



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Steven E. Wilson
Chief Financial Officer
(304) 424-8704

United Bankshares, Inc. Announces Earnings Growth for the Second Quarter and First Half of 2003

PARKERSBURG, WV-- United Bankshares, Inc. (NASDAQ: UBSI), today reported an increase in earnings for the second quarter and the first half of 2003. Diluted earnings per share were 54¢ for the second quarter of 2003, up 6% from diluted earnings per share of 51¢ for the second quarter of 2002. Second quarter net income was \$22.8 million compared to \$22.2 million for the second quarter of 2002. Diluted earnings per share were \$1.07 for the first half of 2003, which also represented a 6% increase from diluted earnings per share of \$1.01 for the first half of 2002. Net income for the first six months of 2003 totaled \$45.3 million compared to \$44.0 million for the prior year's first six months.

Second quarter of 2003 results produced a return on average assets of 1.63% and a return on average equity of 16.67%, as compared to 1.62% and 17.02%, respectively, for the second quarter of 2002. For the first half of 2003, United's return on average assets was 1.62% while the return on average equity was 16.67% as compared to 1.62% and 17.10%, respectively, for the first half of 2002. These financial performance ratios are indicative of United's earnings strength as United continues to compare favorably to peer group banking companies.

Increased noninterest income continued to be the leading contributor to the earnings growth for the second quarter and first half of 2003 from last year's results. Noninterest income, excluding security transactions, for the second quarter and first half of 2003 increased \$9.3 million or 53% and \$15.8 million or 47%, respectively, from the second quarter and first half of 2002. These increases were driven primarily by increased mortgage banking production as further discussed below. Also contributing to the rise in noninterest income were fees from deposit services, which increased \$1.1 million and \$2.1 million or 14% for the second quarter and first six months of 2003, respectively, as compared to the same periods in 2002. On a linked-quarter basis, noninterest income, excluding security transactions, increased \$4.1 million or 18% due to increases in income from mortgage banking operations, deposit services and bank-owned life insurance policies.

Income from mortgage banking operations for the second quarter of 2003 increased \$7.1 million or 100% from the second quarter of 2002 as historically low interest rates favorably impacted mortgage refinancing and home purchasing. Mortgage loans sold in the secondary market during the second quarter of 2003 increased \$714.6 million or 135% from the second quarter of 2002, while loan originations increased \$725.0 million or 123% when compared to the second

quarter of 2002. For the first six months of 2003, mortgage loans sold in the secondary market increased \$1.2 billion or 100%, while loan originations also increased \$1.2 billion or 112% from the first six months of 2002. As a result of this increased mortgage loan activity, income from mortgage banking operations for the first half of 2003 increased \$12.6 million or 93% from the first half of 2002. On a linked-quarter basis, income from mortgage banking operations increased \$2.3 million or 19%. Mortgage loans sold in the secondary market during the second quarter of 2003 increased \$121.1 million or 11%, while loans originated for sale increased \$293.3 million or 29% from the first quarter of 2003. United anticipates that this trend should continue through 2003.

United realized a net gain of \$931 thousand and \$1.8 million from security transactions in the second quarter and first half of 2003 as compared to net losses of \$289 thousand and \$593 thousand in the second quarter and first half of 2002 related to an other-than-temporary decline in the fair value of retained interests in securitized assets. Included in the security transactions' totals for the first half of 2003 is a recognized impairment charge of \$35 thousand as compared to recognized impairment charges of \$780 thousand for the first half of 2002. No impairment charge related to securities was recorded in the second quarter of 2003 as compared to a recognized impairment charge of \$455 thousand for the second quarter of 2002. On a linked-quarter basis, United recognized an impairment charge of \$35 thousand in the first quarter of 2003. The decline in the value of these available for sale securities was the result of an increase in the level of prepayment and default activity during the time periods, which negatively affected the valuation of those securities to varying degrees during the respective periods.

