



DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

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

November 9, 2011

Via Email

Gary W. Petty, Jr.  
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
Cornerstone Bancshares, Inc.  
835 Georgia Avenue  
Chattanooga, TN 37402

**Re: Cornerstone Bancshares, Inc.  
Form 10-K for Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2010  
Filed March 31, 2011  
Form 10-Q for Fiscal Quarter Ended March 31, 2011  
Filed May 16, 2011  
File No. 000-30497**

Dear Mr. Petty:

We have completed our review of your filings. We remind you that our comments or changes to disclosure in response to our comments do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the company or the filings and the company may not assert staff comments as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States. We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filings to be certain that the filings include the information the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and all applicable rules require.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matt S. McNair

Matt S. McNair  
Attorney-Adviser