



In Honor of Sam Shoemaker

Adult Forum: Sunday, January 26, 2013
Father John Fetterman

Sam Shoemaker is celebrated in the distinctive book called *Holy Women, Holy Men*. It is used by the Episcopal Church to acknowledge the life and witness of people, regardless of denomination, who have served the cause of God and humanity in extraordinary ways.

This presentation will tell the part of Sam's history in which he helped in composing **The Twelve Steps** of Alcoholics Anonymous.

A Brief Biographical Statement

Born – December 27, 1893

1917 – Sent to China by YMCA and there met Frank Buchman, founder of the Oxford Group

1921 – Ordained as an Episcopal Priest

1925-1951 – Rector of Calvary Episcopal Church, NYC

1938 – Oxford Group changes its name to Moral Re-Armament (MRA)

1941 – Sam separates from the MRA

1944 – (age 51) Sam marries Helen Dominik Smith

1952-1961 – Rector of Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, PA

Dies – October 31, 1963

Theological Reflections on The 12 Steps

1. Disease is neither sin nor punishment. (Step 1)
2. Principle of sufficient causality [*a.k.a. Ockham's Razor*]. (Steps 6, 7)
3. Community and spiritual growth (Steps 4, 5, 8, 9, 10)
4. "I'm God and you're not" (Steps 1, 2)
5. "Let your light shine" (Step 12)

(over please)



1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being, the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. We're entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong and promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with *God as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.