Noninterest expense increased \$5.8 million and \$11.3 million or 17% for the second quarter and first half of 2003, respectively, as compared to the prior year's second quarter and first six months. On a linked-quarter basis, noninterest expense for the second quarter of 2003 increased \$3.0 million or 8% from the first quarter of 2003. These increases in noninterest expense were primarily due to increased employee commissions expense as a result of additional loan origination volume at the mortgage banking operations as compensation is tied to loan production levels. United's efficiency ratio has been increasing over the last few quarters from traditionally low levels mainly as a result of a compressing net interest margin. However, during the most recent quarter, the efficiency ratio increased due to the increased expenses of the mortgage banking operations as a result of the higher loan production levels. The efficiency ratio of 52.2% and 51.4% for the second quarter and first half of 2003, respectively, still compares favorably to peer group banking companies.

The combination of historically low interest rates, global uncertainties and a weak domestic economy continue to pressure the net interest margin of most financial institutions. However, on a linked-quarter basis, United's tax-equivalent net interest income for the second quarter of 2003 was relatively stable at \$50.2 million while the net interest margin was 3.83%, an increase of 7 basis points from 3.76% in the first quarter of 2003. Compared to last year's results, United's tax-equivalent net interest income for the second quarter of 2003 decreased by \$4.0 million or 7% from the second quarter of 2002. The net interest margin of 3.83% for the second quarter of 2003 was a

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39 basis points decline from the second quarter of 2002's net interest margin of 4.22%. Tax-equivalent net interest income for the first six months of 2003 was \$100.3 million, a decrease of \$7.3 million or 7% from the prior year's first six months. The net interest margin for the first half of 2003 was 3.79% as compared to a net interest margin of 4.19% during the same period last year.

Credit quality continues to compare favorably against peer group averages, despite sluggish economic conditions. At June 30, 2003, nonperforming loans were \$13.4 million or 0.38% of loans, net of unearned income compared to \$15.4 million or 0.43% of loans, net of unearned income at December 31, 2002. For the quarter, nonperforming loans declined \$3.2 million or 19% from the totals at March 31, 2003. Net charge-offs were \$2.4 million for the second quarter of 2003, an increase from \$1.8 million for the second quarter of 2002. Net charge-offs for the first half of 2003 were \$4.3 million, as compared to \$3.6 million for the first half of 2002. For the quarters ended June 30, 2003 and 2002, the provision for loan losses was \$2.3 million and \$1.7 million, respectively, while the provision for the first six months was \$3.8 million for 2003 as compared to \$3.9 million for 2002. As of June 30, 2003, the allowance for loan losses was \$46.8 million or 1.33% of loans, net of unearned income, which was the same percentage at December 31, 2002.

During the quarter, United's Board of Directors declared a cash dividend of 25¢ per share, a 9% increase over the 23¢ per share declared in the second quarter of 2002. The annualized first half dividend of 50¢ per share equals \$1.00, which would represent the 30th consecutive year of dividend increases for United shareholders. In addition, the Board of Directors approved a new plan to repurchase up to 1.65 million shares of United's common stock on the open market effective upon completion of the 2002 repurchase plan. Treasury stock acquired under the stock repurchase plan represents approximately 4% of the issued and outstanding shares of United.

United's recently announced agreement to acquire Sequoia Bancshares, Inc. of Bethesda, Maryland, with assets of approximately \$539 million at June 30, 2003, is progressing towards obtaining applicable regulatory and shareholder approvals. The transaction, which is expected to close during the fourth quarter of 2003, will increase United's Virginia franchise to more than \$3 billion in assets and United's total franchise to more than \$6.4 billion in consolidated assets.

United Bankshares, with approximately \$5.8 billion in assets, presently has 85 full-service offices in West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, and Washington, D.C. United Bankshares stock is traded on the NASDAQ (National Association of Securities Dealers Quotation System) National Market System under the quotation symbol "UBSI".

This press release contains certain forward-looking statements, including certain plans, expectations, goals and projections, which are subject to numerous assumptions, risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially from those contained in or implied by such statements for a variety of factors including: changes in economic conditions; movements in interest rates; competitive pressures on product pricing and services; success and timing of business strategies; the nature and extent of governmental actions and reforms; and rapidly changing technology evolving banking industry standards.

