**Small Group Ministry**

Group Session Plan – Parents, Adolescents

**Remembering Your Adolescence**

**Materials Needed:**

Photographs of participants as teenagers

Your journals, Chalice

**Opening Words:**

“I would that there were no age between sixteen and three-and-twenty, or that youth would sleep out the rest; for there is nothing in the between but getting wenches with child, wronging the ancientry, stealing, fighting.”

*A Winter’s Tale, William Shakespeare*

**Chalice Lighting:** As Unitarian Universalists we look to the prophetic wisdom of men and women who have come before us — we look even to the children we were for wisdom.

**Check in**: This is a time to briefly share how you are doing today, in order to free yourself to be present here. This is a time to listen with full attention to each other and accept each person’s sharing in silence.

**Topic/Activity:**

Take some time to look at this photograph of yourself as a teenager. In a few minutes I will invite you each in turn to introduce this young person to the rest of us here. I would very much like you to recall your virtues and skills, your passions and dreams, and, if you feel comfortable, mention your frailties as well.

After introductions: Now please take some time to think about how this young person is similar or different from your own teenage child. Please write down your responses in your journal. And then we will share what folks are comfortable sharing.

**Check-out/Likes and Wishes:** How was the session for you?

**Closing:**

I.

What we call a beginning is often the end

And to make an end is to make a beginning.

The end is where we start from.

II.

We shall not cease from exploration

And the end of all our exploring

Will be to arrive where we started

And know the place for the first time. *-T. S. Eliot (Singing the Living Tradition #685)*

*Parenting Adolescents,* Karen Fisk, Unitarian Universalist Community Church, Augusta, ME

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