War finds its way into area sermons

By Julie Stone
Sun Journal Staff

The hard realities of war invaded the quiet sanctuaries of churches in Havelock and New Bern Sunday on the heels of the allies' ground offensive in Kuwait.

"How can you avoid talking about it?" asked the Rev. Michael Bingenheimer, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Havelock, where the congregation is about 85 percent military. About 4,400 Marines and sailors from Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station in Havelock are deployed in the Persian Gulf.

Bingenheimer's message Sunday discussed "the criteria of a 'just' war."

Using Bible text, the pastor pointed to six stipulations for a "just" war. Those are that all diplomatic means had been exhausted, that someone's rights had been violated, that the war was being waged by lawful authorities and that the parties involved distinguish between combatants and non-combatants.

The Rev. Donald W. Hadley, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Havelock, used Luke 14:25-33 as a text that tells the story of a king who must decide if he can win a war with his

Sermons

10,000 men against an army of 20,000.

Hadley said this morning he used the Gulf War as a springboard into his sermon.

He said about half his congregation is military. "Attendance is up and those attending seem to draw support in getting together," he said.

Capt. Frank Duracher, head of the Salvation Army in New Bern, brought a message about the impossibility of isolationism to his congregation Sunday.

"I told them we have to reach out and help our neighbor who is in distress," he said this morning. "There are nations who are weaker than we are. As a world leader, it is expected of us to help. Sometimes that (requires) us to make sacrifices."

Other area ministers explained they used Bible text to relate God's word to events in the Gulf.

Navy Capt. James Kirstein, wing chaplain for the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing headquartered at Cherry Point, said "as a Baptist minister, I tell (families) that death is a part of life. No one escapes it."

"We're attempting to save lives, not lose them," he added. "I remind them of life after death — that heaven is there and a part of our belief system."

Kirstein noted that attendance is up in area churches.

First Baptist in Havelock plans to host a "bereavement ministry" workshop tonight at the church to, in Kirstein's words, "prepare area ministers for massive casualties."

The Salvation Army has scheduled a noon prayer service for peace Friday at its citadel at 802 N. Craven St.

Area ministers seem to embrace the U.S. stance in the Gulf Gar. Duracher said he did not know of a minister in the area who has come out against the U.S. role in the Gulf.

"Everyone regrets this has to be, but no one is suggesting we pull out," he said.
First Baptist Church
To Honor Pastor

First Baptist church will observe “Pastor's Appreciation Day” on Sunday, September 7. This will be a special day set aside by the church to honor its pastor, Doctor Donald W. Hadley, who will begin his eighth year as minister.

On August 11, 1963, he was ordained to the gospel ministry by the Calvary Baptist church in Evansville. Following his graduation from Evansville in 1964, he served as Campus Minister and Baptist Student Union director at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon. During this time in Oregon, he also completed his master's degree.

In 1966, he became a guidance counselor at the Breckinridge Job Corps center in Morganfield, Kentucky. During this time, he became a husband and put his wife through her last two years of college. He also served the Waverly Baptist Mission for a second time until August 1969 when he entered Southeastern Baptist Theological seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

For three years during his seminary days, he served as assistant to the Director of Counseling and Director of Student Activities on the Southeastern campus. For two years he also pastored the Mayo Baptist church in Spencer, Virginia. For one year, he worked as the chaplain at North Hills Shopping center in Raleigh, in addition to completing a summer's program in chaplaincy training at North Carolina Memorial hospital in Chapel Hill.

He completed seminary in 1972 with a Master of Divinity (cum laude) and Doctor of Ministry degree in 1973.

Dr. Hadley is active in the Havelock area as well as pastor of his church. He has served as chairman of the city’s blue ribbon Citizens’ Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse. He was just recently named general chairman of the upcoming Coastal Carolina crusade.

The public is invited to attend the 11:00 a.m. worship service and share in this occasion.

Dr. Donald W. Hadley

Dr. Hadley was born on September 29, 1942 in Evansville, Indiana. As a child, he attended Calvary Baptist church and it was there, in 1951, that he made his profession of faith.

After completing high school, he attended Evansville college. During his junior and senior years, he pastored a rural mission in Waverly, Kentucky. A second responsibility of this job was being Youth Minister for the mission’s sponsoring church, First Baptist church of Morganfield, Kentucky. It was in this capacity that he met his future wife, Sara Rich.