UNITED BANKSHARES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
(In Thousands Except for Per Share Data)

	Three Months Ended		Six Months Ended	
	June 30 2003	June 30 2002	June 30 2003	June 30 2002
EARNINGS SUMMARY:				
Interest income, taxable equivalent	\$76,717	\$87,517	\$156,507	\$175,558
Interest expense	26,567	33,322	56,162	67,912
Net interest income, taxable equivalent	50,150	54,195	100,345	107,646
Taxable equivalent adjustment	2,456	2,779	5,022	5,582
Net interest income	47,694	51,416	95,323	102,064
Provision for loan losses	2,296	1,675	3,751	3,902
Income from mortgage banking operations	14,267	7,148	26,239	13,598
Gain (loss) on security transactions	931	(289)	1,797	(593)
Other noninterest income	12,593	10,411	23,350	20,202
Noninterest expenses	40,610	34,829	78,175	66,859
Income taxes	9,774	9,976	19,435	20,483
Net income	22,805	22,206	45,348	44,027
Cash dividends declared	10,373	9,801	20,799	19,670
PER COMMON SHARE:				
Net income:				
Basic	0.55	0.52	1.09	1.03
Diluted	0.54	0.51	1.07	1.01
Cash dividends	0.25	0.23	0.50	0.46
Book value			13.20	12.53
Closing market price			28.63	29.38
Common shares outstanding:				
Actual at period end, net of treasury shares			41,461,389	42,560,428
Weighted average- basic	41,597,646	42,691,886	41,752,969	42,793,408
Weighted average- diluted	42,067,728	43,391,049	42,220,476	43,466,954
FINANCIAL RATIOS:				
Return on average assets	1.63%	1.62%	1.62%	1.62%
Return on average shareholders' equity	16.67%	17.02%	16.67%	17.10%
Average equity to average assets	9.80%	9.54%	9.69%	9.47%
Net interest margin	3.83%	4.22%	3.79%	4.19%
	June 30 2003	June 30 2002	December 31 2002	March 31 2003
PERIOD END BALANCES:				
Assets	5,753,006	5,625,130	\$5,792,019	\$5,816,539
Earning assets	5,392,191	5,294,863	5,454,471	5,449,356
Loans, net of unearned income	3,515,307	3,590,305	3,573,161	3,495,781
Loans held for sale	548,767	284,230	582,718	478,706
Investment securities	1,313,804	1,412,112	1,285,490	1,350,286
Total deposits	3,851,967	3,815,311	3,900,848	3,975,954
Shareholders' equity	547,094	533,183	541,539	541,873

UNITED BANKSHARES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Charleston, WV
Stock Symbol: UBSI
(In Thousands Except for Per Share Data)

Consolidated Statements of Income

	Three Months Ended			Six Months Ended	
	June 2003	June 2002	March 2003	June 2003	June 2002
Interest & Loan Fees Income	\$74,261	\$84,738	\$77,224	\$151,485	\$169,976
Tax Equivalent Adjustment	2,456	2,779	2,566	5,022	5,582
Interest & Fees Income (FTE)	76,717	87,517	79,790	156,507	175,558
Interest Expense	26,567	33,322	29,595	56,162	67,912
Net Interest Income (FTE)	50,150	54,195	50,195	100,345	107,646
Loan Loss Provision	2,296	1,675	1,455	3,751	3,902
Non-Interest Income:					
Inv. Securities Transactions	931	(289)	866	1,797	(593)
Income from Fiduciary Activities	2,462	2,115	2,275	4,737	4,389
Service Charges on Deposits	8,943	7,833	8,121	17,064	14,988
Income from Mortgage Banking Operations	14,267	7,148	11,972	26,239	13,598
Other Non-Interest Revenue	1,188	463	361	1,549	825
Total Non-Interest Income	27,791	17,270	23,595	51,386	33,207
Non-Interest Expense:					
Staff Expense	24,189	19,158	21,631	45,820	36,772
Occupancy & Equipment Expense	3,264	3,421	3,316	6,580	6,060
Other Expenses	12,462	11,667	11,647	24,109	22,493
Amortization of Intangibles	424	249	434	858	834
OREO Expense	(8)	168	248	240	333
FDIC Expense	279	166	289	568	367
Total Non-Interest Expense	40,610	34,829	37,565	78,175	66,859
Pre-Tax Earnings (FTE)	35,035	34,961	34,770	69,805	70,092
Tax Equivalent Adjustment	2,456	2,779	2,566	5,022	5,582
Reported Pre-Tax Earnings	32,579	32,182	32,204	64,783	64,510
Taxes	9,774	9,976	9,661	19,435	20,483
Net Income	<u>\$22,805</u>	<u>\$22,206</u>	<u>\$22,543</u>	<u>\$45,348</u>	<u>\$44,027</u>
MEMO: Effective Tax Rate	30.00%	31.00%	30.00%	30.00%	31.75%

