WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORP Form 8-K October 15, 2004

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): October 15, 2004

WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Commission File Number 0-21923

(State or other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

727 North Bank Lane
Lake Forest, Illinois 60045

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(847) 615-4096

(Registrant s Telephone Number,

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:

o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

Including Area Code)

- o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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Item 8.01. Other Events.

On October 15, 2004, Wintrust Financial Corporation announced that it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Antioch Holding Company, parent company of State Bank of The Lakes, in a cash merger transaction. Attached as Exhibit 99.1 is a copy of the press release relating to the announcement, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01(c). Exhibits.

Exhibit 99.1 Press Release dated October 15, 2004.

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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, thereunto duly authorized.

WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Registrant)

Date: October 15, 2004 /s/ David L. Stoehr

David L. Stoehr

Executive Vice President & Chief Financial

Officer

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Exhibit

99.1 Press release dated October 15, 2004.

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