

COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM INC

Form 8-K

January 30, 2009

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

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FORM 8-K

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CURRENT REPORT  
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of  
The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported):  
01/29/09

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COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM, INC.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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Washington  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

0-20288  
(Commission File Number)

91-1422237  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

1301 A Street  
Tacoma, WA  
(Address of principal executive offices)

98402  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (253) 305-1900

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- ..           Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - ..           Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Items to be Included in this Report

Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition

On January 29, 2009, we issued a press release announcing our fourth quarter and year ended December 31, 2008 financial results. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

The information in this Current Report on Form 8-K, including Exhibit 99.1, shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liability of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing or other document pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing or document.

Item 8.01 Other Events

On January 29, 2009, we issued a press release that Columbia Banking System, Inc. declared a \$0.04 per common share dividend. The dividend will be paid on February 25, 2009, to shareholders of record at the close of business on February 11, 2009. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.2.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

- (a) Financial statements. – not applicable
- (b) Pro forma financial information. – not applicable
- (c) Shell company transactions. – not applicable
- (d) The following exhibits are being furnished herewith:

99.1 Press Release dated January 29, 2009 announcing fourth quarter and year ended December 31, 2008 financial results.

99.2 Press Release dated January 29, 2009 announcing a quarterly cash dividend.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM, INC.

Date: January 30, 2009

/s/ Melanie J. Dressel  
Melanie J. Dressel  
President and Chief Executive Officer