May Program...

"Prohibition Is Here to Stay"

The Reverend Edward S. Shumaker and the Dry Crusade in America

Jason S. Lantzer

Thursday May 27, 2010

Brief Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Program at 7:00 p.m.



Jason S. Lantzer is an adjunct history faculty member of Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, and Butler University.

"Prohibition Is Here to Stay" focuses on the Reverend Edward S. Shumaker, a Methodist minister who for nearly twenty-five years led Indiana's influential chapter of the Anti Saloon League. Shumaker was one of the most powerful men in Indiana in the fight against demon rum, and his influence extended well beyond the boundaries of the state during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Jason Lantzer uses Shumaker's life and work to shed new light on the rise and fall of Prohibition and to better understand and appreciate the interplay of religion and politics in American culture.

"Jason Lantzer's excellent biography of Edward Shumaker places one of America's most successful Prohibition crusaders in the very center of American religion and reform. Lantzer's careful research and thoughtful analysis sharply contradicts the tendency to see Prohibition as a mere sidebar to American history and opens our minds to the connections between political activism and religious faith." — James H. Madison, author of *Slinging Doughnuts for the Boys: An American Woman in World War II*

"Historian Jason Lantzer has defied the odds. He's authored a [book] that is readable, academically sound and pertinent to current events. Lantzer tells the story of Edward Shumaker, the most politically influential church pastor in Indiana history. Schumaker was a crusader against alcohol abuse, peaking in influence from World War I to the mid-1920s. . . . Shumaker's life is interesting in itself, with a mix of crusading, political infighting with Republicans and Democrats, and First Amendment issues. But Lantzer sets the story in a larger context of the Progressive Movement of the 20th century, and he brings it up to date in seeing links between the temperance movement of nearly a century ago and today's meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous." — *Indianapolis Star*

". . . A thoughtful, well-researched and persuasively presented study, highly recommended especially for college library collections." — *Midwest Book Review*