Book Club Discussion Questions

*The Midwife’s Tale*

**AT HOME IN TRINITY Book 1**

by Delia Parr

1. Like many single mothers today, Martha Cade is a widow who is raising her daughter, Victoria, on her own, and she is responsible for providing for all of their needs. How are the challenges she faces in the nineteenth century different from the challenges confronting single mothers today? How are they similar?

2. Teenagers have been running away from home for centuries. What prompted Martha’s daughter, Victoria, to run away? What dangers did she face? How does her motivation compare with reasons teenagers leave home today? What dangers do they face, and how do they compare with Victoria’s?

3. Although Martha has had a longstanding friendship with Rosalind Andrews, their relationship has not always been an easy one. What makes women fight to save some friendships while they let others wither away? Does faith play any role in that decision?

4. For Martha, tradition is everything, especially when it involves her family, and she is deeply hurt that her daughter does not want to follow family tradition and become a midwife. How important are traditions to you? What is more important, keeping true to the tradition or accepting the idea that traditions are less important than the people who are meant to keep them?

5. Stereotypes are nothing new. In Trinity, the academy boys at Hampton Academy are stereotyped as nothing short of trouble, which ends up being true, but that stereotype does not hold true for young Will. If other folks in Trinity reached out to help one of the boys like Martha helped Will, would that have made a difference in their lives, too? Why or why not? Are some people, including children, just too damaged to be saved, or does our faith dictate otherwise?

6. Now that Martha is widowed and her first love, Thomas Dillon, has also lost his spouse, their feelings for one another seem to be resurfacing. What is it about “first love” that makes us want to cheer for anyone who can reclaim it? Are the challenges that face couples who choose to remarry a “first love” any different from couples who remarry someone new? Why or why not?