



# Commerce Bancshares, Inc.

8000 Forsyth Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105-1797  
(314) 726-2255

December 18, 2017

## TO OUR COMMON SHAREHOLDERS

On October 27, 2017, your Board of Directors approved a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$.225 per share on the Company's common stock. This cash dividend is payable on December 18, 2017 to all shareholders of record at close of business November 30, 2017. Your Board of Directors also declared a 5% stock dividend which is payable on December 18, 2017 to shareholders of record at close of business November 30, 2017. The cash dividend is not payable on any shares issued as a result of the 5% stock dividend.

If you were the registered owner of 20 or more shares of the Company's common stock on November 30, 2017, you will receive the number of additional full shares to which you are entitled as a result of the 5% stock dividend. If the number of shares of common stock of the Company which you held on the record date was not evenly divisible by 20, you are entitled to receive the market value (based on the last sale price of the common stock of the Company on November 30, 2017) of the fractional interest.

In the opinion of the Company's counsel, this stock distribution does not constitute income to shareholders so that you do not have to report the receipt of the stock for federal income tax purposes. The value of the fractional interest distributed to you will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service on Form 1099-B as income. We suggest that you consult your tax advisor if you have any additional tax questions.

We remain excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for Commerce Bancshares, and we are delighted to share the Company's ongoing success with you, our fellow shareholders. As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Very truly yours,

David W. Kemper  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer