

January 20, 2015

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

Many of you have heard that the Rt. Rev. Heather Cook, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Maryland, struck and killed cyclist Thomas Palermo while driving on Saturday, December 27. Bishop Cook has been charged with manslaughter, driving under the influence, texting while driving and leaving the scene of an accident.

This is a tragedy beyond words.

My heart breaks for the Palermo family. A young man, a husband and father of two small children, died way too soon. I am also deeply grieved for Bishop Cook, with whom my wife and I have a personal connection, and I know our friends in the Diocese of Maryland are in great pain as well.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of them.

At times like this, we turn to Jesus, risen and alive, who stands with us amidst our pain and heartache, offering us the promise of resurrection. It is the light of Christ which leads us out of darkness.

In her letter to the Diocese of Washington, Bishop Mariann encouraged all congregations to take up a special offering in support of the Palermo Children's Educational Trust, and we will be doing just that on the next two Sundays: January 25 and February 1. If you would like to make a contribution, checks can be made payable to Grace Church with Palermo Trust written in the memo line. Special offering envelopes will also available in the pews.

Faithfully,  
*Andrew*