

FIRST FEDERAL BANCSHARES INC /DE  
Form SC 13G/A  
February 12, 2002

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No. 1) \*

First Federal Bancshares, Inc.

-----  
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock

-----  
(Title of Class of Securities)

32021B10

-----  
(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2001

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(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

This Schedule is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b).

\*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

[Continued on the following pages]

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-----  
1. Name of Reporting Person:  
(I.R.S. Identification No. of above person):

First Financial Fund, Inc.  
13-3341573

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2. Check the appropriate box if a member of a group:  
(a) ( )  
(b) ( )

-----  
3. SEC use only:

-----  
4. Citizenship or Place of Organization:

Maryland

-----  
5. Sole Voting Power  
170,000  
-----  
Number of shares 6. Shared Voting Power  
beneficially owned by 0  
-----  
each Reporting Person with 7. Sole Dispositive Power  
0  
-----  
8. Shared Dispositive Power  
170,000  
-----

9. Aggregate amount beneficially owned by each reporting person:

170,000

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10. Check if the aggregate amount in row (9) excludes certain shares:

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11. Percent of class represented by amount in row (9):

8.06%

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12. Type of Reporting Person:

IV

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Item 1(a): Name of Issuer:  
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First Federal Bancshares, Inc.

Item 1(b): Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:  
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109 East Depot Street  
Colchester, Illinois 62326

Item 2(a): Name of Person Filing:  
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First Financial Fund, Inc.

Item 2(b): Address of Principal Business Office:  
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Gateway Center Three  
100 Mulberry Street, 9th Floor  
Newark, New Jersey 07102-7503

Item 2(c): Citizenship:  
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Maryland

Item 2(d): Title of Class of Securities:  
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Common Stock

Item 2(e): CUSIP Number:  
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320228109

Item 3: Type of Person Filing Pursuant to ss.ss.240.13d-1(b) or 240.13d-2(b) or  
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(c):  
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An investment company registered under section 8 of the  
Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C 80a-8)

Item 4: Ownership:  
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(a) AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED: First Financial Fund, Inc., a  
registered closed-end investment company, may be deemed the  
beneficial owner of 170,000 shares of common stock of the  
Issuer.

(b) PERCENT OF CLASS: 8.06%

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(c) VOTING AND DISPOITIVE POWER: First Financial Fund, Inc. has sole power to vote or to direct the vote and shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 170,000 shares of common stock of the Issuer. First Financial Fund, Inc. has shared power to vote or to direct the vote and sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 0 shares of common stock of the Issuer.

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Item 5: Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class:  
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Not Applicable

Item 6: Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person:  
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Not Applicable

Item 7: Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary which Acquired the  
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Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company:  
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Not Applicable

Item 8: Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:  
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Not Applicable

Item 9: Notice of Dissolution of Group:  
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Not Applicable

Item 10: Certification:  
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By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

Signature:  
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After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete, and correct.

Date: February 11, 2002

Signature: /s/Arthur J. Brown

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Name/Title: Arthur J. Brown  
Secretary