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Consolidated Balance Sheets

	<u>June 30 2003 Q-T-D Average</u>	<u>June 30 2002 Q-T-D Average</u>	<u>June 30 2003</u>	<u>December 31 2002</u>	<u>June 30 2002</u>
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$181,817	\$141,466	\$176,815	\$175,363	\$160,025
Securities Available for Sale	1,059,398	1,209,025	1,055,532	1,022,314	1,138,842
Held to Maturity Securities	260,481	227,577	258,272	263,176	273,270
Total Securities	<u>1,319,879</u>	<u>1,436,602</u>	<u>1,313,804</u>	<u>1,285,490</u>	<u>1,412,112</u>
Total Cash and Securities	<u>1,501,696</u>	<u>1,578,068</u>	<u>1,490,619</u>	<u>1,460,853</u>	<u>1,572,137</u>
Loans held for sale	437,935	201,183	548,767	582,718	284,230
Commercial Loans	1,830,901	1,897,275	1,851,345	1,885,275	1,943,177
Mortgage Loans	1,306,109	1,276,535	1,306,502	1,335,606	1,283,580
Consumer Loans	<u>348,942</u>	<u>354,221</u>	<u>357,460</u>	<u>352,280</u>	<u>363,548</u>
Loans, net of unearned income	3,485,952	3,528,031	3,515,307	3,573,161	3,590,305
Allowance for Loan Losses	(46,591)	(47,920)	(46,844)	(47,387)	(47,746)
Goodwill	89,600	91,752	89,596	90,416	91,925
Other Intangibles	5,252	7,074	5,012	5,869	6,771
Total Intangibles	<u>94,852</u>	<u>98,826</u>	<u>94,608</u>	<u>96,285</u>	<u>98,696</u>
Other Real Estate Owned	4,176	3,967	3,834	4,267	4,116
Other Assets	124,848	121,374	146,715	122,122	123,392
Total Assets	<u><u>\$5,602,868</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,483,529</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,753,006</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,792,019</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,625,130</u></u>
MEMO: Earning Assets	<u><u>\$5,245,649</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,143,965</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,392,191</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,454,471</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,294,863</u></u>
Interest-bearing Deposits	\$3,056,808	\$3,133,439	\$2,992,378	\$3,161,620	\$3,128,082
Noninterest-bearing Deposits	727,948	585,572	859,589	739,228	687,229
Total Deposits	<u>3,784,756</u>	<u>3,719,011</u>	<u>3,851,967</u>	<u>3,900,848</u>	<u>3,815,311</u>
Short-term Borrowings	502,444	477,185	534,470	573,549	526,268
Long-term Borrowings	715,815	689,795	757,938	708,573	689,514
Total Borrowings	<u>1,218,259</u>	<u>1,166,980</u>	<u>1,292,408</u>	<u>1,282,122</u>	<u>1,215,782</u>
Other Liabilities	<u>51,001</u>	<u>74,348</u>	<u>61,537</u>	<u>67,510</u>	<u>60,854</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>5,054,016</u>	<u>4,960,339</u>	<u>5,205,912</u>	<u>5,250,480</u>	<u>5,091,947</u>
Common Equity	548,852	523,190	547,094	541,539	533,183
Total Shareholders' Equity	<u>548,852</u>	<u>523,190</u>	<u>547,094</u>	<u>541,539</u>	<u>533,183</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u><u>\$5,602,868</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,483,529</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,753,006</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,792,019</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,625,130</u></u>

