St. Philip’s Episcopal Church held a Vacation Bible School of a different kind this summer — a science camp, under the theme: Exploring God’s Creation.

Students, ages 8 to 12, gathered first for dinner and then for classes in church’s John M. Burgess Wellness Center, Monday, July 31, 2017 through Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 6 pm.

“We invited kids from ages 8 to 12 years old from the community to come and sort of have an introduction to science,” said Community Outreach Coordinator Barbara McCafferty. “We wanted to make it hands on and fun and help the kids to develop a positive view of science based in reality.

Students explored Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Engineering.

“We had about thirteen kids who came out every night, some of the parents and grandparents of the children even came and all had lots and lots of fun.”

By Rick Pulliam
The Grand Rapids Times

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After Science Camp, learning continues at home for Gabby and Gabe with their grandfather Mr. James Croom, a retired GRPS science teacher.

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non-living objects,” Barbara said.

The camp also introduced students to career possibilities.

Church member and former engineer Williams Buck talked to them about what it means to be an engineer and about his career experience at Philip’s Oil Corporation before his retirement.

Before graduating from college, Buck did an internship at McDonnell Douglas Aviations along with a group other students near end of their studies, all working on the design for the space shuttle, The Enterprise.

He told science camp participants about his internship experiences in structural design of fuselage integrity, the ability to withstand shock waves.

He also told them about what makes an aircraft fly and the design of aircrafts, the shape they have. The youngsters then made a paper aircraft and talked about the flight of their paper aircraft.

From Dietitian Ludie Weddle, the 8 to 12-year-olds learned about what a dietitian does.

Finally, the camp, “Exploring God’s Creation” helped students make the connection between science and faith.

Before dinner, Rev. Susan York or Rev. Val Ambrose, St. Philip’s Ministry Team, took turns presenting a Bible story.

Lynette Schreur, a nurse who has a divinity degree from Calvin College, talked to them about faith and science and how there is no choice between the two. They can have faith and have science.

Barb said, “I thought that it was a good idea because a lot of the time the youth hear that if you are rational and a scientist, you can’t be a Christian, Muslim or of any other faith.”