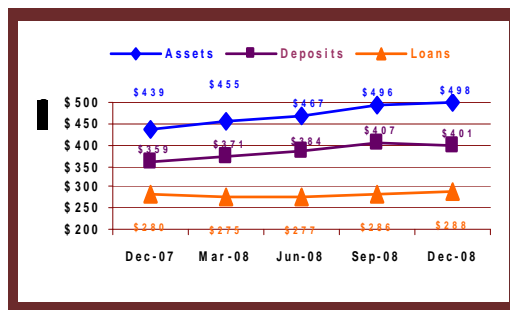
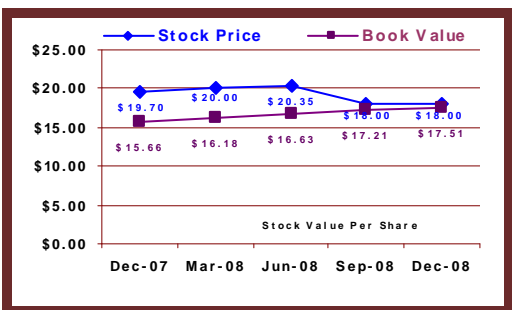
country to participate in the government's "Capital Purchase Program". This is a program under the "Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of October 2008", whereby the government will purchase preferred stock in our company to increase our bank's ability to continue our loan activities and growth in support of our many customers and communities. After much discussion and thought by our Board of Directors, we have agreed to permit the U.S. Treasury to make a \$10 million capital investment in our company. This will result in an already well capitalized bank becoming even better capitalized and allow us to carefully continue our growth in these challenging times. This investment of preferred stock by the U.S Treasury was completed on 1/16/09

Again, thank you for your continued investment and support. Enclosed with this letter is your notice of deposit of your dividend if so instructed or a check for your dividend payable at the rate of \$.115 per share. Also enclosed is a letter regarding the tax status of your dividend

Yours sincerely,

Arthur E. Greenbank
President/CEO

This release contains information and "forward-looking statements" that relate to matters that are not historical facts and which are usually preceded by words "may," "will," "should," "could," "would," "plan," "potential," "estimate," "project," "believe," "intend," "anticipate," "expect," "target" and similar expressions. These forward-looking statements are subject to significant risks, assumptions and uncertainties. Because of these and other uncertainties, our actual results may be materially different from those described in these forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements in this release speak only as of the date of the release, and we do not assume any obligation to update the forward-looking statements or to update the reasons why actual results could differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements.



Financial Highlights (Dollars in thousands, except per share data) (Unaudited)

| Income Statement Data | For The Three Months Period Ended December 31 | | | For the Twelve Months Period Ended December 31, | | |
|---------------------------|--|----------|---------|--|-----------|--------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | % Chg | 2008 | 2007 | % Chg |
| Net interest income | \$ 3,792 | \$ 3,455 | 9.75% | \$ 14,702 | \$ 12,885 | 14.10% |
| Provision for loan losses | 520 | 270 | 92.59% | 1,330 | 1,080 | 23.15% |
| Noninterest income | 2,091 | 1,993 | 4.92% | 7,835 | 7,415 | 5.66% |
| Noninterest expense | 4,105 | 3,718 | 10.41% | 14,419 | 13,377 | 7.79% |
| Income taxes | 409 | 375 | 9.07% | 2,059 | 1,600 | 28.69% |
| Net Income | \$ 849 | \$ 1,085 | -21.75% | \$ 4,729 | \$ 4,243 | 11.45% |

| Ratios | For The Three Months Period Ended December 31, | | | For the Twelve Months Period Ended December 31, | | |
|---|---|----------|----------|--|----------|--------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | % Chg | 2008 | 2007 | % Chg |
| Return on average assets | 0.68% | 0.97% | -29.90% | 1.01 % | 0.97% | 4.12% |
| Return on average stockholders' equity (Calculated by subtracting preferred stock dividends from net income and dividing by average common stockholders' equity. Common stockholders' equity is defined as equity minus preferred stock equity and plus or minus accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)) | 9.41% | 13.49% | -30.24% | 13.77% | 13.90% | -0.94% |
| Net interest margin | 3.25% | 3.34% | -2.69% | 3.36% | 3.17% | 5.99% |
| Allowance as a percent of total loans | 1.40% | 1.18% | 18.64% | 1.40% | 1.18% | 18.64% |
| Dividends per share paid | \$ 0.115 | \$ 0.105 | 9.52% | \$ 0.46 | \$ 0.42 | 9.52% |
| Earnings per share | \$ 0.41 | \$ 0.53 | - 22.64% | \$ 2.31 | \$ 2.07 | 11.59% |
| Book value per share (Calculated by dividing stockholders' equity excluding accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), by outstanding shares). | \$ 17.51 | \$ 15.66 | 11.81% | \$ 17.51 | \$ 15.66 | 11.81% |

| Balance Sheet | At December 31, | | | At December 31, | | |
|--|-----------------|------------|--------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | % Chg | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
| Assets | \$ 498,028 | \$ 438,878 | 13.48% | \$ 423,674 | \$ 418,248 | \$ 407,367 |
| Investment securities | \$ 146,908 | \$ 114,616 | 28.17% | \$ 95,773 | \$ 96,981 | \$ 83,942 |
| Loans, net of unearned income | \$ 288,412 | \$ 279,915 | 3.04% | \$ 275,974 | \$ 260,682 | \$ 268,192 |
| Deposits | \$ 400,844 | \$ 359,345 | 11.55% | \$ 355,955 | \$ 357,876 | \$ 340,555 |
| Short-term and other borrowings | \$ 40,545 | \$ 27,088 | 49.68% | \$ 19,562 | \$ 13,626 | \$ 20,762 |
| Note Payable | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | 0.00% | \$ 0 | \$ 2,667 | \$ 4,000 |
| Junior subordinated debentures | \$ 15,465 | \$ 15,465 | 0.00% | \$ 15,465 | \$ 15,465 | \$ 15,465 |
| Stockholders' equity (Does not include accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)). | \$ 35,866 | \$ 32,079 | 11.81% | \$ 28,717 | \$ 25,752 | \$ 22,835 |

| Stock Value Per Share Information | For The Twelve Months Period Ended December 31, | | | For The Years Ended December 31, | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | % Change | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
| Price/earnings ratio | 7.8 | 9.5 | -17.89% | 10.3 | 12.4 | 15.1 |
| Stock price—High | \$ 21.75 | \$ 20.00 | | \$ 23.25 | \$ 24.00 | \$ 24.10 |
| Low | \$ 15.60 | \$ 18.00 | | \$ 18.05 | \$ 18.00 | \$ 15.40 |
| Ending | \$ 18.00 | \$ 19.70 | -8.63% | \$ 19.00 | \$ 22.00 | \$ 24.00 |
| Book value | \$ 17.51 | \$ 15.66 | 11.81% | \$ 14.02 | \$ 12.57 | \$ 11.15 |
| Price/book value | 1.03 | 1.26 | -18.25% | 1.36 | 1.75 | 2.15 |
| Shares outstanding | 2,048,574 | 2,048,574 | | 2,048,574 | 2,048,574 | 2,048,574 |