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Charleston, WV
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Quarterly/Year-to-Date Share Data:	Three Months Ended			Six Months Ended	
	June 2003	June 2002	March 2003	June 2003	June 2002
Earnings Per Share:					
Basic	\$0.55	\$0.52	\$0.54	\$1.09	\$1.03
Diluted	\$0.54	\$0.51	\$0.53	\$1.07	\$1.01
Common Dividend Declared Per Share	\$0.25	\$0.23	\$0.25	\$0.50	\$0.46
High Common Stock Price	\$30.93	\$32.25	\$30.51	\$30.93	\$32.25
Low Common Stock Price	\$27.40	\$27.18	\$26.58	\$26.58	\$27.18
Average Shares Outstanding: (Net of Treasury Stock):					
Basic	41,597,646	42,691,886	41,891,007	41,752,969	42,793,408
Diluted	42,067,728	43,391,049	42,355,229	42,220,476	43,466,954
Memorandum Items:					
Tax Applicable to Security Transactions	\$326	(\$101)	\$303	\$629	(\$208)
Common Dividends	\$10,373	\$9,801	\$10,426	\$20,799	\$19,670
EOP Share Data:					
Book Value Per Share			\$13.20	\$12.53	\$12.98
Tangible Book Value Per Share			\$10.91	\$10.21	\$10.70
52-week High Common Stock Price			\$31.65	\$32.25	\$32.25
Date			08/20/02	05/06/02	05/06/02
52-week Low Common Stock Price			\$24.88	\$23.20	\$24.88
Date			07/24/02	09/21/01	07/24/02
EOP Shares Outstanding (Net of Treasury Stock):			41,461,389	42,560,428	41,744,719
Memorandum Items:					
EOP Employees (full-time equivalent)			1,509	1,399	1,500

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	Three Months Ended			Six Months Ended	
	June 2003	June 2002	March 2003	June 2003	June 2002
Selected Yields and Net Interest Margin:					
Loans	6.26%	7.14%	6.39%	6.33%	7.21%
Investment Securities	4.85%	6.09%	5.30%	5.11%	6.20%
Money Market Investments/FFS	1.78%	1.27%	1.16%	1.32%	1.66%
Average Earning Assets Yield	5.86%	6.81%	6.00%	5.93%	6.86%
Interest-bearing Deposits	1.77%	2.60%	2.12%	1.95%	2.70%
Short-term Borrowings	1.67%	2.02%	1.69%	1.68%	2.03%
Long-term Borrowings	6.15%	6.19%	6.19%	6.17%	6.16%
Average Liability Costs	2.49%	3.11%	2.72%	2.61%	3.18%
Net Interest Spread	3.37%	3.71%	3.28%	3.32%	3.68%
Net Interest Margin	3.83%	4.22%	3.76%	3.79%	4.19%

Selected Financial Ratios:

Return on Average Common Equity	16.67%	17.02%	16.67%	16.67%	17.10%
Return on Average Assets	1.63%	1.62%	1.60%	1.62%	1.62%
Efficiency Ratio	52.19%	47.96%	50.58%	51.41%	46.44%

	June 2003	June 2002	March 2003
Loan / Deposit Ratio	91.26%	94.10%	87.92%
Allowance for Loan Losses / Loans, net of unearned income	1.33%	1.33%	1.34%
Nonaccrual Loans / Loans, net of unearned income	0.22%	0.21%	0.29%
90-Day Past Due Loans/ Loans, net of unearned income	0.17%	0.21%	0.19%
Non-performing Loans/ Loans, net of unearned income	0.38%	0.42%	0.47%
Non-performing Assets/ Total Assets	0.30%	0.52%	0.36%
Primary Capital Ratio	10.24%	10.24%	10.04%
Shareholders' Equity Ratio	9.51%	9.48%	9.32%
Price / Book Ratio	2.17x	2.35x	2.13x
Price / Earnings Ratio	13.33x	14.50x	13.01x

Credit Quality Data:

	June 2003	June 2002	December 2002	March 2003
EOP Non-Accrual Loans	\$7,595	\$7,384	\$6,890	\$9,979
EOP 90-Day Past Due Loans	5,817	7,604	8,461	6,594
Total EOP Non-performing Loans	\$13,412	\$14,988	\$15,351	\$16,573
EOP Non-performing Securities	0	10,000	0	0
EOP Other Real Estate & Assets Owned	3,834	4,116	4,267	4,086
Total EOP Non-performing Assets	\$17,246	\$29,104	\$19,618	\$20,659

	Three Months Ended			Year to Date	
	June 2003	June 2002	March 2003	June 2003	June 2002
Charge-off Analysis:					
Gross Charge-offs	(\$2,737)	(\$2,187)	(\$2,256)	(\$4,993)	(\$4,590)
Recoveries	300	369	399	699	1,026
Net Charge-offs	(\$2,437)	(\$1,818)	(\$1,857)	(\$4,294)	(\$3,564)